



**PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL FSC® STANDARD  
FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN BULGARIA**

**BULGARIAN NATIONAL FSC STANDARD  
VERSION 4.0 – JUNE 2016**



## PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL FSC® STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN BULGARIA

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## PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL FSC® STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN BULGARIA

### INTRODUCTION

The national FSC® standard for responsible management of the forests in Bulgaria has been developed in accordance with the Process requirements for the development and maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards (FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2) of the Forest Stewardship Council® .

The drafting of the national FSC standard for Bulgaria was initiated and is supported by WWF Danube- Carpathian Program for Bulgaria. The process was carried out by national standard development group(NSDG) which was officially registered in the FSC Policy and Standards Unit in August 2014. According to the procedure of FSC, the standard development group was established by equal number of experts in the three main and compulsory sectors. They have social, environmental and economic competences for the management of the forests. The participants of the working group were representatives of the Executive Forest agency, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Republic of Bulgaria, The Bulgarian Branch Chamber of Woodworking and Furniture Industry, the General Labour Inspectorate Executive Agency, the Union of Bulgarian Foresters, The Bulgarian Association for Alternative Tourism, the Association of Parks in Bulgaria, Green Balkans NGO and the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds. The coordination of the process was led by WWF Bulgaria.

In the period of August- November 2014 was developed the first draft of the standard. It was presented for public consultations. The second draft included the results from the public consultations, as well the last changes in the International Generic Indicators of FSC. According to the procedure the second draft of the standard was tested on the field. After the field test and analysis of the results from it, the next – third draft – was set out again for public consultation. The second public consultation was held in the period March – May 2016. The last fourth draft of the standard was developed in the period May-June 2016 as in it were integrated the relevant comments from the second public consultation. The last version 4.0 was deposited to FSC PSU on 15 June 2016.

After the approval of the national standard by FSC, this document will have to replace all of the acting adapted standards of the certification bodies, which are working on the territory of Bulgaria.

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The NSDG has based its work upon the International Generic Indicators of FSC (FSC-STD-60-004 V1-0 EN International Generic Indicators). The NSDG has followed the rule that the International Generic Indicators may be amended in the national standard only if there is a solid reasoning. However, this should not contradict with the Principles and Criteria set by FSC that have been underlying and have always served as a starting point. The principles and criteria of FSC cannot and have not been amended.

The verifiers in the national standard have been developed to serve as guidelines which help the certifying bodies to carry out the annual checks for compliance with the Principles and Criteria set by FSC. Examples of verifiers are present in the standard for each indicator but the auditors are not limited to use only them.

The present draft of the standard considers collectively the conditions for the forests in large areas and the so called SLIMF (small or low intensity managed forest). In the Glossary section is given the term for SLIMF for Bulgaria. The indicators which follow to be applied only for SLIMF have been marked with the sign \* after the number of the indicator (e.g. Indicator 1.3.1\*).

Certain words and terms in the standard have been marked with italics and with the sign \* (E.g. the Organization\*). The definitions of these words and terms will be found in the Glossary chapter.



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### GLOSSARY

**Adaptive management:** A systematic process of continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing measures.

**Affected stakeholder:** Any person, group of persons or entity that is or is likely to be subject to the effects of the activities of a Management Unit. Examples include, but are not restricted to (for example in the case of downstream landowners), persons, groups of persons or entities located in the neighborhood of the Management Unit.

**Alien species:** A species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce.

**Applicable law:** Means applicable to The Organization\* as a legal\* person or business enterprise in or for the benefit of the Management Unit and those laws which affect the implementation of the FSC Principles and Criteria. This includes any combination of statutory law (Parliamentary-approved) and case law (court interpretations), subsidiary regulations, associated administrative *procedures\**, and the national constitution (if present) which invariably takes legal\* precedence over all other legal\* instruments.

**Best Available Information:** Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through *reasonable effort\** and cost, subject to the *scale\** and *intensity\** of the management activities and the Precautionary Approach\*.

**Biological control agents:** Organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other *organisms\**.

**Biological diversity / Biodiversity:** 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.



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### **Biotope trees**

Standing live or dead trees with specific characteristics that are actual or potential habitat for living *organisms*\*, including: old trees; hollow trees or trees with nests, trees with significant coverage of mosses, lichens and mushrooms, single trees in open spaces; high /higher than the average/ trees at the edge of the forest; trees with indications to be used by animal *organisms*\*; trees that provide food base; groups of trees with significant landscape value and/or biological nature.

**Confidential information:** Private facts, data and content that, if made publicly available, might put at risk The Organization\*, its business interests or its relationships with stakeholders, clients and competitors. This may be information that is shared by agreement between two parties who are not entitled to share this information with third parties. This is all business information that the relevant company does not want to be publicly available.

**Connectivity:** A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Related to the structural connectivity concept; functional or behavioral connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements. Aquatic connectivity deals with the accessibility and transport of materials and *organisms*\*, through groundwater and surface water, between different patches of aquatic ecosystems of all kinds.

**Conservation/Protection:** These words are used interchangeably when referring to management activities designed to maintain the identified environmental or cultural values in existence long-term. Management activities may range from zero or minimal interventions to a specified range of appropriate interventions and activities designed to maintain, or compatible with maintaining, these identified values

**Conservation zones and protection areas:** Defined areas that are designated and managed primarily to safeguard species, *habitats*\*, ecosystems, natural features or other site-specific values because of their natural environmental or cultural values, or for purposes of monitoring, evaluation or research, not necessarily excluding other management activities. In the context of Bulgaria protected areas are the sites(zones) of the European ecological network Natura 2000 designated under the Biological Diversity Act (BDA) and protected areas designated under the Protected Areas Act (PAA). For the purposes of this standard the definition of "*conservation*\* zones and protection areas", except the territories under BDA and PAA includes certain HCVF, and other areas designated and managed by the organization in order to protect natural and cultural values.



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**Conservation status:** Indicator showing the probability of a species or habitat to continue to exist. In its determination shall be taken into account not only its quantitative or area presence, but the increase or reduction of its population as a whole, the percentage of successfully given offspring, known threats and others. The categories used for determination of status are according to the last three-volume edition of the Red Book of Bulgaria.

**Conservation condition:**

Condition of species and *habitats*\* related to population, area and structural indicators that determine its degree of favorability. To determine the favorable condition of species and *habitats*\*, the following indicators are used:

1. "favorable condition of species" is when:

- a) data on the population dynamics of the species indicate that this species is and will remain viable component of its natural habitat;
- b) the natural range of this species is not reduced and there is no dwindling tendency;
- c) there is a sufficiently large habitat, which provides the experience of the population of this species.

2. "favorable condition of a natural habitat" is when:

- a) the area of its natural distribution is constant or increasing;
- b) its structure and specific functions ensure its long-term existence;
- c) the condition of typical species is favorable

**Critical:** The concept of criticality or fundamentality in Principal 9 and HCVs relates to irreplaceability and to cases where loss or major damage to this HCV would cause serious prejudice or suffering to *affected stakeholders*\*. An ecosystem service is considered to be *critical*\* (HCV 4) where a disruption of that service is likely to cause, or poses a threat of, severe negative impacts on the welfare, health or survival of *local communities*\*, on the environment, on HCVs, or on the functioning of significant infrastructure (roads, dams, buildings etc.). The notion of criticality here refers to the importance and risk for natural resources and environmental and socio-economic values.

**Criterion** (pl. Criteria): A means of judging whether or not a Principle (of FSC) has been fulfilled.

**Culturally appropriate (mechanisms):** Use of tools and approaches for reaching target groups (*local communities*\* and other *interested stakeholders*\*), which are in harmony with their customs, values, sensitivity, culture and lifestyle. Cultural characteristics may be associated



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with religious, traditional or purely technical capabilities and preferences of local people. Cultural characteristics of a community can exclude the possibility of communication through letters or just the opposite - only the written communication can be acceptable. In other cases, the cultural characteristics may require communication to happen in certain places and at certain times for people and to be used language suitably adapted to be understood from the stakeholders or other measures may have to be taken to ensure effective communication.

**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 and are not contradictory to existing national legislation

### **Deadwood**

A collection of inanimate wood biomass in the forest (except the forest floor), which is the result of natural processes and rotting or from forestry operations. Deadwood consists of standing dead wood (standing dead trees and broken stems, resulting from natural processes was) lying dead wood (fallen and uprooted trees, stems and branches as a result of natural processes and logging activities) and stumps (part of the base of the stem which remains after cutting it).

**Dispute:** for the purpose of the IGI, this is an expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization presented as a complaint to The Organization\*, relating to its management activities or its conformity with the FSC Principles and Criteria, where a response is expected

**Economic viability:** The capability of developing and surviving as a relatively independent social, economic or political unit. Economic viability may require but is not synonymous with profitability.

**Ecosystem:** A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

**Ecosystem function:** An intrinsic ecosystem characteristic related to the set of conditions and processes whereby an ecosystem maintains its integrity (such as primary productivity, food chain, biogeochemical cycles). Ecosystem functions include such processes as decomposition, production, nutrient cycling, and fluxes of nutrients and energy. For FSC purposes, this definition includes ecological and evolutionary processes such as gene flow and disturbance regimes, regeneration cycles and ecological seral development (succession) stages.





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**Ecosystem services:** The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include:

- provisioning services such as food, forest products and water;
- regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease;
- supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and
- cultural services and cultural values such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.

**Engaging / engagement:** The process by which The Organization communicates, consults and/or provides for the participation of interested and/or *affected stakeholders*\* ensuring that their concerns, desires, expectations, needs, rights and opportunities are considered in the establishment, implementation and updating of the Management plan\*.

**Environmental values:** The following set of elements of the biophysical and human environment:

- *ecosystem functions*\* (including carbon sequestration and storage);
- *biological diversity*\*;
- water resources;
- soils;
- atmosphere;
- *landscape values*\* (including cultural and spiritual values).
- The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions

**Externalities:** The positive and negative impacts of activities on stakeholders that are not directly involved in those activities, or on a natural resource or the environment, which do not usually enter standard cost accounting systems, such that the market prices of the products of those activities do not reflect the full costs or benefits. Examples of different types of negative externalities are different types of pollution as a result of forest management activities and the destruction of certain types of *organisms*\* and ecosystems, deterioration of the local microclimate due to inappropriate silvicultural activities and others. Examples of positive externalities are: provision of drinking water from the well-kept forests in water catchment areas, providing clean air, microclimate with healing qualities, providing access to the forest for recreation and gathering *non-timber forest products* \* due to the construction of forest roads, the provision of good conditions for aesthetic



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enjoyment, creating good conditions for the existence of genetic and biological diversity in forests that are managed in a nature friendly way and others. Some of the positive externalities can be characterized as *ecosystem services\**, whose value was not calculated and not taken into account.

**Fair compensation:** Remuneration that is proportionate to the magnitude and type of services rendered by another party or of the harm that is attributable to the first party.

**Fertilizer:** Mineral or organic substances, most commonly N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O, which are applied to soil for the purpose of enhancing plant growth.

**Forest:** A tract of land dominated by trees:

1. that covers area not smaller than 1 decare (0,1 ha), height of adult trees not less than 5 m., width of stand measured between the stems of endmost trees not less than 10 m. and projection of tree crowns not less than 10 of 100 from the area of the stand;
2. areas that are in process of regeneration and have not yet reached the minimum crown projection (10 of 100) and the minimum height of trees 5 m., but are soon expected to reach those minimum levels;
3. areas which as a result of human interference or because of other reasons are temporarily without trees but are to be regenerated;
4. protection forest belts and lines of trees larger than 0.1 ha and width over 10 m.;
5. forest stands into systems and facilities for protection from the destructive impacts of water;
6. *Pinus mugo* formations;
7. Communities of trees and bushes along water bodies.

### Forest cultures

Forests created through afforestation or planting, or by using combined methods (natural and artificial regeneration), often consisting of one or several species at the same age and with even spatial structure. Forest cultures, which over time have acquired basic characteristics and key elements of the natural forest ecosystems can be considered as *natural forests\**, and their regeneration will not be considered for conversion.

**FMU:** See the definition of “Management Unit”



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### **FSC certified product**

A product that can carry FSC label or can to be promoted by the brands of FSC.

### **FSC Standard**

Official document setting out the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council, that must be observed (complied with) by an Organization\* in order to be certified.

**Gender equality:** Gender equality or gender equity means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from, economic, social, cultural and political development.

**Genetically modified organism:** An organism in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination.

**Genotype:** The genetic constitution of an organism.

**Growing stock of the stand:** The total amount of wood in the stand expressed mostly by its volume (m<sup>3</sup>).

**Habitat:** The place or type of site where an organism or population occurs.

**Habitat features:** Forest\* stand attributes and structures, including but not limited to:

- Old commercial and non-commercial trees whose age noticeably exceeds
- the average age of the main canopy;
- Trees with special ecological value (*biotope trees\**);
- Vertical and horizontal complexity;
- Standing dead trees;
- Dead fallen wood;
- Forest openings attributable to *natural disturbances\**;



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- Nesting sites;
- Small *wetlands\**, bogs, fens;
- Ponds;
- Areas for procreation; (Birds and deer coupling places, hollow trees, entrances of caves, rock crevices, etc.).
- Areas for feeding and shelter, including seasonal cycles of breeding;
- Areas for migration;
- Areas for hibernation. (Areas used for hibernation or winter shelters, for example dens of bears, winter gatherings of pygmy cormorant, hollow trees and entrances to caves used by bats, etc.).

**High Conservation Value (HCV):** Any of the following values:

- HCV1: Species Diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity\* including endemic species, and rare, *threatened\** or endangered\* species, that are *significant\** at global, regional or national levels.
- HCV 2: Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. *Intact Forest Landscapes\**, large landscape-level ecosystems\* and ecosystem mosaics that are *significant\** at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- HCV 3: Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, *threatened\**, or endangered ecosystems, *habitats\** or *refugia\**.
- HCV 4: Critical *ecosystem services\**. Basic *ecosystem services\** in *critical\** situations, including *protection\** of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- HCV 5: Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of *local communities\** or Indigenous Peoples\* (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through *engagement\** with these communities or Indigenous Peoples\*.
- HCV 6: Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes\* of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of *critical\** cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of *local communities\** or Indigenous Peoples\*, identified through *engagement\** with these *local communities\** or Indigenous Peoples\*.

**High conservation value forests (HCVF)** Forest areas that have at least one of the six high *conservation\** values as defined by FSC. (See the above definition for HCV)



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**Isles of old age** Parts of the managed stands that are left without silvicultural intervention in order to maintain *biodiversity\**, *conservation\** of specific *habitats\** (*micro habitats\**) and provide structural diversity on the stand level.

**Indicator:** A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a 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 Management Unit\* and are the primary basis of forest evaluation.

**Indigenous Peoples:** People and groups of people that can be identified or characterized as follows:

- The key characteristic or Criterion is self-identification as Indigenous
- Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct social, economic or political systems;
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

**Intact Forest Landscape:** a territory within today's global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km<sup>2</sup> (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km (measured as the diameter of a circle that is entirely inscribed within the boundaries of the territory).

**Intensity:** A measure of the force, severity or strength of a management activity or other occurrence affecting the nature of the activity's impacts.



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**Interested stakeholder:** Any person, group of persons, or entity that has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in the activities of the *Organization\** in the *Management Unit\**.

**Internationally accepted scientific protocol:** A predefined science-based procedure which is either published by an international scientific network or union, or referenced frequently in the international scientific literature.

**Invasive species:** Species that are rapidly expanding outside of their native range. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among *native species\** and can affect *ecosystem function\** and human health.

**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.

**Landscape values:** Landscape values can be visualized as layers of human perceptions overlaid on the physical landscape. Some landscape values, like economic, recreation, subsistence value or visual quality are closely related to physical landscape attributes. Other landscape values such as intrinsic or spiritual value are more symbolic in character and are influenced more by individual perception or social construction than physical landscape attributes.

**Large scale natural disturbances:** See the definition for *natural disturbances\** in the current glossary

**Legal:** In accordance with primary legislation (national or local laws) or secondary legislation (subsidiary regulations, decrees, orders, etc.). 'Legal' also includes rule based decisions made by competent authorities where such decisions flow directly and logically from the laws and regulations. Decisions made by *legally competent\** agencies may not be legal if they do not flow directly and logically from the laws and regulations and if they are not rule-based but use administrative discretion.

**Legally competent:** Mandated in law to perform a certain function

**Legal status:** The way in which the *Management Unit\** is classified according to law.



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In terms of tenure, it means the category of tenure, such as communal land or leasehold or freehold or State land or government land, etc. If the *Management Unit*\* is being converted from one category to another communal indigenous land) the status includes the current position in the transition process. In terms of administration, legal status could mean that the land is owned by the nation as a whole, is administered on behalf of the nation by a government department, and is leased by a government Ministry to a private sector operator through a concession.

**Local communities:** Communities of any size that are in or adjacent to the *Management Unit*\*, and also those that are close enough to have a significant impact on the economy or the *environmental values*\* of the Management Unit or to have their economies, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the Management Unit

**Management activities:** All activities assigned or implemented by the Organization \* incl. administrative tasks forest management activities, planning, monitoring and others.

**Management objective:** Specific management goals, practices, outcomes, and approaches established to achieve the requirements of this standard.

**Management plan / Planning documentation:** The two words are used interchangeably in the Bulgarian standard. They mean the set of documents, reports, records, statements, maps, etc., Which describe, justify and regulate the implementation of activities related to the Management Unit\*. In the context of Bulgaria this includes the Regional Development Plan of forest areas, forest management plan, as well as additional documentation related /developed to/ in connection with the management of the territory of the Management Unit\* and its certification. (The term planning documentation\* is often used in the indicators of the Bulgarian National Standard in spite of the FSC term “Management Plan”. The term “Planning documentation” was introduced by the BG NSDG in order to avoid confusion with the Bulgarian term “Forest management plan” which is something different from the FSC definition of “Management Plan”.)

**Management Unit:** A spatial area or areas submitted for FSC certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long term management objectives which are expressed in a *management plan*\*. This area or areas include(s):  
o all facilities and area(s) within or adjacent to this spatial area or areas under *legal*\* title or management control of, or operated by or on behalf of *The Organization*, for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives; and



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o all facilities and area(s) outside, and not adjacent to this spatial area or areas and operated by or on behalf of *The Organization\**, solely for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives.

**Micro-habitat:** Specific habitat of small size or limited distribution, which differs in nature from the surrounding larger habitat. Typical examples of micro-habitats in forest ecosystems are fallen trunks, damp places, rock formations, and others.

**Native species:** Species, subspecies, or lower taxon, occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (that is, within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans)

**Natural conditions/native ecosystem:** For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria and any applications of restoration techniques, terms such as 'more natural conditions', 'native ecosystem' provide for managing sites to favor or *restore\* native species\** and associations of *native species\** that are typical of the locality, and for managing these associations and other *environmental values\** so that they form ecosystems typical of the locality. Further guidelines may be provided in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards

**Natural forest:** Forests, in which all or almost all trees are *native species\**, which have many of the essential characteristics and key elements of *natural forest\** ecosystems, incl. wealth of *biodiversity\**, soil characteristics and others. For the purposes of the national standard as *natural forests\** classify *forest cultures\** of *native species\** in the area of the main tree species that are managed by objectives and methods that are valid for the *natural forests\** (see the definition for "forest cultures").

**Natural disturbances** Events outside the natural cycle of failure of individual trees, that as a result from the action of natural abiotic and biotic factors alter the composition, structure and processes in forest ecosystems. Depending on the size of the territory affected by the disturbances and *scale\** / intensity of changes, natural disturbances are classified as small-area or large-area disturbances. Given the specific peculiarities of the dynamics of the forest ecosystems in Bulgaria for the needs of the national standard is assumed that large-area are natural disturbances, in which damage to the forest cover caused by abiotic factors (wind throw, snow falls, heavy snow, fire, avalanches and others) and insect *pests\** are concentrated (over 70% of the trees are affected) on an area greater than 1 hectare.

**Natural hazards:** disturbances that can present risks to social and *environmental values\** in the *Management Unit\** but that may also comprise important *ecosystem functions\**; examples include drought, flood, fire, landslide, storm, avalanche, etc.





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**Natural open fields:** Natural and semi-natural habitats \* in forest areas where coverage with trees and shrubs is not bigger than 20% and can be defined as coastal sand dunes and inland dunes; shrub communities; natural and semi-natural grasslands; raised bogs, mires and bogs; rocky habitats and caves.

**Note:** To distinguish the following groups of ecosystems is used the classification of habitats of EUNIS.

**Non-timber forest products (NTFP):** All products other than timber derived from the Management Unit

**Obligatory code of practice:** A manual or handbook or other source of technical instruction which The Organization must implement by law. Example of such a document is the Ethics Code of the state forest units in Bulgaria

**Occupational accident:** An occurrence arising out of, or in the course of, work which results in fatal or non-fatal injury

**Occupational disease:** Any disease contracted as a result of an exposure to risk factors arising from work activity

**Occupational injuries:** Any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an *occupational accident*.\*.

**Old-Growth Forests (OGF):** Forests in the final phase of their development, whose stands have reached a significant age and are not significantly influenced by large-area natural and anthropogenic disturbances. These are characterized by uneven spatial and age structure; presence of old live trees with diameters close to the maximum for the tree species and habitat; standing and fallen large dead trees in various stages of decomposition. In the absence of forests that have the characteristics of old growth forests on the territory of the certified Management Unit, the Organization shall identify forests with potential to become old growth forests. These identified forests with potential are being managed in a way that lead to their transformation into old growth forests. The transformation from mature to old growth forests is gradual and its continuance to a great extent depends on the tree species, conditions of environment and initial structure of the stands. In order to reach the characteristics of old growth forests the identified forests with potential shall be left to their natural dynamics. In those stands management activities are not allowed, and neither is allowed extraction of wood, except in the cases of large-scale natural disturbances that cover over 30% of the area of the relevant old growth forest.



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**Organism:** Any biological entity capable of replication or of transferring genetic material

**Organization:** Individuals, legal persons or groups applying for certification and respectively responsible for the enforcement of the *principles\** and *criteria\** in the National Standard for FSC forest certification.

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

**Pests:** Organisms that are harmful or considered as such in terms of business objectives. These may include animal *pests\**, weeds, fungi and other *microorganisms\**.

**Planning documentation:** see Management plan

**Plantations:** Forests created through afforestation and / or planting of fast-growing domestic and foreign tree species. The main objective of management is intensive production of wood and / or wood products. In these forests are implemented short/fast rotations (young age of logging of the trees). (Note: The original FSC term for Plantations is divided in two separate terms in the Bulgarian standard – Plantations and Forest cultures. In the text of Criteria 6.9 and 6.10 is kept only the word “Plantations”. Still, additional indicators are developed to include the term “forest culture” in the context of the Criteria)

**Positive selection:** Removing the direct competitors of desirable trees in the stand by applying a top method of thinnings with elements of the combined method.

### **Practical Guide for Identifying, Managing, and Monitoring High Conservation Value Forests in Bulgaria**

The document, also known as National HCVF toolkit was developed in 2004 by Bulgarian experts with the active assistance of ProForest and updated in the period 2014-2016. As basis for the toolkit is used the concept of forests with high *conservation\** value (HCVF), which was



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established by FSC and integrated into the FSC standard for forest management to determine the key environmental and social values of forests and ensure their preservation or improvement through the application of rational management decisions and measures.

**Precautionary approach:** An approach requiring that when the available information indicates that *management activities*\* pose a threat of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a threat to human welfare, The Organization\* will take explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the risks to welfare, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of *environmental values*\* are uncertain

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

**Procedure:** Specific way to perform an activity or process. Procedures can be documented or not.

**Protected species:** Species under Annex 3 of the Biological Diversity Act

**Protection:** See definition of Conservation.

**Protection Area:** See definition of Conservation Zone.

**Publicly available:**

Information is easily and freely accessible to everyone. The way to provide access is consistent with the cultural characteristics and technical capabilities of the stakeholders.

**Publicized:** Information is made public in a manner ensuring continuous and free access by interested parties. For the needs of national FSC standard it is assumed that information is published if placed on a publicly accessible location (i.e. info board and / or the website of the Organization\*)

**Public forests:** Forests that are public municipal property



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**Rare species:** Species that are uncommon or scarce, but not classified as *threatened*\*. These species are located in geographically restricted areas or specific *habitats*\*, or are scantily scattered on a large scale. They are approximately equivalent to the IUCN (2001) category of Near Threatened (NT), including species that are close to qualifying for, or are likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future.

**Ratified:** The process by which an international law, convention or agreement (including multilateral environmental agreement) is legally approved by a national legislature or equivalent legal\* mechanism, such that the international law, convention or agreement becomes automatically part of national law or sets in motion the development of national law to give the same legal\* effect

**Reasonable (effort, measure, opportunities, etc.):** Fair or appropriate to the circumstances or purposes, based on general experience

**Refugia:** An isolated area where extensive changes, typically due to changing climate or by disturbances such as those caused by humans, have not occurred and where plants and animals typical of a region may survive

**Representative sample areas:** See the definition of “Representative samples of natural forest ecosystems” that is used in the Bulgarian context.

**Representative samples of natural forest ecosystems:** Samples of the areas of *natural forest*\* ecosystems within the *Management Unit*\* that exist under natural environmental conditions and provide examples of the type of ecosystems with preserved structure and function. The samples include only forest ecosystems that are managed by the *Organization*\* and are included within the scope of the certificate. It must be kept in mind that on the territory of the *Management Unit*\* may be presented other ecosystems (other than forest ecosystems) such as grasslands, bush communities, *wetlands*\*, cliffs, dunes, etc.. For the identification of the ecosystems is recommended to use the classification of *habitats*\* of EUNIS.

Note: The size of the area of individual forest ecosystems in the samples is determined in proportion to the area of the ecosystems within the *Management Unit*\* and in accordance with the *conservation status*\* and environmental value\* of each *ecosystem*\* at *landscape*\* level and at the level of the *Management Unit*\*. The aim is to protect the rare and vulnerable forest ecosystems, but also to preserve representative samples of forest ecosystems that are well presented and currently are in good *conservation status*\* within the *Management Unit*\*.



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**Resilience:** The ability of a system to maintain key functions and processes in the face of stresses or pressures by either resisting or adapting to change. Resilience can be applied to both ecological systems and social systems.

**Restore / Restoration:** These words are used in different senses according to the context and in everyday speech. In some cases 'restore' means to repair the damage done to *environmental values\** that resulted from *management activities\** or other causes. In other cases 'restore' means the formation of more *natural conditions\** in sites which have been heavily degraded or converted to other land uses. In the Principles and Criteria, the word 'restore' is not used to imply the recreation of any particular previous, pre-historic, pre-industrial or other pre-existing ecosystem.

The Organization\* is not necessarily obliged to restore those *environmental values\** that have been affected by factors beyond the control of The Organization, for example by natural disasters, by climate change, or by the legally authorized activities of third parties, such as public infrastructure, mining, hunting or settlement.

The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification describes the processes by which such areas may be excised from the area certified, when appropriate. The Organization is also not obliged to restore *environmental values\** that may have existed at some time in the historic or pre-historic past, or that have been negatively affected by previous owners or organizations. However, The Organization is expected to take *reasonable\** measures to mitigate, control and prevent environmental degradation which is continuing in the Management Unit as a result of such previous impacts.

**Riparian zone:** Interface between land and a water body, and the vegetation associated with it.

**Riverbed:** Riverbed is an element of relief in which temporary or permanent surface water flow forms. It includes the riverbed (lands that are flooded in the average water level) and flood plains (which are flooded at high water).

**Risk:** The probability of an unacceptable negative impact arising from any activity in the Management Unit combined with its seriousness in terms of consequences

**Scale:** A measure of the extent to which a management activity or event affects an environmental value or a management unit, in time or space. An activity with a small or low spatial scale affects only a small proportion of the forest each year, an activity with a small or low temporal scale occurs only at long intervals.



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**Scale, intensity and risk:** See individual definitions of the terms 'scale', 'intensity' and 'risk'.

**Semi-natural habitats:** Habitats, resulting from human activity in the past or maintained with specific activities that have characteristics of natural *habitats*\* in terms of *biodiversity*\* and interactions between species. This interaction between human activities (mainly traditional agriculture and livestock) and natural processes in ecosystems led to the creation of communities of flora and fauna with high *biodiversity*\* and *conservation*\* interest.

**Significant:** For the purposes of Principle 9, HCVs 1, 2 and 6 there are three main forms of recognizing significance.

- A designation, classification or recognized *conservation status*\*, assigned by an international agency such as IUCN or Birdlife International;
- A designation by national or regional authorities, or by a responsible national *conservation*\* organization, on the basis of its concentration of *biodiversity*\*;
- A voluntary recognition by the manager, owner or Organization, on the basis of available information, or of the known or suspected presence of a *significant*\* *biodiversity*\* concentration, even when not officially designated by other agencies.

Any one of these forms will justify designation as HCVs 1, 2 and 6. Many regions of the world have received recognition for their *biodiversity*\* importance, measured in many different ways. Existing maps and classifications of priority areas for *biodiversity*\* *conservation*\* play an essential role in identifying the potential presence of HCVs 1, 2 and 6

**SLIMF** FMUs\* are those that comply with at least one of the following requirements:

1. *FMUs*\* with an area of up to 1000 ha;
2. The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI)<sup>2</sup> within the total production forest area of the unit and **the annual harvest**(for any one year) from the total production forest area is less than 5000 cubic meters
3. The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI)<sup>2</sup> within the total production forest area of the unit and **the average annual harvest** from the total production forest is less than 5000 m<sup>3</sup> / year **during the period of validity of the certificate**.

**Sustainable use / Sustainable yield:** Levels and frequency of use / yield, which will not lead to exhaustion and degradation of resources in the long term and will ensure the maintenance or enhancement of related *ecosystem services*\*.



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**Threatened species:** Species that meet the IUCN (2001) criteria for Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR) and are facing a high, very high or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. In the context of Bulgaria in this definition include species listed in the Red Book of Bulgaria.

**Tranquility zones:** Forest areas in which forestry activities are not conducted at all or if conducted they follow a predetermined time frame in order to provide conditions for breeding of certain species

**Trees of the future:** Vital trees of desirable tree species with high quality stems and crowns. They are expected to present high-quality assortments with certain parameters when they reach adult age.

**Timely manner:** As promptly as circumstances reasonably allow; not intentionally postponed by The Organization\*; in compliance with applicable laws, contracts, licenses or invoices.

**Uphold:** To acknowledge, respect, sustain and support

**Use rights:** Rights for the use of resources of the Management Unit 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

**Verifiable targets:** Specific goals, such as desired future forest conditions, established to measure progress towards the achievement of each of the management objectives\*. These goals are expressed as clear outcomes, such that their attainment can be verified and it is possible to determine whether they have been accomplished or not.

**Verifier:** Potential source of information or evidence that allows an auditor to evaluate compliance with an indicator.

**Very Limited portion:** The area affected shall\* not exceed 0.5% of the area of the Management Unit\* in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the Management Unit\*



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**Waste materials:** unusable or unwanted substances or by-products, such as:

- o Hazardous waste, including chemical waste and batteries;
- o Containers;
- o Motor and other fuels and oils;
- o Rubbish including metals, plastics and paper; and
- o Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment.

**Water bodies** (including water courses): Seasonal, temporary, and permanent brooks, creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Water bodies include riparian or wetland systems, lakes, swamps, bogs and springs.

**Wetlands:** Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs.

**Worker:** (meaning also the words: employee/s, personnel, staff, etc.) Any person who is employed by an employer as well as any person who works for himself, including trainees or practitioners during the training, probation and practice.





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### MAIN PART OF THE DOCUMENTATION

#### PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

##### **PRINCIPLE\* 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS**

The *Organization\** shall\* comply with all *applicable laws\**, regulations and *nationally-ratified\** international treaties, conventions and agreements.

**Criterion\*1.1:** The *Organization\** shall\* be a legally defined entity with clear, documented and unchallenged legal *registration\**, with written authorization from the *legally competent\** authority for specific activities.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.1.*</b> The <i>Organization*</i> has legal and unchallenged registration entitling it to carry out all activities within the scope of the certificate.</p>	<p><u>For juridical persons/ for legal entity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a check of the current status in the trade register as per the Unique Identification Code (UIC);</li> <li>- tax registration;</li> <li>- management contracts;</li> <li>- registration in the public records attesting the right to perform the activities - subject of the certificate</li> <li>- documents proving the right of long-term management / use ( deeds , minutes of adoption of the forestry plan , sketches from the cadastre)</li> </ul> <p><u>For individuals/ for physical person:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ID ;</li> <li>- Proof of ownership : deeds, decision for restitution of ownership issued by Land Commission / Municipal Agriculture Office, incl. sketch (delineation)</li> </ul>



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**Criterion\* 1.2:** The *Organization\** shall\* demonstrate that the *legal status\** of the *Management Unit\**, including *tenure\** and *use rights\**, and its boundaries, are clearly defined.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 1.2.1*</b> There are legal documents proving the right to manage and use the resources within the scope of the certificate issued by competent authority and in accordance with legal <i>procedures*</i> .	<u>Documentary check:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deeds and / or drawings , contracts and / or orders for usage;</li> <li>- Documents proving the right for long-term management / use</li> <li>- Legal provisions, if applicable.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 1.2.2.*</b> The boundaries of all <i>Management Units*</i> within the scope of the certificate are documented, clearly identifiable on the field (marked and follow natural or administrative boundaries) and clearly shown on maps.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reports (enquiry) from the cadastre, maps of restored ownership (MRW), documents with description of the boundaries ; paper and electronic maps .</li> <li>- Complaints regarding the ownership and right of use.</li> </ul> <u>Field check:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- whether the boundaries are marked on the field ; is there a compliance with the documentary information?</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 1.3:** The *Organization\** shall\* have *legal\** rights to operate in the *Management Unit\**, which fit the *legal\** status of the *Organization\** and of the *Management Unit\**, and shall\* comply with the *associated legal\** obligations in applicable national and local laws and regulations and administrative requirements. The *legal\** rights shall\* provide for harvest of products and/or supply of *ecosystem services\** from within the *Management Unit\**. The *Organization\** shall\* pay the legally prescribed charges associated with such rights and obligations.



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Indicators*	Verifiers*
<p><b>Indicator 1.3.1.*</b> All activities, including harvest of products and / or the supply of <i>ecosystem services*</i> are implemented in accordance with national legislation and in compliance with the rights of ownership and use . (see Annex1 - List of applicable legislation )</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to date database containing specialised forest, environmental and labour related regulatory framework is available and all employees have access to it;</li> <li>- Violations registered by competent authorities.</li> <li>- Protocols from check-ups of competent authorities</li> <li>- Register of signals and check-ups made in relation to them</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overall assessment of compliance with regulatory framework ;</li> <li>- Check of compliance with the requirements for the welfare of animals used in the transportation of wood</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews with:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the staff of the Organization;</li> <li>- <i>workers*</i> of subcontractors;</li> <li>- owners of animals used for some operations in the forests (e.g.extraction of logs, etc.)</li> <li>- responsible institutions and other stakeholders (incl. regarding the welfare and compliance with animal health requirements for animals used in forestry, such as horses, mules , donkeys , oxes , etc.).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 1.3.2.*</b> Management planning documents for the activities do not contradict the national legislation. (see Annex 1 - List of applicable legislation)</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check for past and current legal proceedings for non-compliance with the legislation ;</li> <li>- administrative acts and others.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Written protocols for contradictions identified.</li> <li>- Planning documents</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews with:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- relevant institutions and other stakeholders;</li> <li>- employees and subcontractors of the Organization;</li> <li>- relevant institutions and other stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 1.3.3.*</b>  <b>To be applied for SLIMF, which have a management structure and obligations to maintain accounting.</b></p> <p>There are evidences of timely paid financial obligations (applicable legally prescribed charges) related to forest management .</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentary check , incl. receipts, accounts, etc</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With subcontractors, suppliers and other stakeholders</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 1.4: The Organization\* shall\* develop and implement measures, and/or shall\* engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the Management Unit\* from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 1.4.1.</b> A clear and effective system for prevention and control of illegal logging , poaching, collecting <i>NTEP*</i> , settlement and other unauthorized activities is available and is being applied. The system includes the following, without limiting it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- technical and human resources to exercise protection and control on the field;</li> <li>- a certain degree of risk for individual sites / areas of <i>FMU*</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- check of documents certifying that the periodic and / or sudden control is being exercised.</li> <li>- Orders or other documents for establishment of forest roads with controlled access to areas being of high risk</li> <li>- Orders for closure of temporary forest roads</li> <li>- Documents to determine the level of risk for individual territories / parts of</li> </ul>



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<p>as the scope and intensity* of protection and control activities are in accordance with the degree of risk; или</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the level of risk for the individual territories/parts of the <i>FMU*</i> is determined, and the scope and intensity* of the activities related to the safeguard and control correspond to the level of risk.</li> <li>- Differentiation of forest roads with controlled access to areas with high risk;</li> <li>- Control of traffic on forest roads .</li> </ul>	<p><i>FMU*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protocols and other documents from check-ups made by the competent authorities and personnel of the Organization</li> <li>- Documents as evidence that the Organization has undertaken the necessary measures for the cases in which violations were found – signals to the prosecutor's office and regional forest directorates, written statements for observed administrative violations, orders for search of violators, etc.</li> <li>- Check up on how many written statements for violations have actually been executed (got enforced) in order to check the effectiveness of the control implemented by the Organization;</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- check human resources and technical resources engaged with the control</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With relevant responsible employees of the <i>Organization*</i></li> <li>- With stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 1.4.2.</b> Where other competent institutions have responsibilities in terms of <i>protection*</i> and control of unauthorised activities, a system to engage and work with them is applied.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contracts for implementation of safeguard and control;</li> <li>- Correspondence with authorities</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With relevant responsible employees of the <i>Organization*</i>;</li> <li>- With representatives of the competent authorities (Executive Forest Agency and its subdivisions, Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Waters, Executive Agency of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Internal Affairs,</li> </ul>



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	Border Police, etc.) -
<b>Indicator 1.4.3.*</b> The necessary legal measures are taken in case of detecting unauthorised activities.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidences that responsible control bodies are informed</li> <li>- Administrative statements for found violation issued by the Organization</li> </ul> <u>Field check-up:</u>

**Criterion\* 1.5: The Organization\* shall\* comply with the applicable national laws\*, local laws, ratified\* international conventions and obligatory codes of practice\*, relating to the transportation and trade of forest products within and from the Management Unit\*, and/or up to the point of first sale.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 1.5.1.*</b> There is evidence that the <i>Organization*</i> complies with national legislation, local regulations and <i>ratified*</i> international conventions relating to trade and transportation of forest products to the place of physical change of the ownership.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- check of past and current legal proceedings for non-compliance with the legislation;</li> <li>- administrative acts for infringements of the national legislation and regulatory framework;</li> <li>- written protocols for contradictions identified.</li> </ul> <u>Field check-up:</u> check the records of the Organization, the sites where the timber is harvested and processed, the transport infrastructure , protected areas , nurseries, etc. , related to law enforcement . (refer to Annex 1, but is not limited only to it)  <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with local communities</li> <li>- with employees of the <i>Organization*</i></li> <li>- with competent authorities and other relevant stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 1.5.2.*</b> The <i>Organization*</i> complies with the provisions of	<u>Documentary check-up:</u>



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CITES convention in the case of extraction and / or trade of species listed in Annexes 1 and 2 of the Convention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- check of the species that are harvested;</li> <li>- check if the species that are harvested are included in the Annex 1 and 2 of CITES;</li> <li>- check if certificates are available in case of harvesting of species included in the Annex 1 and 2 of CITES.</li> </ul>
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**Criterion\* 1.6: The Organization\* shall\* identify, prevent and resolve disputes\* over issues of statutory or customary law, which can be settled out of court in a timely manner\*, through engagement\* with affected stakeholders\*.**

Indicators*	Verifiers*
<p><b>Indicator 1.6.1.</b> A publically available <i>dispute*</i> resolution mechanism is in place (for <i>disputes*</i> related but not limited to: ownership of forests and lands, the right of use, concessions), developed through <i>culturally appropriate* engagement* with affected stakeholders*</i>. The mechanism includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish a mutually acceptable mean of communication with each community that allows two-way exchange of information;</li> <li>- Ensure equal representation and inclusion of all groups;</li> <li>- Documentation of all meetings, all issues discussed and all consents achieved;</li> <li>- Adoption of the content of the minutes of meetings, including specific steps to resolve the <i>dispute*</i>; and</li> <li>- Disclosure of the results of all activities on the involvement of stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check if there is publicaly available mechanism/<i>procedure*</i>;</li> <li>- Evidences for stakeholder participation in the development of the mechanism ;</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 1.6.2.*</b> There is clear evidence that in cases where it is possible, the necessary actions for timely and out of court <i>dispute*</i> resolution related to enforcement of applicable legislation incl. legislation regulating the right of ownership and the right of use are</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check if there are current <i>disputes*</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>affected stakeholders*</i> .</li> </ul>



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undertaken. Such <i>disputes*</i> are either resolved or are in the <i>dispute*</i> resolution process.	
<b>Indicator 1.6.3.</b> Up-to-date records of past and current <i>disputes*</i> are maintained, incl: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- description of the steps taken to resolve <i>disputes*</i>;</li> <li>- outcomes of <i>dispute*</i> resolution processes, incl. compensations agreed; and</li> <li>- unresolved <i>disputes*</i>, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.</li> </ul>	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check of the records ;</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with <i>affected stakeholders*</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 1.6.4.*</b> In case of out of court <i>disputes*</i> , no operations are conducted in the disputed territory.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Order to cease the activity in disputed site, dossier of the <i>dispute*</i>, etc.</li> </ul> <u>Field check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check on site if any activities are taking place in the disputed territory</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>affected stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 1.6.5* .</b> Operations cease in disputed territory in case of court <i>disputes*</i> where one of the parties has requested the suspension of operation.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Court decision / Order to cease the activity in disputed site, dossier of the <i>dispute*</i>, etc.</li> <li>- Check up of documents of court disputes related to tenure</li> </ul> <u>Field check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check on site if any activities are taking place in the disputed territory</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>affected stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 1.7:** The Organization shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall comply





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with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, *The Organization\* shall\** implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the *scale\** and *intensity\** of *management activities\** and the *risk\** of corruption.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 1.7.1.</b> A policy is developed and implemented that includes a commitment not to offer or receive bribes of any description and any other form of corruption.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check if there is such policy;</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>interested stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 1.7.2.</b> The policy meets or exceeds the existing anti-corruption legislation.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check if there is such policy ;</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>interested stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 1.7.3.</b> The policy is <i>publicly available*</i> at no cost.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check if there is such policy;</li> <li>- Check for free public access.</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>interested stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 1.7.4.</b> There is no evidence of offered to or received cash bribes, coercion, and implementation of other corruption practices.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for accusations / issued court decisions</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>interested stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 1.7.5.</b> Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does	<u>Documentary check-up:</u>



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occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for accusations / issued court decisions, measures taken.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>interested stakeholders</i>*</li> </ul>
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**Criterion\* 1.8: The *Organization*\* shall\* demonstrate a *long-term*\* commitment to adhere to the FSC *Principles*\* and *Criteria*\* in the *Management Unit*\*, and to related FSC Policies and Standards. A statement of this commitment shall\* be contained in a *publicly available*\* document made freely available.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 1.8.1.*</b> There is written document adopted by the managers of the Organization, reflecting the long-term commitment to FSC Principles and Criteria and related Policies and Standards, including <i>The Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC</i>. In connection with the latter, the document includes commitment to stay away of unacceptable activities, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- illegal logging and trade with illegally harvested timber and NTFP ;</li> <li>- violation of traditional and human rights in the forest management operations;</li> <li>- significant in terms of the scope change of the use of forests unless it is related to the construction of infrastructure of national importance , as well as sites related to national security and defense. (the scope of the change is in accordance with the indicator 6.9.1 )</li> <li>- introduction of <i>genetically modified organisms</i>*;</li> <li>- Violation of the Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) as defined in the <i>ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work</i> , and a commitment for timely reporting of cases of unlawful association with FSC of other organizations that have become known.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Availability and accessibility of the document required and check to what extent the required elements are presented (incorporated)</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Indicator 1.8.2.*</b> The written document of the long-term commitment of the Organization to FSC Principles and Criteria and related policies and standards is publicly available at no cost.</p>	<p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With employees and stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check the accessibility of the document.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 1.8.3</b> There is no evidence that the Organization is engaged in the unacceptable activities listed in 1.8.1 incl. in forest territories outside the scope of the certificate.</p>	<p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With employees and stakeholders.</li> </ul>

### PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS' RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

#### PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS'\* RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

The Organization shall maintain or enhance the social and economic wellbeing of *workers\**.

**Criterion\* 2.1:** The Organization shall *uphold\** the principles and rights at work as defined in the *ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998)* based on the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.1.*</b> Employment practices and conditions are in conformity with the principles and rights of work addressed with the basic ILO Conventions and the national labour legislation</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positions on the observance of labor legislation ; examination of inspection</li> </ul>



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<p>(see Annex 1 - List of applicable legislation ).</p>	<p>reports .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Court decisions on labour disputes incl. case sfor illegal dismissals</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With officials of the Organization;</li> <li>- With representatives of the Labor Inspectorate , the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, trade unions and others.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up</u></p>
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.2.</b> Workers' rights to initiate the establishment and / or to join trade unions of their choice is guaranteed, provided that they comply with the rules of the trade union.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- collective agreement</li> <li>- Protocol of the general meeting</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with <i>workers*</i> representatives and / or trade union leaders</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.3.</b> Agreements are implemented resulting from collective bargaining with representatives of trate unions and/ or other agreements concerning <i>workers*</i> rights and working conditions.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreements on collective bargaining</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers*</i> representatives and / or trade union leaders</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 2.2:** The Organization shall promote *gender equality\** in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of *engagement\** and *management activities\**.



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<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.1.</b> The <i>Organization*</i> promotes <i>gender equality*</i> and prevents gender discrimination in employment practices, in the process of hiring <i>workers*</i>, during trainings, awarding of contracts, processes of <i>engagement*</i> and <i>management activities*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internal rules , rules on salary</li> <li>- Job descriptions</li> <li>- Documentation about trainings carried out</li> <li>- Vacancy announcements</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers*</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.2.</b> Job opportunities are open to both women and men under the same conditions.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are there any complaints/signals ?</li> <li>- Job descriptions</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers*/employees</i> ;</li> <li>- Refer to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.3.</b> Work typically carried out by women (collecting NTFP, silvicultural activities, nurseries, etc.) is included in training and health &amp; safety programs to the same extent as work typically carried out by men.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentation of trainings</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers*/employees</i> ;</li> <li>- Refer to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Indicator 2.2.4.*</b> Women and men are paid the same wage, under the same conditions.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentation for wages paid</li> <li>- contracts</li> <li>- job descriptions</li> <li>- CVs, diplomas, certificates of qualifications gained and work experience</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With workers*/employees ;</li> <li>- Refer to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.5.</b> Women are paid directly and using mutually agreed methods (e.g. direct bank transfer, direct payments, cash, etc.).</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u> Documentation for wages paid</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With workers*/employees ;</li> <li>- Refer to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.6.</b> Maternity leave is according to the national legislation, but is no less than a six-week period after childbirth.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- documents proving that the right of using the maternity leave has been exercised</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With workers*/employees ;</li> <li>- Refer to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.7.</b> Men have the opportunity to take paternity leave.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- documents proving that the right of using the paternity leave has been exercised</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With workers*/employees ;</li> <li>- Refer to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Indicator 2.2.8.</b> Active participation of both gender in meetings and forums for decision-making is equally encouraged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Documentary check-up:</u> Invitations to participate in meetings, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers</i>*/employees ;</li> <li>- Refer to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.9.</b> Confidential and effective mechanisms exist for reporting and eliminating cases of sexual harassment and gender or other type of discrimination.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- наличие на писмен документ/ вътрешен правилник</li> <li>- етичен кодекс</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers</i>*/employees – are there such cases? ;</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.10.</b> <i>Workers</i>* are familiar with the mechanism of reporting cases of sexual harassment and gender or other type of discrimination.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- e.g. lists of persons instructed</li> <li>- free access to the place where the written <i>procedures</i>* related to <i>workers</i>*' rights, the database of relevant national legislation etc. Are being kept</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with <i>workers</i>*/employees;</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.2.11.</b> Measures in all cases of sexual harassment and gender or other type of discrimination are undertaken in timely and effective manner.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- complaints exist, as well as evidences of processing (the complaints) further;</li> <li>- Check up for accusations / issued court decisions, measures taken.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with <i>workers</i>*/employees</li> </ul>

**Criterion\*2.3: The Organization shall implement health and safety practices to protect *workers*\* from occupational safety and health hazards. These practices shall, proportionate to *scale, intensity\* and risk\* of management activities\**, meet or exceed the recommendations of the ILO Code of Practice**



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### on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 2.3.1.*</b> Health and safety practices are implemented that meet or exceed the ILO requirements on safety and health in forests.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secured services / own / or contracted with occupational health and safety service,</li> <li>- A program for risk assessment of the workplaces of the organization,</li> <li>- Health and safety instructions</li> <li>- A program for conducting trainings and instruction – at the start of the work, at the workplace, periodic, daily and occasional</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check whether health and safety practices are applied</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With managers, employees and forest workers*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.3.2.*</b> Workers* are equipped with the necessary personal protective equipment and special clothing tailored to the specifics of the activities. (see Annex 2 - Personal protective equipment)</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protocols that clothing, equipment, etc is provided.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are there protective clothing / equipment that is in good condition and in accordance with Annex 2 of the standard</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With workers*/employees;</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.3.3.*</b> Use of personal protective equipment is required/enforced by the employer/contractor.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Orders, job descriptions, instructions, etc.</li> </ul>





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	<p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are there protective clothing / equipment that is in good condition and in accordance with Appendix 2 of the standard</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers</i>*/employees.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 2.3.4.</b> There are documents and records related to the health and safety practices, the recording of accidents and the time lost due to accidents.	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plans for instruction;</li> <li>- Schedule of the trainings on health and safety, etc. ;</li> <li>- Evidences of periodically performed instructions and trainings on health and safety;</li> <li>- Check for updated register of accidents.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers</i>*/employees</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 2.3.5.</b> The frequency and severity of accidents in the <i>FMU</i> * do not exceed national levels for the forestry sector.	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Register / records of accidents</li> <li>- Publicly available statistics of the National Social Security Institute (operating register of National Social Security Institute)</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers</i>*/employees</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 2.3.6.*</b> A periodic review is made and where necessary health and safety practices are updated on the basis of objective data available. After each accident a comprehensive review of the policies and practices related to health and safety is made and	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check if health and safety practices are up-to-date;</li> <li>- Check the protocols for a comprehensive review of the policies and practices</li> </ul>



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corrective measures are taken.

**Criterion\* 2.4: The Organization\* shall\* pay wages that meet or exceed minimum forest industry standards or other recognized forest industry wage agreements or living wages, where these are higher than the legal minimum wages. When none of these exist, The Organization\* shall\* through engagement\* with workers\* develop mechanisms for determining living wages.**

Indicators*	Verifiers*
<b>Indicator 2.4.1.*</b> Wages paid by <i>The Organization*</i> are not lower by the minimum wage rates for the country.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check of the balances of <i>the Organization*</i> or its subcontractors</li> <li>- Check if the agreed salary is not less than the minimum amount established in the country</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With employees, including employees of contractors and companies in the region;</li> <li>- With professional organizations;</li> <li>- References to wage levels in NSI.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 2.4.2.</b> Wages and contributions paid by the <i>Organization*</i> meet or exceed: 1)* Minimum wages in the forest sector <b>(applicable for SLIMF);</b> 2) Other recognized agreements for the forest sector; 3) Living wages that are higher than legal minimum wages.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check of the balances of the organization or its subcontractors</li> <li>- Check whether the amount of social security contributions is in accordance with the requirements for minimum insurance threshold for the position</li> <li>- Collective labor agreements</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With employees, including employees of contractors and companies in the region;</li> <li>- With professional organizations;</li> <li>- References to wage levels in NSI.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 2.4.3.*</b> Wages, salaries and contracts are paid on time and	<u>Documentary check-up:</u>



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in the amount as specified in the contracts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of contracts;</li> <li>- Review of trial balances, payment orders for wages, fees and social contributions;</li> <li>- Bank statements;</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers</i>*/employees of the <i>Organization</i>* and subcontractors.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 2.4.4.*</b> Due payments for insurance, social contributions, business trips, overtime and other items as specified in the contracts are paid on time.	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of trial balances, payment orders for wages, fees and social contributions;</li> <li>- Bank statements;</li> <li>- Petty cash order for business trips</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers</i>*/employees of the <i>Organization</i> and subcontractors.</li> </ul>

***Criterion\* 2.5: The Organization\* shall\* demonstrate that workers\* have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the Management Plan\* and all management activities\*.***

<b><i>Indicators*</i></b>	<b><i>Verifiers*</i></b>
<b>Indicator 2.5.1.</b> A training programme ensuring that all <i>workers</i> * contribute to the safe and effective implementation of the Management planning documents is available and is applied. The programme is consistent with the job specific tasks and responsibilities of the <i>workers</i> * (incl. subcontractors) and includes, but is not limited to, the elements listed in Annex 3 ( <i>Annex 3 - Contents of the training program</i> )	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check if training programme is available and if it includes all the elements;</li> <li>- Documentary evidences for update of the programme;</li> <li>- Check for trainings / coaching (records, lists of participants, etc. )</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers</i>* in the <i>Organization</i>* and subcontractors</li> </ul>



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<b>Indicator 2.5.2.*</b> Trainings of employees and forest <i>workers*</i> that were carried out are documented.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check for trainings / coaching (records, lists of participants, etc. )</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 2.5.3.*</b> There are evidences that employees and forest <i>workers*</i> operating in the <i>FMU*</i> have appropriate education and qualification to do their job.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check for documents such as diplomas, certificates, etc.</li> <li>- Job descriptions;</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with human resources specialist</li> <li>- with <i>workers*</i> in the <i>Organization*</i> and subcontractors.</li> </ul>

***Criterion\* 2.6: The Organization\* through engagement\* with workers\* shall\* have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation\* to workers\* for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases\*, or occupational injuries\* sustained while working for The Organization\****

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 2.6.1.</b> There is <i>publicly available*</i> mechanism for conflict resolution developed with the participation of the <i>workers*</i> and employees.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- check for <i>publicly available*</i> mechanism;</li> <li>- Documents proving the involvement of <i>workers*</i> in developing the mechanism;</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With workers in the <i>Organization*</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 2.6.2.*</b> All complaints of <i>workers*</i> in the <i>Organization *</i> are addressed <i>promptly*</i> , a decision on them is taken or are in <i>dispute*</i> resolution process.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complaints, records of <i>disputes*</i>, orders and others</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>workers*/</i> employees</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 2.6.3.</b> Up-to-date records of grievances related to loss or damage of property, <i>occupational diseases*</i> and <i>injuries*</i> are	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check of the records;</li> </ul>



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<p>maintained including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Steps taken to resolve grievances;</li> <li>- Decisions on <i>disputes*</i> including agreed compensation; and</li> <li>- Unresolved <i>disputes*</i>, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>interested stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.6.4.</b> Fair compensation is provided to the <i>workers*</i> affected for work-related damage of property, <i>occupational diseases*</i> and <i>injuries*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documents certifying paid compensation ;</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>interested stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>

### PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES\* RIGHTS

Not applicable for Bulgaria / see. "Indigenous peoples" in the dictionary of terms and abbreviations

### PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

#### PRINCIPLE\* 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

*The Organization\** shall contribute to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of *local communities\**.  
*Организацията\** допринася за поддържането и насърчаването на социалното и икономическо благополучие на местните общности.

*Criterion\* 4.1 The Organization\* shall\* identify the local communities\* that exist within the Management Unit\* and those that are affected by management activities\*. The Organization\* shall\* then, through engagement\* with these local communities\*, identify their rights of tenure\*, their*



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rights of access to and use of *forest\** resources and *ecosystem services\**, their *customary rights\** and *legal\** rights and obligations, that apply within the *Management Unit\**.

Indicators*	Verifiers*
<p><b>Indicator 4.1.1.</b> Local communities, <i>affected and interested stakeholders *</i> are identified and documented.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Annex 4 to the standard gives an indicative list of interested and affected parties</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of the <i>local communities*</i>, <i>affected and interested stakeholders *</i> (names and contacts)</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With representatives of the <i>local communities*</i>, <i>affected and interested stakeholders *</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 4.1.2. *</b></p> <p><b>Applies for SLIMF * public forests*. Right of passage is guaranteed for private forests, too.</b></p> <p>The organization knows the rights of <i>local communities*</i>, <i>affected and interested stakeholders*</i> in terms of ownership, as well as those related to access to and use of forest resources and <i>ecosystem services *</i>. Local communities and <i>affected stakeholders*</i> are involved in the process of identifying their rights.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is an archive with the following documents:</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Up-to-date map of the ownership of the <i>FMU*</i>.</li> <li>2. List of names and contacts of organizations, institutions, key representatives of the various <i>interested stakeholders *</i> of the local community</li> <li>3. <i>Customary</i> and <i>legal rights*</i> and obligations of the <i>local communities*</i> and <i>interested stakeholders*</i> for access to forests and use of forest resources and <i>ecosystem services*</i> are identified:</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of wood</li> <li>- Use of <i>non-timber forest products*</i></li> <li>- The right to hunt</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recreation and tourism</li> <li>- free access</li> <li>- Places for gatherings , picnics and other cultural activities</li> </ul> <p>4. Description of the rights and territories under <i>dispute</i>*. Description of conflict</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Managers of the <i>Organisation</i>* and representatives of the <i>local communities</i>*.</li> <li>- Check if <i>local communities</i>* were involved in the process of identifying their rights.</li> </ul>
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**Criterion\* 4.2. The Organization\* shall recognize and uphold\* the legal and customary rights\* of local communities\* to maintain control over management activities\* within or related to the Management Unit to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories. Delegation by local communities\* of control over management activities\* to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent.**

Indicators*	Verifiers*
<p><b>Indicator 4.2.1.*</b> Local communities are informed when, where and how they can comment and request changes to forest <i>management activities</i>*, and how they can participate in the planning process of forest <i>management activities</i>* and sites to the extent necessary to protect their rights , resources, lands and territories. Local communities are informed in a <i>culturally appropriate way</i>*.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <p>Documented proofs that to th <i>local communities</i>* was given information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upcoming development or revision of the forest management plan of the <i>FMU</i> * ;</li> <li>- Information on planned forestry activities and their venues ( places and subcompartments ) for next year.</li> <li>- Information about the <i>procedure</i>* and time limits in which <i>local communities</i>* and <i>interested stakeholders</i> * may submit written comments and proposals on the forest management plan in process of</li> </ul>



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	<p>development and forest <i>management activities</i>* and / or the annual forest management planning ;</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With representatives of the <i>local communities</i>* and <i>interested stakeholders</i> *</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 4.2.2.*</b>  <b>Applies for SLIMF* public forests*.</b>            There is evidence that forest management planning reflects the proposals of the <i>local communities</i>* , depending on their legality and appropriateness .</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Register of deposited proposals <i>from local communities* and stakeholders</i> * on the forest plan / program ;</li> <li>- Minutes of meetings and lists of public discussions (annexes to the forest management plan : reports from the second forest management planning meeting , records from the expert technical advice council at the Executive Forest Agency ; records of other discussions)</li> <li>- Register with answers to people concerned on proposals made by them ;</li> <li>- Changes made to the <i>forest management planning documents</i> *</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With representatives of the <i>local communities</i>*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 4.2.3.*</b>  <b>Applies for SLIMF* public forests*.</b>            There are no evidences of violation of legal rights and internal <i>procedures</i>* of the <i>Organization</i>* , enabling <i>local communities</i>* to exercise control over forest management operations .</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Registry and documentation related to submitted complaints</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With representatives of the <i>local communities</i>* .</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 4.2.4.*</b>  <b>Applies for SLIMF* public forests*.</b>            Identified violations of legal rights of <i>local communities</i>* related to the <i>management activities</i>* are adjusted through <i>culturally appropriate</i>* <i>engagement</i>* of the <i>interested stakeholders</i>* and / or through the process</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documents proving that concrete corrective actions have been taken in case of identifying violations of legal rights of <i>local communities</i>* related to the <i>management activities</i>*</li> </ul>





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of <i>dispute</i> * settlement described in Criterion 1.6 or 4.6.	<u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With representatives of the <i>local communities</i>*.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 4.2.5.*</b> There is no evidence of denied access and / or transit through the <i>FMU</i> * territory by the <i>Organization</i> *, leading to non-compliance with legislation and <i>customary rights</i> * of the citizens.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complaints and grievances .</li> <li>- Minutes of meetings from consultation with <i>interested stakeholders</i> *</li> </ul> <u>Interviews</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representatives of the <i>local communities</i>*</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 4.3: The Organization\* shall\* provide reasonable\* opportunities for employment, training and other services to local communities\*, contractors and suppliers proportionate to scale\* and intensity\* of its management activities\*.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 4.3.1.</b> Appropriate opportunities for employment, training and other services are discussed and submitted to the <i>local communities</i> *, contractors and suppliers. There is evidence that local people are preferred in case of recruitment for a vacancy, when candidates are equal in terms of education and professional experience.	<u>Documentary check-up::</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lists of contractor's <i>workers</i>* who have been instructed;</li> <li>- Photos , programs and lists of trainings ;</li> <li>- Checklists, etc.</li> <li>- Policies / Strategies for recruitment ;</li> <li>- Evidences in local media that <i>local communities</i>* were informed about the job opportunities, trainings and services;</li> <li>- Job advertisements in the labor office</li> <li>- Evidences for recruitment of employees from the <i>local communities</i>*;</li> </ul>



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	<u>Interviews:</u> - With <i>local communities*</i> , with <i>workers*</i> and employees of contractors.
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**Criterion\* 4.4: The Organization\* shall\* implement additional activities, through *engagement\** with *local communities\**, that contribute to their social and economic development, proportionate to the *scale\**, *intensity\** and socio-economic impact of its *management activities\**.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 4.4.1.</b> Opportunities for local social and economic development are identified by the <i>Organization*</i> through <i>culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i> .	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - The <i>Organization *</i> is aware of the regional and municipal development plans - Report on the social impact assessment of the activity of the <i>Organization*</i> or other analyzes.  <u>Interviews:</u> - With management staff and employees of the <i>Organization *</i> - With <i>local communities*</i> and stakeholders
<b>Indicator 4.4.2.</b> Projects and additional activities that contribute to local social and economic benefit are implemented and/or supported by the <i>Organization*</i> . These projects and additional activities are proportionate to the socio-economic impact of the forest <i>management activities*</i> .	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Activities supporting local socio-economic developments (incl. local initiatives and events) are foreseen (planned) in the financial documents of the <i>Organization*</i> - Protocols, acts of donation, thank you letters and other documents proving material support by the <i>Organization *</i> for the local community;  <u>Interviews:</u>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With management staff of the <i>Organization*</i></li> <li>- With representatives of the <i>local communities*</i>.</li> </ul>
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**Criterion\* 4.5: The *Organization\**, through *engagement\** with *local communities\**, shall\* take action to identify, avoid and mitigate *significant\** negative social, environmental and economic impacts of its *management activities\** on affected communities. The action taken shall\* be proportionate to the *scale, intensity\* and risk\** of those activities and negative impacts.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator* 4.5.1.</b> The <i>Organization*</i> applies a system of social impact assessment corresponding to the scale and intensity* of forest management operations. The system includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identification of the affected groups</li> <li>- consultations with representatives of the affected groups</li> <li>- identification of the negative social, environmental and economic impacts of forest <i>management activities*</i> on these groups.</li> </ul> <p>The assessment system is applied by <i>engaging* local communities*</i> and is consistent with their <i>cultural characteristics *</i> (in <i>culturally appropriate*</i> way). The assessment includes, but is not limited to the components listed in Annex 5</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documented social impact assessment;</li> <li>- Documented meetings with <i>local communities*</i> and other <i>interested stakeholders*</i>, where the potential negative impacts of forest <i>management activities*</i> has been discussed;</li> <li>- List of identified negative impacts</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator* 4.5.2.</b> * The <i>Organization*</i> develops and implements measures to prevent and reduce negative impacts of forest <i>management activities*</i> identified under 4.5.1. The measures are developed through <i>engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i>.</p> <p><b>for SLIMF*:</b></p> <p><b>Indicator* 4.5.2.*</b> <i>Organization*</i> develops and implements measures to</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publications in local media, pictures of joint events and other evidences of collaboration between <i>FMU*</i> and the local community.</li> <li>- Document with measures developed to reduce the impact of identified negative effects.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p>



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prevent and reduce negative impacts of forest <i>management activities</i> *.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check on field the measures taken to reduce the impact of the identified negative effects.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With representatives of <i>local communities</i>* and employees of the <i>FMU</i> *</li> </ul>
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**Criterion\* 4.6:** Including *local communities*\*, the *Organization*\* develop and implement mechanisms for dealing with complaints and to fairly compensate *local communities*\* and individuals with regard to the impact of forest *management activities*\*.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicators* 4.6.1.</b></p> <p>A <i>publicly available</i>* written <i>dispute</i>* resolution <i>procedure</i>* is in place, developed through <i>culturally appropriate engagement</i>* with <i>local communities</i>*.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existence of a written <i>procedure</i>* for <i>dispute</i>* resolution and a mechanism for compensation of <i>affected stakeholders</i> *</li> <li>- Written evidence that the <i>procedure</i>* has been consulted with <i>local communities</i>* (minutes of meetings, lists of participants, photos, etc.).</li> <li>- <i>Organization</i>*'s web-site/information board</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With managers of the <i>Organization</i>*</li> <li>- With representatives of the <i>local communities</i>*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 4.6.2.</b> Grievances related to the impacts of <i>management activities</i>* shall be resolved in due time and order according to the Procedure 4.6.1.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Register of complaints and responses to complaints</li> <li>- Minutes of meetings with <i>affected stakeholders</i> *</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the staff of the <i>Organisation</i>*</li> <li>- With representatives of the <i>local communities</i>*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 4.6.3.</b> An up-to-date documentation on complaints / alerts related to the forestry activities is maintained, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Actions taken to resolve <i>disputes</i>*</li> <li>2. The results of all completed <i>procedures</i>* for resolving <i>disputes</i>*, including <i>fair compensation</i>*;</li> <li>3. Unresolved <i>disputes</i>*, the reasons they are not resolved, and the necessary follow-up actions.</li> </ol>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Register of complaints and responses to complaints as per the requirements of <b>Indicator 4.6.4</b></li> <li>- Files of the conflicts</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With staff of the <i>Organization</i>* and the local community</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 4.6.4.</b> A mechanism exists and is applied for negotiating and providing <i>fair compensation</i>* to <i>local communities</i>*, natural and legal persons when their legal rights, property, resources or livelihoods are negatively influenced / affected by forest <i>management activities</i>*.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documented mechanism and <i>procedures</i>* for compensation</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>affected stakeholders</i> * and managers of the <i>Organization</i>*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 4.6.5.</b> In disputed territories (regarding disputes related to the impact from forest management activities), no forestry activities take place until consent is reached by written agreement or until issuing final administrative or judicial decision.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentary <i>procedure</i>*, incl. decisions and orders of the managers of the <i>Organization</i> *.</li> <li>- Documents of the leading cases and <i>disputes</i>*, media publications, pictures, records of meetings of the disputing parties, agreements;</li> <li>- Documents from cases and <i>disputes</i>*, media publications, photos, minutes of meetings of the disputing parties, agreements;</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visit disputed territories with the aim to check if any activities take place there</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>local communities</i>* and/or <i>affected stakeholders</i> *</li> </ul>



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**Criterion\* 4.7:** The *Organization\** shall\* uphold\* the right of *local communities\** to protect\* and utilize their *traditional knowledge\** and shall\* compensate *local communities\** for the utilization of such knowledge and their *intellectual property\**. A *binding agreement\** as per *Criterion\* 3.3* shall\* be concluded between *The Organization\** and the *local communities\** for such utilization through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent\** before utilization takes place, and shall\* be consistent with the *protection\** of *intellectual property\** rights.

Indicators*	Verifiers*
<p><b>Indicator 4.7.1.*</b>  <b>Applies only for SLIMF* public forests</b>            Forest sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for <i>local communities*</i> are identified through <i>culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check HCV* 6 in the HCVF* Report</li> <li>- Minutes of meetings with local people and field visits</li> <li>- Maps and photos</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With representatives of <i>local communities*</i>, tourist associations, etc.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Indicator 4.7.2.*</b>  <b>Applies only for SLIMF* public forests</b>  Measures for management and / or <i>protection*</i> of sites under 4.7.1 are developed and implemented through <i>culturally appropriate engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i>. When <i>local communities*</i> determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or <i>protection*</i> of the sites, then other means will be used.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documented measures for <i>protection*</i> and management of sites under 4.7.1</li> <li>- Documented evidences that the measures for <i>protection*</i> and management of sites under 4.7.1 are agreed/approved by the <i>local communities*</i> (e.g. invitations and minutes of public discussions);</li> </ul> <p><u>Теренна проверка</u></p> <p><u>Interviews</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With representatives of <i>local communities*</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 4.7.3.*</b> Whenever cultural or archeological sites are newly observed or discovered, <i>management activities*</i> cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed to with the <i>local communities*</i>, and as directed by local and <i>national laws*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documented <i>procedures*</i> for ceasing the forest <i>management activities*</i> in the vicinity of newly discovered cultural or archeological objects</li> <li>- Documented cases of newly discovered sites of importance to <i>local communities*</i> where forestry activities were ceased</li> </ul> <p><u>Теренна проверка</u></p> <p><u>Interviews</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With representatives of <i>local communities*</i>.</li> </ul>



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### PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

#### PRINCIPLE\* 5: ПОЛЗИ ОТ ГОРАТА

*The Organization shall\* efficiently manage the range of multiple products and services of the Management Unit\* to maintain or enhance long-term\* economic viability\* and the range of social and environmental benefits.*

*Criterion\* 5.1: The Organization\* shall\* identify, produce, or enable the production of, diversified benefits and/or products, based on the range of resources and ecosystem services\* existing in the Management Unit\* in order to strengthen and diversify the local economy proportionate to the scale\* and intensity\* of management activities\*.*

Indicators*	Verifiers*
<b>Indicator 5.1.1.</b> The range of timber and <i>non-timber products*</i> and <i>ecosystem services*</i> that could strengthen and diversify the local economy is identified in written form.	<u>Documentray check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Management objectives set out in the forest management plan;</li> <li>- Assessment of timber and non-timber resources and <i>ecosystem services*</i> in the forest management plan;</li> <li>- Regional development plans for forests;</li> <li>- Protected areas management plans, Natura 2000 sites management plans;</li> <li>- Hunting management plan</li> <li>- HCVF* Report</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check whether staff, management, local people and businesses are aware of the kinds of resources and services within the territory of the FMU*.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 5.1.2.*</b> Consistent with the management objectives, the identified timber and non-timber resources and <i>ecosystem services*</i> are used by <i>The Organization*</i> and/or are made available for others to use them, thus helping to strengthen and diversify the local	<u>Documentray check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan / program</li> <li>- Contracts with Contractors</li> <li>- Management Contracts</li> </ul>





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economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lease contracts</li> <li>- Financial documents</li> <li>- Check the companies that Organization work with – whether they are local companies</li> <li>- Forest management plan</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check if there are local companies;</li> <li>- Check exactly what resources and services are used and whether they meet management objectives.</li> <li>- Check if there are any damages to some of the other values - such as species <i>protection*</i>, other <i>ecosystem services*</i>, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <p>Interviews provide information on whether staff and <i>workers*</i> who work in the forests are local.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With local logging and wood processing companies, traders and processors of <i>non-timber forest products*</i>.</li> <li>- With hunting and fishing associations, tenants and others</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 5.1.3.*</b> Extraction and / or use of forest resources and <i>ecosystem services*</i> is not permitted if such use would have a negative impact on the main objectives related to their <i>conservation*</i> or <i>protection*</i> .	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Management objectives set out in the forest management plan;</li> <li>- Inventory and assessment of the levels of use of forest resources;</li> <li>- Inspection of the yield of timber and <i>non-timber forest products*</i>;</li> <li>- Impact assessment of yields and / or use of forest resources and <i>ecosystem services*</i> for industrial / commercial purposes</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the aim to collect evidences / opinions about negative consequences of the exploitation of resources and services on the territory of <i>FMU*</i></li> </ul>



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<b>Indicator 5.1.4.*</b> When <i>The Organization*</i> makes FSC promotional claims regarding the maintenance and/or enhancement of <i>ecosystem services*</i> , requirements included in Appendix 6 shall be followed/applied.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Verify compliance with the requirements of Annex 6 of the standard ( <i>Annex 6 - Additional requirements for certification of ecosystem services*</i> ).
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**Criterion\* 5.2: The Organization\* shall\* normally harvest products and services from the Management Unit\* at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 5.2.1.*</b> Total timber harvesting for the duration of the forest management plan/program is based on an analysis of the current inventory of timber resources on growth, productivity, levels of residues and maintenance of forest <i>ecosystem functions*</i> .	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <i>Planning documentation*</i> related to the inventory of timber resources and justification of the total harvesting of timber, as well as the choice of species.
<b>Indicator 5.2.2.*</b> Based on the total timber harvesting level for the duration of the forest management plan, annual allowable cut is determined and is justified in terms of <i>sustainable yield*</i> of timber, while ensuring that harvest rates will not exceed growth.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - <i>Planning documentation*</i> related to the inventory of timber resources and justification of the total harvesting of timber, as well as the choice of species. - In the existing forest management plans: is the average annual cut adjusted according to the identified protected and <i>threatened*</i> species and HCV forests?
<b>Indicator 5.2.3.*</b> Actual annual harvest levels for timber are recorded ( <i>including the sites, period of the harvesting, tree species, assortments, quantities and relevant documentation</i> ) and this	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Annual reports or other documentation providing information about the actual yields of timber;



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<p>information is available for the duration of the forest management plan / program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes from inspections of control bodies ;</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With staff of the <i>FMU</i>* and representatives of control bodies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 5.2.4.</b> Total annual yield of timber for the duration of the forest management plan / program does not exceed the total timber harvesting as defined under 5.2.1. and 5.2.2</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Exceptions are permitted only in the cases of large scale natural disturbances that cannot be compensated by the planned total harvesting for the period of the current forest management plan. The amounts of damaged wood have to be considered when planning the harvesting for the next forest management plan.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Planning documentation</i>* related to the inventory of timber resources and justification of the total harvesting of timber , as well as the choice of species;</li> <li>- Annual reports or other documentation providing information about the actual yields of timber;</li> <li>- Minutes from inspections of control bodies;</li> <li>- Documented justification and evidences in the case of exceeding the annual harvesting rate;</li> <li>- Register of felling carried out</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With staff of the <i>FMU</i>* and representatives of control bodies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 5.2.5.*</b> <i>Sustainable harvest levels</i> * of non-timber forest products* and services, which are controlled by the <i>Organization</i> *, are determined based on the best available information, and are observed and controlled. Information is used from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of environment and water (official orders for the annual allowed quotas for extraction for medicinal plants)</li> <li>- Game management plans and annual inventories of game populations.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Planning documentation</i>* related to the determination and justification of the total and annual harvest levels of <i>NTFP</i> * and the choice of species.</li> <li>- Reports and results of local studies about <i>NTFP</i>*.</li> <li>- Check the data about the harvested amounts of <i>NTFP</i> * per year for the duration of the forest management plan.</li> <li>- In the case of exceeding the annual harvesting rate - documented justification.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information on whether staff and <i>workers</i>* are aware of the quantities <i>NTFP</i>* specified for use. How the harvesting is allowed and how it is</li> </ul>



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	controlled?
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**Criterion\* 5.3. The Organization\* shall\* demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities\* of operations are included in the management plan\*.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 5.3.1.</b> In the <i>planning documentation</i> * is included analysis taking into account the positive and negative social <i>externalities*</i> of implementation of forest <i>management activities*</i>. The results of the analysis are consulted with <i>local communities*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Planning documentation*</i> includes assessment about positive and negative impacts from the implementation of forest <i>management activities*</i> in terms of social perspective.</li> <li>- Strategy and studies / reports or social survey about possible positive and negative effects of forest <i>management activities*</i> in the social aspect.</li> <li>- <i>HCVF*</i> Report , particulatrly HCV5 and 6. Does it include threats and recommended actions?</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check what actions for prevention, limitation or compensation are taken in case of presence of negative consequences in social terms.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information on whether staff and <i>workers*</i> are familiar with the actions to be taken for the prevention, limitation or compensation of the negative consequences in social terms .</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 5.3.2.</b> In the <i>planning documentation</i> * is included analysis taking into account the positive and negative environmental</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Planning documentation*</i> includes assessment about positive and negative</li> </ul>



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<p><i>externalities*</i> of implementation of forest <i>management activities*</i>. The results of the analysis are consulted with <i>local communities*</i>.</p>	<p>impacts from the implementation of forest <i>management activities*</i> in terms of environmental perspective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategy and studies / reports or social survey about possible positive and negative effects of forest <i>management activities*</i> in the environmental aspect.</li> <li>- <i>HCVF*</i>Report, particularly part HCV1 and 3. Does it include threats and recommended actions?</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check what actions for prevention, limitation or compensation are taken in case of presence of negative consequences in environmental terms.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information on whether staff and <i>workers*</i> are familiar with the actions to be taken for the prevention, limitation or compensation of the negative consequences in environmental terms .</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 5.3.3.</b> The annual financial plan envisages costs for prevention, limitation or compensation of negative social or environmental impacts resulting from forest <i>management activities*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Planning documentation*</i> includes assessment about positive and negative impacts from the implementation of forest <i>management activities*</i>;</li> <li>- reports / studies about possible positive and negative effects of forest management operations</li> <li>- annual financial plan of the <i>FMU*</i>.</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 5.4:** *The Organization\* shall\* use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of The Organization\* where these are available, proportionate to scale\*, intensity\* and risk\*. If these are not locally available, The Organization\* shall\* make reasonable\* attempts to help establish these services.*

**Note:** *In the context of Criterion 5.4 "local" means that the goods and services are delivered in the municipalities within which the Management Unit is located.*



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Indicators*	Verifiers*
<p><b>Indicator 5.4.1.</b> There is evidence that part of the yield and sale of timber and <i>NFTP</i>* is provided to local companies - processors / consumers to use local products, local services and local processing capacity for generating added value, without prejudice to national legislation</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- financial documents</li> <li>- Procurement <i>procedures</i>* for use of timber of local merchants</li> <li>- Contracts signed with local companies;</li> <li>- A timetable for the sites that are available for harvesting and sale of timber to local traders;</li> <li>- Tender documentation;</li> <li>- Applications of local merchants;</li> <li>- Register of the quantities sold timber and <i>non-timber forest products</i>* to local markets.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check whether the services of local companies are used, whether local people are employed.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With local business and <i>interested stakeholders</i> *</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 5.4.2.</b> If there are no local products, local services and local processing capacity to generate added value, the Organization * makes <i>reasonable</i>* attempts by providing information about possibilities to create such.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial documents;</li> <li>- Support for participation in projects;</li> <li>- Minutes of meetings with local business/ municipality</li> <li>- correspondence with local companies</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With local business and <i>interested stakeholders</i> *</li> </ul>



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**Criterion\* 5.5: The Organization\* shall\* demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to *scale, intensity\* and risk\**, its commitment to long-term\* economic viability\*.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 5.5.1.</b> The management of <i>FMU*</i> is based on financial plan / budget, which envisages funds to ensure implementation of activities included in the <i>planning documentation *</i> and standard requirements, and ensures long-term <i>economic viability*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial documents</li> <li>- Budget of the <i>FMU*</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With managers and accountants of the <i>Organization*</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 5.5.2.</b> Expenditures and investments are made to implement the activities included in the <i>planning documentation*</i>, to meet the requirements of the standard and to ensure <i>long-term* economic viability*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial documents</li> <li>- Budget of the <i>FMU*</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With managers and accountants of the <i>Organization*</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 5.5.3.</b> The envisaged incomes account (consider) market trends and are enough to cover expenses and investments for forest management, and to ensure achievement of long-term <i>economic viability*</i></p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial documents</li> <li>- Budget of the <i>FMU*</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With managers and accountants of the <i>Organization*</i></li> </ul>



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### PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES\* AND IMPACTS

#### PRINCIPLE\* 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES\* AND IMPACTS

**The Organization\*** shall maintain, conserve and/or *restore\** *ecosystem services\** and *environmental values\** of the *Management Unit\**, and shall avoid, repair or mitigate negative environmental impacts.

#### Criterion\* 6.1:

**The Organization\*** shall assess *environmental values\** in the *Management Unit\** and those values outside the *Management Unit\** potentially affected by *management activities\**. This assessment shall be undertaken with a level of detail, scale and frequency that is proportionate to the *scale\**, *intensity\** and *risk\** of *management activities\**, and is sufficient for the purpose of deciding the necessary *conservation\*\** measures, and for detecting and monitoring possible negative impacts of those activities.

Indicators*	Verifiers*
<p><b>Indicator 6.1.1.*</b></p> <p><b>Applies for SLIMF* over 500 ha</b></p> <p><i>Best Available Information*</i> is used to identify <i>environmental values*</i> within, and, where potentially affected by <i>management activities*</i>, outside of the <i>Management Unit*</i>, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Forest <i>ecosystem functions*</i></li> <li>2. <i>Biological diversity*</i></li> <li>3. Water resources</li> <li>4. Soils</li> <li>5. <i>Landscape values*</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> See Annex 12 for list of sources of available topical information information for defining the environmental values</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- availability and comprehensiveness of the identified <i>environmental values*</i> (Notes of the auditor whether such information is incorporated in the planning documentation);</li> </ul> <p>Under bullet 1 - information from HCVF* report, Regional Development Plan of forest areas, management plans of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites; specialized studies and more.</p> <p>Under bullet 2 - data from inventory of the <i>FMU*</i>, specialized scientific studies, HCVF* report, management plans of protected areas, orders of declaration of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, etc.</p> <p>Under bullet 3 - Updated information from the forest management plan on the status of <i>water bodies*</i>, from inspections (carried out by the Basin Directorate and Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water) about significant problems in the water management on the territory of the <i>FMU*</i> and affected areas outside</p>





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	<p><i>FMU*</i>.</p> <p>Under bullet 4 - soil maps, information from inventory of the <i>FMU*</i>, management plans of protected areas, specialized studies, etc.</p> <p>Under bullet 5 - reports on the state of the environment, management plans of protected areas, specialized studies, etc.</p> <p>Under bullet 6 – HCVF Report, Management plan of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, specialized studies in the region, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- availability of assessment regarding the vulnerability of the <i>environmental values*</i> towards the activity (of the <i>FMU*</i>)</li> <li>- check whether there were any consultations with local and national experts, <i>interested stakeholders*</i>, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <p>Gives information whether the staff and the <i>workers*</i> have been acquainted</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.1.2.*</b></p> <p><b>Applies for SLIMF* over 500 ha</b></p> <p>The information about <i>environmental values*</i>, defined in 6.1.1 possesses a level of detail and frequency so that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Impacts of <i>management activities*</i> on the identified <i>environmental values*</i> can be assessed as per Criterion* 6.2;</li> <li>2) <i>Risks*</i> to <i>environmental values*</i> can be identified as per Criterion* 6.2;</li> <li>3) Necessary <i>conservation*</i> measures to protect values can be identified as per Criterion* 6.3; and,</li> <li>4) Monitoring of impacts or environmental changes can be conducted as per Principle* 8.</li> </ol>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- availability and comprehensiveness of the <i>environmental values*</i> assessment and whether the assessment is incorporated in the planning documentation;</li> <li>- availability of assessment regarding the vulnerability of the <i>environmental values*</i></li> <li>- check about the relevance of the information gathered;</li> <li>- check whether there were any consultations with local and national experts, <i>interested stakeholders*</i>, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with staff /responsible person</li> </ul>

### **Criterion\* 6.2:**

Prior to the start of site-disturbing activities, *The Organization\* shall\* identify and assess the scale, intensity\* and risk\* of potential impacts of*



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***management activities\* on the identified environmental values\*.***

<b><i>Indicators*</i></b>	<b><i>Verifiers*</i></b>
<p><b>Indicator 6.2.1*:</b> An environmental impact assessment identifies potential present and future impacts of <i>management activities*</i> on <i>environmental values*</i>, from the stand level to the <i>landscape*</i> level. In the cases, when this is required by the national legislation, a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Environmental Assessment (EA) and Appropriate assessment (AA), etc. are/is conducted.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- check written documents in connection to the assessment as per 6.2.1; availability of EIA, EA, AA, etc, if such are required by the national law</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives information whether the staff and the <i>workers*</i> are acquainted</li> </ul>

### ***Criterion\* 6.3:***

***The Organization\* shall\* identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of management activities\* on the environmental values\*, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the scale\*, intensity\* and risk\* of these impacts.***

<b><i>Indicators*</i></b>	<b><i>Verifiers*</i></b>
<p><b>Indicator 6.3.1.*</b> Management activities are planned and implemented to prevent negative impacts and to protect <i>environmental values*</i>. The <i>protection*</i> measures planned are included in the relevant technical documentation.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check of the <i>planning documentation*</i> and the documents about technological implementation of the activities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up</u></p> <p>Check the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loss and damage of the <i>biological diversity*</i></li> <li>- Loss of productive area;</li> <li>- soil compaction and disturbance;</li> <li>- Loss of fertility and food base;</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact on the hydrological regime;</li> <li>- Soil erosion;</li> <li>- Damages and disturbances in areas with special regime, etc.;</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With staff and <i>workers</i>* if and to what extent are familiar with the requirements and implementation of measures for <i>protection</i>* of <i>environmental values</i>*;</li> <li>- With RIEW about identified negative impacts;</li> <li>- With environmental and other NGOs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.3.2.*</b> Where negative impacts on <i>environmental values</i>* occur, measures are taken to mitigate/prevent further damage, and/or damaged values are repaired.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check of the technical documentation, protocols etc.; Check of mitigation measures planned.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check about existence of negative impacts and implementation of mitigation measures planned.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives information whether the staff and the <i>workers</i>* are acquainted</li> </ul>

### **Criterion\* 6.4:**

***The Organization\* shall\* protect rare species\* and threatened species\* and their habitats\* in the Management Unit\* through conservation\* zones\*, protection areas\*, connectivity\* and/or (where necessary) other direct measures for their survival and viability. These measures shall\* be proportionate to the scale, intensity\* and risk\* of management activities\* and to the conservation status\* and ecological requirements of the rare and threatened***



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***species\**. The *Organization\** shall\* take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of *rare and threatened species\** beyond the boundary of the *Management Unit\**, when determining the measures to be taken inside the *Management Unit\**.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.1.*</b>  <i>Best Available Information*</i> is used to identify rare, <i>threatened*</i> and <i>protected species*</i>, and their <i>habitats*</i>, that are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the <i>FMU*</i>.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> To define these species are used the lists of species of the Bulgarian Biodiversity Act, Red Data Book of the Republic of Bulgaria, CITES convention list, Bonn convention list, Convention on Biodiversity, Bern Convention, and/or other lists on national or European level.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HCVF report, management plans of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites and other specialized studies and maps.</li> <li>- Check whether and to what extent the information has been incorporated into the planning documentation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check the presence and the condition of species identified under 6.4.1.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With staff and <i>workers*</i>, incl. these of the subcontractors, to what extent are familiar with the presence of rare, <i>threatened*</i> and <i>protected species*</i> and their <i>habitats*</i>;</li> <li>- With <i>interested stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.2.*</b> Potential impacts of <i>management activities*</i> on rare, <i>threatened*</i> and <i>protected species*</i> and their <i>conservation status*</i> and <i>habitats*</i> are identified. Management activities are modified to avoid negative impacts.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HCVF Report, technological and other relevant documentation</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent forest <i>management activities*</i> are carried out in a way avoiding negative impacts.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent the staff and <i>workers*</i> of the subcontractors are aware of the possible impacts of forest <i>management activities*</i> on rare, <i>threatened*</i> and <i>protected species*</i></li> </ul>



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<p><b>Indicator 6.4.3.*</b> Measures for <i>protection*</i> of the identified rare, <i>threatened*</i> and <i>protected species*</i> and their <i>habitats*</i> are applied, incl. through the provision of <i>conservation*</i> zones, <i>protection areas*</i>, <i>connectivity*</i>, and other direct means for their survival and viability, such as species' recovery programs. Measures are proportionate to the <i>scale*</i>, <i>intensity*</i> and <i>risk*</i> of the activities that are implemented.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check of the <i>planning documentation*</i> and maps; <i>restoration*</i> programmes, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent forest <i>management activities*</i> are carried out in a way avoiding negative impacts; check to what extent are observed the regimes in the established protected areas and Natura 2000 sites; Review of the implementation of the planned measures.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives information whether the staff and the <i>workers*</i> are acquainted</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.4.</b> A range of measures is developed and applied to prevent hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of rare, <i>threatened*</i> and <i>protected species*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check if there are <i>procedures*</i> in place for prevention of the activities described in 6.4.4.;</li> <li>- Check the observation protocols, analysis, etc.</li> <li>- Check for the presence of documents certifying the implementation of the developed measures for prevention (schedules about duties during weekends, records of findings for checks carried out, restricting access to forest areas with HCV * etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With staff and <i>workers*</i>;</li> <li>- Interviews with <i>interested stakeholders*</i> and control institutions (RIEW, RFD).</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 6.5: The Organization\* shall\* identify and protect representative sample areas of native ecosystems\* and/or restore\* them to more natural conditions\*. Where representative sample areas\* do not exist or are insufficient, The Organization\* shall\* restore\* a proportion of the Management**



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<p><b>Unit*</b> to more <i>natural conditions*</i>. The size of the areas and the measures taken for their <i>protection*</i> or <i>restoration*</i>, including within <i>plantations*</i>, <i>shall*</i> be proportionate to the <i>conservation status*</i> and value of the <i>ecosystems*</i> at the <i>landscape*</i> level, and <i>the scale, intensity* and risk*</i> of <i>management activities*</i>.</p>	
Indicators*	Verifiers*
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.1. *</b></p> <p><i>Best Available Information*</i> is used to identify all natural <i>ecosystems*</i> on the territory of the <i>FMU*</i> that exist in natural environmental conditions or existed but degraded due to <i>natural disturbances*</i> or anthropogenic impact.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HCVF* Report, specialized studies, etc.</li> <li>- Maps</li> <li>- Forest management plan</li> </ul> <p><u>Теренна проверка</u></p> <p>Check the presence and condition of the identified areas as described in 6.5.1</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information whether the staff and the <i>workers*</i> are acquainted</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.2.*</b> <i>The Organization*</i> ensures the <i>protection*</i> of <i>representative samples of all natural forest ecosystems*</i> that are presented on the territory of the <i>FMU*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HCVF* report</li> <li>- Nature 2000 standard data forms</li> <li>- Management plans of Protected areas and Natura 2000 sites</li> <li>- Forest regional plan for development</li> <li>- FMP (<i>protection*</i> of these sample areas is incorporated in the FMP)</li> <li>- Maps of the identified <i>Old Growth Forests *</i></li> <li>- Planning documentation and maps</li> <li>- Programs for restoration/reintroduction</li> <li>- Check up of issued cutting permissions (through the website of the Executive forest agency)</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are there any activities taking place in the old growth forests?</li> </ul>



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	<p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information whether the staff and the <i>workers*</i> are acquainted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.3.</b> The size of each of the protected <i>representative samples of natural forest ecosystems*</i> is determined according to its <i>conservation*</i> and ecological value. This value is determined for each <i>ecosystem*</i> at the level of <i>landscape*</i> and <i>FMU*</i>.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The aim is to preserve the rare and vulnerable forest <i>ecosystems*</i>, as well as representative samples of forest <i>ecosystems*</i> that are well presented and in good <i>conservation condition*</i> (please, consider Annex 13).</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maps, HCVF* Report, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.4.</b> At least 5% of the area of the Management Unit is identified as <i>old growth forests (OGF)*</i> in which human interference is not allowed.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 5% OGF in which human interference is not allowed are identified according to the requirements of Principle 9 (see Annex 11 – National HCVF toolkit, Section HCV 3). In the absence of forests that have the characteristics of old growth forests on the territory of the certified Management Unit, the Organization shall identify forests with potential to become old growth forests. These identified forests with potential shall be managed in a way that leads to their transformation into old growth forests. In those stands management activities are not allowed, and neither is allowed extraction of wood, except in the cases of large-scale natural disturbances that cover over 30% of the area of the</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maps, HCVF* Report, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check the respective territories identified.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information whether the staff and the <i>workers*</i> are acquainted.</li> </ul>



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relevant old growth forest.	
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.5*</b>  <b>Applies for SLIMF* – public forests* and FMU* over 500 ha. The requirement of the indicator is reduced to 5 % forests with no human activity.</b></p> <p>The <i>representative sample areas of natural forest ecosystems*</i> are at least 10% of the area of the <i>Management Unit*</i>. In those areas forest management activities are not allowed except for activities for restoration of the forest to more natural conditions. As an addition to these areas or as part of them are included the identified <i>OGF*</i> according to 6.5.4.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maps, <i>HCVF*</i> Report, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check the respective territories identified.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information whether the staff and the <i>workers*</i> are acquainted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.6.*</b> Where <i>representative samples of natural forest ecosystems*</i> do not exist, or where existing samples insufficiently represent the natural <i>ecosystems*</i>, the <i>Organization*</i> shall <i>restore*</i> portions of the <i>FMU*</i> to more <i>natural conditions*</i> until the requirements regarding areas in Indicator 6.5.5 are met.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maps, <i>HCVF*</i> Report, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up</u></p> <p>Check at the field the territories envisaged and managed with the aim of restoring natural <i>ecosystems*</i>.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.7.</b>  <i>Representative samples of natural forest ecosystems*</i> are shown on the forest maps.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maps</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 6.6: The Organization\* shall\* effectively maintain the continued existence of naturally occurring native species\* and genotypes\*, and prevent losses of biological diversity\*, especially through habitat\* management in the Management Unit\*. The Organization\* shall\* demonstrate that effective**





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measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.

Indicators*	Verifiers*
<p><b>Indicator 6.6.1*.</b> Forest <i>management activities</i>* maintain the features of the plant communities and <i>habitats</i>* in the native <i>ecosystems</i>* within the <i>FMU</i>*.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Check whether in the <i>Planning documentation</i>* are described the features of the plant communities and <i>habitats</i>* and whether forest <i>management activities</i>* that could negatively impact naturally occurring species are assessed.</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> - check if the features of the plant communities and <i>habitats</i>* in the natural <i>ecosystems</i>* are significantly influenced by the forest <i>management activities</i>*</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information whether the staff and the <i>workers</i>* are acquainted with the requirement of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.6.2*.</b> In cases where the management of the <i>FMU</i>* in the past has led to destruction of natural plant communities or <i>habitat features</i>*, measures for their <i>restoration</i>* are taken.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u> - planning documentation</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> - are there <i>restoration</i>* measures in place</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information whether the staff and the <i>workers</i>* are acquainted with the requirement of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.6.3*.</b> <b>Applies for SLIMF* – public forests* and FMU* over 500 ha.</b> Forest <i>management activities</i>* maintain, enhance, or <i>restore</i>* <i>habitat features</i>* of native <i>ecosystems</i>*, with the aim of</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u> - planning documentation</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p>



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maintaining the diversity of naturally occurring species and their genetic diversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check whether the activities for maintenance, improvement or <i>restoration</i>* of the features of <i>native ecosystems</i>* included in the <i>planning documentation</i>* are implemented.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information whether the staff and the <i>workers</i>* are acquainted</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 6.6.4.</b> Up to date information on hunting, fishing, setting traps and collection of species, incl. in terms of allowable norms of use is available.	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- References to the use of the game</li> <li>- Acts of poaching</li> <li>- Permits of herbs from the list of medicinal plants;</li> <li>- Annual license for mushrooms and non-medicinal plants and others</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information whether the staff and the <i>workers</i>* are acquainted.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 6.6.5.</b> Effective measures are taken to restrict hunting within the annual game management plan. Measures to control fishing, trapping and collection of species are implemented in a way ensuring the existence and natural distribution of <i>native species</i> * and their genetic diversity.	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- References to the use of the game</li> <li>- Acts of poaching</li> <li>- Permits of herbs from the list of medicinal plants;</li> <li>- Annual license for mushrooms and non-medicinal plants and others</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information whether the staff and the <i>workers</i>* are acquainted</li> </ul>

***Criterion\* 6.7: The Organization\* shall\* protect\* or restore\* natural watercourses, water bodies\*, riparian zones\* and their connectivity\*. The Organization\* shall\* avoid negative impacts on water quality and quantity and mitigate and remedy those that occur.***

<b><i>Indicators*</i></b>	<b><i>Verifiers*</i></b>
<b>Indicator 6.7.1.*</b>	<u>Documentary check-up:</u>



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<p>Natural watercourses and all <i>water bodies</i>* are identified and mapped.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest maps</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check to what extent the situation on the ground corresponds to the information in the <i>planning documentation</i>*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.2.*</b> During the design, construction and maintenance of forest and transportation roads are applied measures to protect watercourses, <i>water bodies</i>*, <i>riparian zones</i>*, their ecological <i>connectivity</i>*, incl.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The crossing of water courses is reduced to a minimum.</li> <li>- The crossing of water courses is planned before the start of operations and is specified on the relevant maps.</li> <li>- Where a watercourse has to be crossed, protective facilities are to be constructed (eg. bridges, wooden trays, stone bottom, etc.) or pipes to be placed.</li> <li>- The crossing of water courses is perpendicular to the current.</li> <li>- New roads are not being built in <i>riverbeds</i> *.</li> <li>- Existing in the <i>riverbeds</i>* roads are closed and substituting roads are built.</li> <li>- Forest and transportation roads in the lower parts of the valleys are as much as possible away from watercourses.</li> <li>- Culverts are designed in a way that does not prevent the migration of fish, does not form fast currents or river beds unsuitable for fish.</li> <li>- Drainage channels are not discharged into natural watercourses. When this is unavoidable, pits to trap soil particles are installed and are cleaned regularly.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects for construction of forest roads</li> <li>- Technological plans for logging</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check on site the emplacement of the forest and transportation roads;</li> <li>- Presence of traces of sediments or other damages to water sources; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Method of crossing the watercourses;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Presence of and method of placement of protective facilities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information whether the staff and the <i>workers</i>* are acquainted with the requirements of planning/designing, construction and maintenance of forest and transportation roads, and the measures for <i>protection</i>* of the water courses.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.3.*</b> During forest management operations are</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p>



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<p>applied measures to protect watercourses, <i>water bodies*</i>, <i>riparian zones*</i>, their ecological <i>connectivity*</i>, incl.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Machines for logging and transportation of timber should not enter the water courses, except on the specified and designed for the purpose crossings.</li> <li>- There shall be no hauling of timber and vehicle traffic along watercourses or river beds. In cases where no other technological option exists, this is allowed upon the approval of the Head of the <i>Organization*</i> after construction of a pit at the end of the road. The pit serves to trap the soil particles and is cleaned periodically.</li> <li>- Logging residues (branches, tops, etc.) are not stored in and adjacent to the permanent and non-permanent watercourses and <i>water bodies*</i>s. Residues from fellings caught up in watercourse or <i>riverbed*</i> are removed <i>promptly*</i>;</li> <li>- Barriers to watercourses, streams and fish ladders should not be created.</li> <li>- Temporary stores of wood should not be built in / on permanent watercourses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technological plans for logging</li> <li>- Check to what extent the measures from the <i>Planning documentation*</i> correspond to the Programme of measures of the Water Basin Management Plan aimed at achieving a good condition - in terms of quality and quantity - of the surface and groundwater bodies</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check the implementation of the measures for <i>protection*</i> of water courses, <i>water bodies*</i>, riparian areas and their ecological <i>connectivity*</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff/<i>workers*</i> (incl. subcontractors) engaged with forest <i>management activities*</i> on site are acquainted with the measures for <i>protection*</i> of water courses, <i>water bodies*</i>, riparian areas and their ecological <i>connectivity*</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.4*.</b> For the <i>protection*</i> of watercourses, <i>water bodies*</i>, <i>riparian zones*</i> and their ecological <i>connectivity*</i>, along all permanent watercourses and <i>water bodies*</i> buffer zones with a width of not less than 15 m. are formed, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There shall be no logging or the logging has intensity* up to 5% of the stock of the buffer zone.</li> <li>- Logging activities in the buffer zone should not create open spaces with a diameter greater than 10 meters.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentation check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are buffer zones reflected in Technological plans for logging and other relevant documentation?</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are the regimes for <i>protection*</i> of buffer zones implemented in practice?</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff involved with the forest <i>management activities*</i> (incl. subcontractors)</li> </ul>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dead and dying trees in the buffer zone are removed only if they endanger the lives and health of people or create prerequisites for reducing the conductivity of the water flow.</li> <li>- In the <i>100-meter edging*</i> ивица на реката of the rivers Maritsa, Tundzha, Mesta, Struma, Arda, Lom, Tsibritsa, Ogosta, Skyt, Iskar, Yantra, Vit, Sazliika, Stryama, Osam, Rusenski Lom, Kamchia, Veleka and Rezovska and 50 meter for all the best watercourses in the lower hilly plain belt and the foothill belt of oak forests, restoration fellings are carried out with extended regeneration period except for the artificially established stands.</li> </ul>	<p><u>is familiar</u> with the regimes of the buffer zones</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.5.*</b> Natural watercourses, <i>water bodies*</i>, <i>riparian zones*</i> and their ecological <i>connectivity*</i>, water quantity and water quality that have been damaged by activities of the <i>Organization*</i> (incl. activities in the past) are <i>restored*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up</u></p> <p>Are the following identified?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are natural watercourses, <i>water bodies*</i>, <i>riparian zones*</i> and their ecological connectivity, that were damaged by the <i>Organization*</i>'s activities identified? Are the negative impacts on the quality and quantity of water identified?</li> <li>- Have there been planned <i>restoration*</i> measures in the planning documentation? Check to what extent the measures in the planning documentation correspond to the Program of measures of the River Basin Management Plans, aimed at reaching good qualitative and quantitative status of surface and underground <i>water bodies*</i></li> </ul> <p>Protocols of checks of the RIEWs and Basin Directorates.</p> <p><u>Field check-up</u></p> <p>Presence of damaged natural watercourses, <i>water bodies*</i>, <i>riparian zones*</i> and their ecological <i>connectivity*</i>; negative effects on the quality and quantity of water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of the <i>restoration*</i> measures that were planned.</li> </ul>



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	<p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives information on whether staff and <i>workers</i>* are familiar with the requirements.</li> <li>- Interviews with <i>stakeholders</i> * (RIEWs, BDs and others.).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.6.*</b> Where continued degradation exists to watercourses*, <i>water bodies</i>*, water quantity and water quality caused by activities of the Organisation (incl. activities in the past) measures are implemented that mitigate the negative impacts and stop degradation.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up</u></p> <p>Are natural watercourses, <i>water bodies</i>*, riparian areas and their ecological <i>connectivity</i>* with continuous degradation identified?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have there been planned <i>restoration</i>* measures in the planning documentation?_Check to what extent the measures in the planning documentation correspond to the Program of measures of the RBMPs ПУРБ на ЗБП за БУ , aimed at reaching good qualitative and quantitative status of surface and underground <i>water bodies</i>*.</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up</u></p> <p>Are there any damages on natural watercourses, <i>water bodies</i>*, riparian areas and their ecological <i>connectivity</i>*?; Are there negative effects on the quality and quantity of water?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of the <i>restoration</i>* measures that were planned.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives information on whether staff and <i>workers</i>* are familiar with the requirements.</li> <li>- Interviews with <i>stakeholders</i> * (RIEWs, BDs and others.).</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 6.8: The Organization\* shall\* manage the *landscape*\* in the *Management Unit*\* to maintain and/or *restore*\* a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scale and regeneration cycles appropriate for the *landscape values*\* in that region, and for enhancing environmental and economic *resilience*\*.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
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<p><b>Indicator 6.8.1*.</b> A varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles is maintained appropriate to <i>natural forest*</i> types and <i>natural disturbances*</i> therein .</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Planning documentation*</i> – forest inventory data and maps;</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check to what extent the identified elements are preserved</li> <li>- Check to what extent forest management operations maintain the and/or <i>restore*</i> the diversity of the elements mentioned in the criteria.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is the relevant staff of the <i>Organization*</i> familiar with this requirement?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.8.2.</b> Where the characteristics of the forest differ significantly from its natural structure or does not have natural levels of diversity, measures and actions to improve and <i>restore*</i> diversity are undertaken.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment to what extent the planned activities maintain or lead to <i>restoration*</i> of diversity.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of the measures on the field</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is the relevant staff of the <i>Organization*</i> familiar with this requirement?</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 6.9: The Organization\* shall\* not convert *natural forest\** to *plantations\**, nor *natural forests\** or *plantations\** on sites directly converted from *natural forest\** to non-forest\* land use, except when the conversion:**

- a) Affects a *very limited portion\** of the area of the *Management Unit\**, and
- b) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term *conservation\*\** benefits in the *Management Unit\**, and
- c) Does not damage or threaten *High Conservation Values\**, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those *High Conservation Values\**.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 6.9.1.*</b> There is no conversion of <i>natural forest*</i> to	<u>Documentary check-up:</u>



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<p><i>plantations*</i>, and change of their use, as well as conversion of forest <i>plantations*</i> to land for other use, if before the establishment of the <i>plantation*</i>, the place was a <i>natural forest *</i>, unless In the cases:</p> <p>1. When:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Affect area not larger than 0,5 % of the total <i>FMU*</i> at the time of certification. By reducing the area included within the scope of the certification affected area is not larger than the 0.5% at the time of conversion.</li> <li>b) The conversion will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term <i>conservation*</i> benefits in the <i>FMU*</i>;</li> <li>c) Does not damage or threaten <i>High Conservation Values*</i>, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those <i>High Conservation Values*</i>.</li> </ul> <p>2.The conversion is related to the construction of infrastructure of national importance, as well as sites related to national security and defense.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check the areas related to the conversion and / or change of use</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verification of compliance of registered conversions and / or change of use to the realities on the ground.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.9.2*</b> There is no conversion of <i>natural forest*</i> to forest <i>cultures*</i>, nor conversions of <i>forest cultures*</i> to <i>plantations*</i>, unless In the cases:</p> <p>1. When</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Affect area not larger than 0,5 % of the total <i>FMU*</i> at the time of certification. By reducing the area included within the scope of the certification affected area is not larger than the 0.5% at the time of conversion.</li> <li>b) The conversion will produce clear, substantial, additional,</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check the areas related to the conversion and / or change of use</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verification of compliance of registered conversions and / or change of use to the realities on the ground.</li> </ul>





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<p>secure, long-term <i>conservation</i>* benefits in the <i>FMU</i>*;</p> <p>c) Does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values*, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values*.</p> <p>2. When the conversion was necessary in order to <i>restore</i>* <i>large-scale natural disturbance</i>*.</p>	
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**Criterion\* 6.10: Management Units\* containing plantations\* that were established on areas converted from natural forest\* after November 1994 shall\* not qualify for certification, except where:**

a) Clear and sufficient evidence is provided that *The Organization\** was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or

b) The conversion affected a *very limited portion\** of the area of the *Management Unit\** and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term *conservation\** benefits in the *Management Unit\**.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 6.10.1.*</b> Based on <i>Best Available Information*</i>, accurate data is compiled on all conversions since 1994</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check for the presence of relevant information / documentation about conversions made.</li> <li>- Register of <i>forest plantations*</i> established after 1994</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6.10.2.*</b> Areas converted from <i>natural forest*</i> to <i>plantations*</i> or to <i>forest cultures*</i> since November 1994 are not certified, except where:</p> <p>1) The <i>Organization*</i> provides clear and sufficient evidence that it was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion;</p> <p>2) The conversion is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term <i>conservation*</i> benefits in the <i>Management Unit*</i>; and</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check for the presence and assessment of the relevance of collected evidences about conversions for which the present manager / owner is not responsible directly or indirectly.</li> <li>- Analysis of the benefits of planned transformations;</li> <li>- Existence of a register of conversions after 1994.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check for compliance of the registered conversions to the realities on the</li> </ul>



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3) The total area of <i>plantations*</i> and <i>forest cultures*</i> on sites converted from <i>natural forest*</i> since November 1994 is less than 5% of the total area of the <i>FMU*</i> .	ground  <u>Interviews:</u> - Informedness of the <i>Organization*</i> about the requirements.
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### PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING

#### **PRINCIPLE\* 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

The *Organization\** shall\* have a *management plan\** consistent with its policies and objectives and proportionate to *scale\**, *intensity\** and *risks\** of its *management activities\**. The *management plan\** shall be implemented and kept up to date based on monitoring information in order to promote *adaptive management\**. The associated planning and procedural documentation shall be sufficient to guide staff, inform *affected stakeholders\** and *interested stakeholders\** and to justify management decisions.

**Criterion\* 7.1** The *Organization\** shall, proportionate to *scale\**, *intensity\** and *risk\** of its *management activities\**, set policies (visions and values) and objectives for management, which are environmentally sound, socially beneficial and *economically viable\**. Summaries of these policies and objectives shall be incorporated into the *management plan\**, and *publicized\**.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 7.1.1.*</b> The <i>Organization*</i> has written policies (vision and values) for management of its forest territories and these policies are in compliance with the requirements of the current Standard.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Management plan  <u>Interviews:</u> - Interviews with the <i>interested stakeholders*</i> regarding the extent to which the policies of the <i>Organization*</i> contribute for the fulfilment of the requirements of the Standard.
<b>Indicator 7.1.2</b> Specific objectives that address the requirements of	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Management plan. The auditor checks if in the management plan are



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the national <i>FSC standard</i> * for responsible forest management are defined.	included specific management objectives that lead to fulfilment of the requirements of the Standard.
<b>Indicator 7.1.3.</b> Summary of the defined policies (vision and values) and of the specific management objectives is included in the management plan* and publicized*.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The auditor checks if there is a summary available and if it is <i>publicized</i>*.</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 7.2: The Organization\* shall have and implement a *management plan*\* for the *Management Unit*\* which is fully consistent with the policies and management objectives as established according to *Criterion*\* 7.1. The *management plan*\* shall describe the natural resources that exist in the *Management Unit*\* and explain how the plan will meet the FSC certification requirements. The *management plan*\* shall cover forest management planning and social management planning proportionate to *scale*\*, *intensity*\* and *risk*\* of the planned activities.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 7.2.1.*</b> The <i>management plan</i> * includes management actions, <i>procedures</i> *, strategies and other measures to achieve the management objectives (defined according to 7.1.2).	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General check-up of the management plan*. The auditor check is if the management plan includes <i>procedures</i>*, strategies and other measures for achieving the management objectives defined according to 7.1.2.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.2.2.*</b> <b>Applicable for SLIMF* over 500 ha.</b> The <i>management plan</i> * include assessment of the natural resources	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up if the listed elements are present in the <i>management plan</i>*</li> </ul>



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<p>and <i>ecological values*</i> on the territory of the <i>Management Unit*</i> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Description of the physical and geographical characteristics of the <i>Management Unit*</i> (topography, soil, geological characteristics and water resources, etc.);</li> <li>- Description of the wood resource (inventory);</li> <li>- Description of the non-timber resources (and/or inventory where a methodology exists);</li> <li>- Protected territories and zones;</li> <li>- Real and potential presence of rare, <i>threatened*</i> and endangered species and their <i>habitats*</i> (it is required according to 6.4.1 and 6.5.1)</li> <li>- <i>High conservation* values*</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Indicator 7.2.3.</b> The <i>management plan*</i> includes assessment of the social, economic and cultural resources and conditions in accordance with Principle 2-6 and Principle 9.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up if the listed elements are present in the <i>management plan*</i></li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.2.4.*</b> The <i>management plan*</i> includes assessment of the main social and environmental risks on the territory of the <i>Management Unit*</i> in accordance with Principle 2-6 and Principle 9.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up if the listed elements are present in the <i>management plan*</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.2.5.*</b> When the Organization makes promotional claims regarding the maintenance and/or enhancement of <i>ecosystem services*</i> (see 5.1.4) the management plan includes and assessment of the promoted <i>ecosystem services*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up if the listed elements are present in the <i>management plan*</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.2.6.</b> The <i>management plan*</i> includes programmes and activities to guarantee the <i>workers*</i> rights, healthy and safe working conditions and <i>gender equality*</i> in accordance with Principle 2.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- check-up if there are developed programmes and <i>procedures*</i> to guarantee the <i>workers*</i> rights, healthy and safe working conditions and <i>gender equality*</i>.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Indicator 7.2.7.</b> The <i>management plan</i>* includes programmes and activities regarding the community relations (incl. resolution of disputes) and the social and economical development of <i>local communities</i>* in accordance with Principles 1, 4, 5 and 7.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- check-up for available social assessment;</li> <li>- check-up for developed programmes and procedures for arrangement of the community relations and support for the local social and economic development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.2.8*</b> The <i>management plan</i>* gives information and motivation for the planned forestry <i>management activities</i>*, the used forestry systems, methods for logging and the necessary equipment in accordance with Principle 10.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up if the listed elements are present in the <i>management plan</i>*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.2.9*</b> The <i>management plan</i>* includes motivation for the volume and species composition of the planned for extraction wood and other natural resources in accordance with Principle 5.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up if there is available motivation for the volume and species composition of the planned for extraction wood and other natural resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.2.10.*</b> The <i>management plan</i>* includes programmes and activities regarding the identification, <i>protection</i>* and/or <i>restoration</i>* of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) rare and endangered species and their <i>habitats</i>*</li> <li>b) <i>water bodies</i>* and riverine zones</li> <li>c) <i>connectivity</i>* on a <i>landscape</i>* level incl. bio-corridors for the wild flora and fauna</li> <li>d) <i>ecosystem services</i>* for which the Organization makes promotional claims in accordance with Criterion 5.1 and Annex 6</li> <li>e) <i>representative samples of all natural forest ecosystems</i>* in accordance with Principle 6.</li> <li>f) <i>High conservation values</i>* in accordance with Principle 9</li> </ol>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for available report for the <i>high conservation values</i>*</li> <li>- Check-up for <i>procedures</i>* for identification and protection of rare and endangered species, their <i>habitats</i>* and elements of the <i>biodiversity</i>*</li> <li>- Check-up for <i>procedures</i>* for protection of <i>water bodies</i>* and riverine zones</li> <li>- Check-up for <i>procedures</i>* to guarantee the <i>connectivity</i>* on a <i>landscape</i>* level.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.2.11*</b> The <i>management plan</i>* includes <i>procedures</i>* for</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p>



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<p>assessment of the impacts from forestry <i>management activities</i>* and measures for prevention and mitigation of the identified negative impacts over:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the <i>ecological values</i>* defined in accordance with Principles 6 and 9</li> <li>b) the social values identified in accordance with Principles 2-4 and Principle 9</li> <li>c) the <i>ecosystem services</i>* for which the <i>Organisation</i>* makes promotional claims for improving them through FSC in accordance with Criterion 5.1 and Annex 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for available report for the <i>high conservation values</i>*</li> <li>- Check-up for <i>procedures</i>* for identification and protection of rare and endangered species, their <i>habitats</i>* and elements of the <i>biological diversity</i>*</li> <li>- Check-up for <i>procedures</i>* for protection of <i>water bodies</i>* and riverine zones</li> <li>- Check-up for <i>procedures</i>* for assessment, prevention and mitigation of the identified negative impacts from the forest <i>management activities</i>* over the ecological and social values.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.2.12.</b> The <i>management plan</i>* includes a description of the monitoring programmes including monitoring for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) growth and use in accordance with Principle 5</li> <li>b) <i>ecosystem services</i>* for which public claims are made that they are being maintained / improved due to the certification, in accordance with Criterion 5.1 and Annex 6</li> <li>c) <i>ecological values</i>* defined in accordance with Principle</li> <li>d) impacts from the forestry <i>management activities</i>* defined in accordance with Principle 10</li> <li>e) the <i>identified high conservation values</i>* in accordance with Principle 9</li> <li>f) the <i>engagement</i>* of the <i>interested stakeholders</i>* in accordance with Principles 2-5 and Principle 9</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for available report for the <i>high conservation values</i>*</li> <li>- Procedures for monitoring of the described elements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.2.13*</b> The <i>management plan</i>* includes maps (on paper and electronic carrier) of the natural resources, protected territories and zones, planned activities and property ownership of the <i>Management Unit</i>*</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for availability of maps.</li> </ul>



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**Criterion\* 7.3: The management plan\* shall include verifiable targets\* by which progress towards each of the prescribed management objectives can be assessed.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 7.3.1.</b> In the <i>management plan*</i> are defined <i>verifiable targets*</i> for the achievement of the management objectives related to the yield of products from the forest.	<u>Documentray check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for availability of verifiable targets related to the yield of products from the forest.</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the responsible personnel of the <i>Organization*</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.3.2.</b> In the <i>management plan*</i> are defined <i>verifiable targets*</i> for achievement of the management objectives related to regeneration and forest cover.	<u>Documentray check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for availability of verifiable targets related to темповете на растеж, възобновяването and the condition of the forest.</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the responsible personnel of the <i>Organization*</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.3.3.</b> In the <i>management plan*</i> are defined <i>verifiable targets*</i> for achievement of the management objectives related to <i>protection*</i> of <i>water bodies*</i> .	<u>Documentray check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for availability of verifiable targets related to <i>protection*</i> of <i>water bodies*</i></li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <p>With the responsible personnel of the <i>Organization*</i>.</p>
<b>Indicator 7.3.4.</b> In the <i>management plan*</i> are defined <i>verifiable targets*</i> for achievement of the management objectives related to soil erosion and compaction.	<u>Documentray check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for availability of verifiable targets related to soil erosion and compaction.</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the responsible personnel of the <i>Organization*</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.3.5.</b> In the <i>management plan*</i> are defined <i>verifiable targets*</i> for achievement of the management objectives related to populations of wild flora and fauna, <i>biodiversity*</i> and the condition of the identified <i>high conservation values*</i> .	<u>Documentray check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for availability of verifiable targets related to populations of wild flora and fauna, <i>biodiversity*</i> and the condition of the identified <i>high conservation values*</i>.</li> </ul>



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	<u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the responsible personnel of the <i>Organization*</i>. with experts</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.3.6.</b> In the <i>management plan*</i> are defined <i>verifiable targets*</i> for achievement of the management objectives related to services given to <i>local communities*</i> .	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for availability of verifiable targets related to the services given to the <i>local communities*</i>.</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the responsible personnel of the <i>Organization*</i>. with <i>local communities*</i></li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.3.7.</b> In the <i>management plan*</i> are defined <i>verifiable targets*</i> for achievement of the management objectives related to work safety.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for availability of verifiable targets related to work safety</li> <li>- Documentary check-up to determine if the number of work accidents is being stable or diminishing / improvement of the working conditions</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.3.8.</b> In the <i>management plan*</i> are defined <i>verifiable targets*</i> for achievement of the management objectives related to <i>economic viability*</i> of the <i>Organization*</i> .	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check-up for availability of verifiable targets related to the <i>economic viability*</i> of the <i>Organization*</i> (the targeted financial objectives).</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 7.4: The *Organization\** shall update and revise periodically the management planning and procedural documentation to incorporate the results of monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder *engagement\** or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 7.4.1.</b> The <i>management plan*</i> is being revised and updated considering the results from the periodic monitoring executed in accordance with Criterion 8.2	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for the topicality of the <i>management plan*</i>.</li> <li>- Check up whether the results of the periodical monitoring have been integrated in the updated <i>management plan*</i></li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.4.2.*</b> The <i>management plan*</i> is being revised and updated periodically which includes incorporation of the results of outer	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for the topicality of the <i>management plan*</i>.</li> </ul>





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check-ups and assessments, as well as certification audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up whether the results of the outer check-ups and assessments, as well as certification audits have been integrated in the <i>management plan</i>*.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With responsible personnel of the <i>Organization</i>*</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.4.3.</b> <i>The management plan</i> * is revised and updated periodically which includes incorporation of the stakeholder engagement* results.	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up whether in the <i>management plan</i>* have been integrated applicable results from the consultations with <i>interested stakeholders</i>*</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>interested stakeholders</i>*</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.4.4.</b> <i>The management plan</i> * is being revised and updated periodically which includes incorporation of new scientific and technical information.	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up whether in the <i>management plan</i>* have been integrated new technical and scientific information.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 7.4.5.</b> <i>The management plan</i> * is being revised and updated periodically consistent with the changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up whether in the <i>management plan</i>* have been integrated applicable results from assessments and analyses of the changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</li> </ul>

***Criterion\* 7.5: The Organization\* shall make publicly available\* a summary of the management plan\* free of charge. Excluding confidential information\*, other relevant components of the management plan\* shall be made available to affected stakeholders\* on request, and at cost of reproduction and handling.***

<b><i>Indicators*</i></b>	<b><i>Verifiers*</i></b>
<b>Indicator 7.5.1.</b> A summary of the <i>management plan</i> *(including overview / thematic maps) excluding <i>confidential information</i> * is made <i>publicly available</i> * at no cost.	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for availability and accessibility of the summary of the <i>management plan</i>*</li> </ul>



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	<u>Interviews:</u> - With <i>interested stakeholders</i> *
<b>Indicator 7.5.2.</b> Relevant components of the <i>management plan</i> *, excluding <i>confidential information</i> *, are available to <i>affected stakeholders</i> * on request at the actual costs of reproduction and handling.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Check up for availability of a <i>procedure</i> * for giving up the <i>management plan</i> * (excluding <i>confidential information</i> *) on request.  <u>Interviews:</u> - With <i>interested and affected stakeholders</i> *

**Criterion\* 7.6:** The *Organization*\* shall, proportionate to *scale*\*, *intensity*\* and *risk*\* of *management activities*\*, proactively and transparently engage *affected stakeholders*\* in its management planning and monitoring processes, and shall engage *interested stakeholders*\* on request.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 7.6.1.</b> In the process of the 10 year planning of the forest <i>management activities</i> * are applied mechanisms for <i>engagement</i> * of the <i>affected stakeholders</i> * in accordance with their interests as well as other <i>interested stakeholders</i> * on request from their side.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Check up for availability of relevant <i>procedures</i> * and how they are applied.  <u>Interviews:</u> - With affected and <i>interested stakeholders</i> *.
<b>Indicator 7.6.2.</b> In the process of the annual planning of the forest <i>management activities</i> * are applied mechanisms for informing and consulting of the <i>affected stakeholders</i> * in a culturally appropriate way as well as other <i>interested stakeholders</i> * on request from their side.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Check up for availability of relevant <i>procedures</i> * and how they are applied.  <u>Interviews:</u> - With affected and <i>interested stakeholders</i> *.
<b>Indicator 7.6.3.</b> In the process of planning the forest <i>management activities</i> * are applied <i>procedures</i> * that guarantee that the Organization has undertaken activities for <i>engagement</i> * of the <i>affected stakeholders</i> * in the identification of the rights	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Check up for availability of relevant <i>procedures</i> * and how they are applied.  <u>Interviews:</u>



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<p>(Criterion.4.1), the places (Criterion 4.7), the impacts (Criterion 4.5) and for support of the social and economic development of the <i>local communities*</i> (Criterion 4.4). The procedures for engagement are consistent with the cultural specifics of the <i>affected stakeholders*</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>affected stakeholders*</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.6.4.</b> Procedures are applied that guarantee that the Organization undertakes activities to engage the affected and <i>interested stakeholders*</i> in the assessment, management and monitoring of the <i>high conservation values*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for availability of relevant <i>procedures*</i> and how they are applied.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With affected and <i>interested stakeholders*</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.6.5.</b> The <i>procedures*</i> for <i>engagement*</i> of the the affected and <i>interested stakeholders*</i> describe how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are identified the appropriate representatives and the places for contact (incl. if applicable local institutions , organizations and authorities);</li> <li>- jointly are established and are used appropriate communication channels that allow the information to flow freely in both directions;</li> <li>- is guaranteed the equal <i>engagement*</i> of all present interested groups(incl. women, young people, old people, minority groups);</li> <li>- are recorded all meetings, discussed questions and reached agreements;</li> <li>- is guaranteed the consent over the records of the participants in the meetings;</li> <li>- the <i>interested stakeholders*</i> engaged in the consultation process will be informed for the results and how those results and their stipulated application will be approved before the forest <i>management activities*</i> continue.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for availability of relevant <i>procedures*</i> and how they are applied.</li> <li>- Check up for conformity of the <i>procedures*</i> with the requirements of 7.6.5.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With affected and <i>interested stakeholders*</i>.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Indicator 7.6.6.</b> The <i>affected stakeholders*</i> are being informed in advance for the planning and monitoring processes that may have negative impact over them and their interests and an opportunity is given to them to participate in those processes.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for availability of written documentation (protocols, minutes, etc.) proving that the <i>affected stakeholders*</i> were informed in advance for the planning and monitoring processes and an opportunity was given to them to participate.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>affected stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7.6.7.</b> On request from <i>interested stakeholders*</i> an opportunity is given to them to participate in the planning and monitoring of the forest <i>management activities*</i> that affect their interests.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for availability of written documentation (protocols, minutes, etc.) proving that to the <i>interested stakeholders*</i> was given an opportunity to participate on their request;</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With <i>interested stakeholders*</i></li> </ul>

### PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

#### PRINCIPLE\* 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

*The Organization\* shall\* demonstrate that, progress towards achieving the **management objectives\***, the impacts of **management activities\*** and the condition of the **Management Unit\***, are monitored and evaluated proportionate to the **scale\***, **intensity\*** and **risk\*** of management activities, in order to implement **adaptive management\***.*

***Criterion\* 8.1:** The **Organization\*** shall monitor the implementation of its **Management Plan\***, including its policies and **management objectives\***, its progress with the activities planned, and the achievement of its **verifiable targets\***.*

Indicators*	Verifiers*
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<p><b>Indicator 8.1.1.*</b>  <b>Applicable for SLIMF* over 500 ha.</b>  A system for monitoring of the Management plan is available and being implemented, including for the politics, <i>management objectives*</i> and <i>verifiable targets*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for the availability of a system (an order of the Director of the Organization) and/or written plan/method for monitoring that includes all the elements mentioned in the indicator.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the responsible personnel of the Organization regarding their knowledge on the system for monitoring and their responsibilities related to the system.</li> </ul>
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**Criterion\* 8.2 The Organization\* shall monitor and evaluate the environmental and social impacts of the activities carried out in the Management Unit\*, and changes in its environmental condition.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 8.2.1*.</b> The social impacts from the management activities are monitored consistent with Annex 7.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for documented system for monitoring.</li> <li>- Check up for written notes from implemented monitoring – check up notes, analyses, summaries.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the personnel responsible for the monitoring and <i>local communities*</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 8.2.2.*</b> The environmental impacts from the management activities are monitored consistent with Annex 7.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for documented system for monitoring.</li> <li>- Check up for written notes from implemented monitoring – check up notes, analyses, summaries.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the responsible personnel regarding their knowledge on the method for monitoring and their relevant responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 8.2.3*.</b> Changes in environmental conditions are monitored consistent with Annex 7.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for documented system for monitoring.</li> <li>- Check up for written notes from implemented monitoring – check up notes,</li> </ul>



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	<p>analyses, summaries.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the <i>workers</i>* who do the field check ups – head of the forest section, assistant forester, etc.</li> <li>- With the responsible personnel regarding their knowledge on the method for monitoring and their relevant responsibilities.</li> </ul>
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**Criterion\* 8.3: The Organization\* shall analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<p><b>Indicator 8.3.1.*</b> The Organization adapts the forest management activities according to the analysis of the results of the monitoring.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up of the management plan;</li> <li>- Check up of the documents related to preparation, planning and implementation of the forest management activities – tree marking documents, technological plans, plans statements. Check up for proofs for including the identified during the monitoring risks, changes or diversions in the activity planning process.</li> <li>- Check up for available documents with analysis of the monitoring</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up to what extent the responsible personnel is informed that the results of the monitoring have to be included in the annual planning of the activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 8.3.2.*</b> If monitoring results show non-conformities with the FSC Standard then <i>management objectives*</i>, <i>verifiable targets*</i> as well as management activities are revised.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up of the management plan</li> <li>- Check up for available documents with analysis of the monitoring</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up</u></p>



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	<u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the leadership and personnel of the Organization <u>Interviews</u> с ръководството и служителите на <i>Организацията</i>*</li> </ul>
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**Criterion\* 8.4: The Organization\* shall make *publicly available*\* a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding *confidential information*\*.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 8.4.1*.</b> A summary of the monitoring results excluding <i>confidential information</i> * is made <i>publicly available</i> *, and is given up freely and at no cost.	<u>Documentray check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for <i>publicly available</i>* summary – on the information board, website of the Organization, etc.</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With representatives of the <i>local communities</i>*</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 8.5: The Organization\* shall have and implement a tracking and tracing system proportionate to *scale*\*, *intensity*\* and *risk* of its management activities, for demonstrating the source and volume in proportion to projected output for each year, of all products from the *Management Unit*\* that are marketed as FSC certified.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*</b>
<b>Indicator 8.5.1.*</b> A system is implemented to track and trace all products from the certified forest that are marketed as FSC certified.	<u>Documentray check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for available <i>procedure</i>* according to the indicator – an order, system, plan for tracing of the products.</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the personnel regarding their knowledge of the system and their relevant responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 8.5.2.*</b> 3 About all products sold as FSC certified is documented and kept the following information:	<u>Documentray check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up of the accounting documentation – invoices, waybills, transport</li> </ul>



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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Common and scientific species name;</li> <li>2. Product name or description;</li> <li>3. Volume (or quantity) of product;</li> <li>4. Information to trace the material to the source of origin logging block;</li> <li>5. Logging or production date;</li> <li>6. If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume produced; and</li> <li>7. Whether or not the material was sold as FSC certified.</li> </ol>	<p>tickets, contracts for the sale of products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up of the profiles of the logged sites – tree marking documents, assortment payrolls, succession protocols for acquired products</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 8.5.3.*</b> Sales invoices for <i>FSC certified products*</i> and the accompanying documentation are kept for a minimum of five years. The documents identify at a minimum, the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name and address of purchaser;</li> <li>2. The date of sale;</li> <li>3. Species common name;</li> <li>4. Product description;</li> <li>5. The volume (or quantity) sold;</li> <li>6. Certificate code</li> <li>7. The FSC Claim “FSC 100%” identifying products sold as FSC certified.</li> </ol>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up of the accounting documentation – invoices, waybills, transport tickets, contracts for the sale of products.</li> <li>- Check up of the profiles of the logged sites – tree marking documents, assortment payrolls, succession protocols for acquired products</li> </ul>





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### PRINCIPLE 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES\*

#### PRINCIPLE\* 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES\*

The *Organization\** shall maintain and/or enhance the *High Conservation Values\** in the *Management Unit\** through applying the *precautionary approach\**.

**Criterion\* 9.1** The *Organization\**, through *engagement\** with *affected stakeholders\**, *interested stakeholders\** and other means and sources, shall assess and record the presence and status of the following *High Conservation Values\** in the *Management Unit\**, proportionate to the *scale\**, *intensity\** and *risk\** of impacts of management activities, and likelihood of the occurrence of the *High Conservation Values\**:

HCV 1 – Species diversity. Concentrations of *biological diversity\** including endemic species, and rare, *threatened\** or endangered species, that are *significant!* at global, regional or national levels.

HCV 2 – *Landscape\*-level ecosystems\** and mosaics. *Intact forest landscapes\** and large *landscape\*-level ecosystems\** and *ecosystem\** mosaics that are *significant!* at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

HCV 3 – *Ecosystems\** and *habitats\**. Rare, *threatened\**, or endangered *ecosystems\**, *habitats\** or *refugia\**.

HCV 4 – *Critical\* ecosystem services\**. Basic *ecosystem services\** in *critical\** situations, including *protection\** of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.

HCV 5 – Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of *local communities\** or *Indigenous Peoples\** (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through *engagement\** with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.

HCV 6 – Cultural values. Sites, resources, *habitats\** and *landscapes\** of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of *critical\** cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of *local communities\** or Indigenous Peoples, identified through *engagement\** with these *local communities\** or Indigenous Peoples.

Indicators*	Verifiers*:
<b>Indicator 9.1.1.*</b> <b>Applicable for SLIMF* over 100 ha</b> <i>On the territory of the Management Unit*</i> has been made specialized research for the presence and condition of <i>high conservation* values*</i> in compliance with the <i>Practical guidance "Identification,</i>	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> - Check up for a documented research on the <i>HCV*</i> forests / <i>HCVF*</i> report  <u>Field check-up:</u> - Check up of the identified <i>HCV*</i> forests for conformity of the documented



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<p><i>management and monitoring of HCV forests in Bulgaria”*. (See Annex 11)</i></p> <p><u>Nota bene:</u> For category HCV 1.2. are identified also the species from Annex 1 of the <i>Practical guidance “Identification, management and monitoring of HCV forests in Bulgaria”*</i> that can be potentially present on the territory of the <i>Management Unit</i> *.</p>	<p>information with the situation on the field.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information whether the personnel is acquainted with the <i>HCV*</i> research.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 9.1.2*.</b> The results from the research according to 9.1.1 are presented in a report and the identified <i>HCV*</i> forests are mapped.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>HCVF*</i> report</li> <li>- Maps with the identified <i>HCV*</i> forests</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information whether the personnel is acquainted with the presence of <i>HCV*</i>.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 9.1.3.</b> During the research made according to 9.1.1 have been held and documented consultations with the <i>affected*</i> and <i>interested stakeholders*</i> and experts who are versed on the <i>HCV*</i> categories. The mechanisms for consultation are in accordance with the cultural specifics of the participants.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lists of the experts and <i>interested stakeholders*</i> that were consulted and took part in the development of the <i>HCVF*</i> report.</li> <li>- Letters to the <i>interested stakeholders*</i></li> <li>- Documentation from public discussions, opinions, statements, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information whether the local <i>interested stakeholders**</i> are acquainted with the presence of <i>HCV*</i> forests in the region and how they have been consulted or engaged during the identification of the <i>HCV*</i> forests.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 9.1.4.</b> The report according to 9.1.2 is publicly available on the website of the Organization and from the public version is excluded the information about localities of rare and threatened species. In case that the Organization has no website the report is available at request.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <p>Check up of the website of the Organization</p>



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<p><b>Indicator 9.1.5.</b> The report according to 9.1.2 is being updated currently at the availability of new information, grounded justification and after consultation with the interested stakeholders. Update is not permitted for the identified old growth forests except in the cases of large scale natural disturbances.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u> The HCV Report Letters from interested stakeholders</p> <p><u>Interviews</u> with interested stakeholders and personnel of the Organization</p>
<p><b>Indicator 9.1.6</b> The <i>affected and interested stakeholders*</i> are informed that they can currently submit information towards the Organization regarding new information for update of the Report according to 9.1.2</p>	<p>Letters to interested stakeholders</p> <p><u>Interviews</u> with interested stakeholders and personnel of the Organization</p>

**Criterion\* 9.2: The Organization\* shall develop effective strategies that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values\*, through engagement\* with affected stakeholders\*\*, interested stakeholders\* and experts.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<p><b>Indicator 9.2.1*.</b> Threats to the identified <i>High Conservation Values*</i> are identified and documented.</p> <p><u>Nota bene:</u> The threats are identified according to the <i>Practical guidance "Identification, management and monitoring of HCV forests in Bulgaria"</i>* .</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HCVF* report with identified threats for the HCV* in it.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up if the threats for HCV* were correctly identified.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives information of the personnel is acquainted with the presence of HCVF* and with the threats for the identified HCV*.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 9.2.2.*</b> The management plan includes specific actions (measures) to maintain and/or enhance the identified <i>High Conservation Values*</i> that are being applied prior to and during</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for availability of specific actions for maintaining and/or enhancing the identified HCV* in the HCVF* report .</li> </ul>



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<p>the implementation of the forest management activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up of the profiles of the sites in which management activities are being implemented.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up if the stipulated specific actions for maintaining and enhancement of the <i>HCV*</i> are being considered and applied prior to and during the management activities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information if the personnel is acquainted with the presence of <i>HCV*</i> and with the measures that were stipulated to be applied prior to and during the management activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 9.2.3.</b> <i>Affected*</i> and <i>interested stakeholders*</i> and experts in the relevant topics are engaged in the development of specific actions to maintain and/or enhance the identified <i>High Conservation Values*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lists of the experts and <i>interested stakeholders*</i> who were consulted and participated in the development of actions for maintenance and enhancement of the <i>HCV*</i>;</li> <li>- Letters to the <i>interested stakeholders*</i></li> <li>- Documents from the public consultations and discussions, opinions, statements, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information if the local <i>interested stakeholders*</i> are acquainted with the presence of <i>HCV*</i> in the region and how they were engaged and consulted during the development of actions for maintenance and enhancement of the identified <i>HCV*</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 9.2.4.</b> The specific actions developed are effective to maintain and/or enhance the <i>High Conservation Values*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>HCV*</i> report with defined actions for maintenance and enhancement of the identified <i>HCV*</i>;</li> <li>- Availability of <i>procedures*</i> that guarantee the application of the actions for maintenance and enhancement of the identified <i>HCV*</i>;</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Profiles of the sites in which forest management activities are being held – check up if prior to the beginning of the forest management activities the presence <i>HCV*</i> was considered and relevant <i>protection*</i> measures were stipulated in the technological documentation – technological plans, tree marking documents, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up if the measures applied for maintenance and <i>protection*</i> of the <i>HCVF*</i> are effective.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information for the effectiveness of the applied measures for maintenance and <i>protection*</i> of the <i>HCV*</i>.</li> </ul>
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**Criterion\* 9.3: The Organization\* shall implement strategies and actions that maintain and/or enhance the identified *High Conservation Values\**. These strategies and actions shall implement the *precautionary approach\** and be proportionate to the *scale\**, *intensity\** and *risk\** of management activities.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<p><b>Indicator 9.3.1.*</b>  <b>Applicable for <i>SLIMF*</i> over 100 ha</b>  The <i>Organization*</i> applies the developed specific actions to maintain and/or enhance the <i>High Conservation Values*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>HCVF*</i> report with defined actions for maintenance and enhancement of the identified <i>HCV*</i>;</li> <li>- Availability of <i>procedures*</i> to guarantee the application of the actions for maintenance and enhancement of the identified <i>HCV*</i>;</li> <li>- Profiles of the sites in which forest management activities are being held – check up if prior to the beginning of the forest management activities the presence <i>HCV*</i> was considered and relevant <i>protection*</i> measures were stipulated in the technological documentation – technological plans, tree marking documents, etc.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up of issued cutting permissions (through the website of the Executive forest agency)</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up if the measures for maintenance and enhancement of the <i>HCV*</i> were considered and applied prior to and during the implementation of the forest management activities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information if the personnel is acquainted and applies measures for maintenance and enhancement of the <i>HCVF*</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 9.3.2.*</b> The applied specific actions prevent damage and risks to <i>High Conservation Values*</i>, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, or the vulnerability and sensitivity of <i>High Conservation Values*</i> are uncertain.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>HCVF*</i> report with defined actions for maintenance and enhancement of the identified <i>HCV*</i>;</li> <li>- Profiles of the sites in which forest management activities are being held.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up if measures for maintenance and <i>protection*</i> of the <i>HCV*</i> are being considered and applied.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information if the personnel is acquainted and applies measures for maintenance and enhancement of the <i>HCVF*</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 9.3.3.*</b> Activities that harm <i>High Conservation Values*</i> cease immediately and actions are taken to <i>restore*</i> and protect the <i>High Conservation Values*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procedures or an order for the actions to be made in case of harmed <i>HCVF*</i>;</li> <li>- Profiles of the sites in which forest management activities are being held.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up for if activities that has harmed the <i>HCV*</i>;</li> <li>- Check up if there have been undertaken measures to <i>restore*</i> harmed by the forest management activities <i>HCV*</i>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information if the personnel is acquainted with the <i>procedures*</i> for ceasure of activities that harm the identified <i>HCV*</i> and what measures are being undertaken to <i>restore*</i> harmed <i>HCV*</i>.</li> </ul>
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**Criterion\* 9.4: The Organization\* shall\* demonstrate that periodic monitoring is carried out to assess changes in the status of *High Conservation Values\**, and shall adapt its management strategies to ensure their effective *protection\**. The monitoring shall\* be proportionate to the *scale\**, *intensity\** and *risk\** of management activities, and shall include *engagement\** with *affected stakeholders\**, *interested stakeholders\** and experts.**

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<p><b>Indicator 9.4.1.</b> In accordance with the recommendations for monitoring of <i>High Conservation Values*</i> in the <i>Practical guidance "Identification, management and monitoring of HCV forests in Bulgaria"</i>* is being applied a system for periodic monitoring of the identified <i>High Conservation Values*</i> and the effectiveness of the implemented actions to maintain and/or enhance the <i>High Conservation Values*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>HCVF*</i> report and its "Recommendations for monitoring" sections;</li> <li>- Developed system/ programme for monitoring – a <i>procedure*</i>, an order, etc.</li> <li>- Filled in forms from implemented monitoring.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up if the noted in the <i>HCVF*</i> report recommendations for monitoring are being applied.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives information if the personnel is acquainted and applies a programme for monitoring.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 9.4.2.</b> The monitoring program includes <i>engagement*</i> with</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List with the experts that participated in the development of the <i>HCVF*</i></li> </ul>



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<p>experts, <i>affected*</i> and <i>interested stakeholders*</i>.</p>	<p>report and its sections “Recommendations for monitoring”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Letters and invitations to the <i>interested stakeholders*</i> and experts to participated in the monitoring activities.</li> <li>- Developed system / programme for monitoring – a <i>procedure*</i>, an order, etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the local <i>interested stakeholders*</i> and experts regarding the opportunities for them to participate in the monitoring of the <i>HCV*</i> and to what extent they actually participated.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 9.4.3.</b> The monitoring program has sufficient scope, detail and frequency to detect changes in the identified <i>High Conservation Values*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>HCVF*</i> report and its “Recommendations for monitoring” sections;</li> <li>- Developed system/ programme for monitoring – a <i>procedure*</i>, an order, etc.</li> <li>- Filled in forms from implemented monitoring.</li> <li>- Documented changes in the condition of the identified <i>HCV*</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up if the noted in the <i>HCVF*</i> report monitoring recommendations are being applied.</li> <li>- Check up if the system for monitoring allows to determine changes in the identified <i>HCV*</i>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With responsible personnel of the Organization* regarding their knowledge on the monitoring recommendations.</li> <li>- With responsible personnel of the Organization* to assess the <i>scale*</i>, level of detail and frequency of the <i>HCV*</i> monitoring system.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 9.4.4.</b> The results from the monitoring are being documented in standard forms and on this basis is made annual</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>HCVF*</i> report and its “Recommendations for monitoring” sections;</li> </ul>





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written analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Profiles of the forest sites</li> <li>- Filled in forms from implemented monitoring.</li> <li>- Written annual analysis</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information if the responsible personnel are acquainted with the recommendations for monitoring and how they fill in the monitoring forms.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 9.4.5.</b> The applied actions are adapted when monitoring or other new information show that they are insufficient to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of <i>High Conservation Values</i>*.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HCVF* report and its “Recommendations for monitoring” sections;</li> <li>- Annual analysis of the results from the monitoring</li> <li>- <i>Management plan</i>*</li> <li>- Profiles of the forest sites (logging sites)</li> <li>- Reports, statements, findings protocols, etc.</li> <li>- Letters and statements from <i>interested stakeholders</i>* for changes in the HCVF*</li> <li>- Changes made in the measures for <i>protection</i>* and /or the system for monitoring in the HCVF* report and the relevant <i>procedures</i>*.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the adapted actions are being applied.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information if the responsible personnel use the information from the monitoring for changes/adaptation of the actions if necessary;</li> <li>- Give information if the relevant personnel are acquainted and apply the changes/ adaptation in the actions.</li> </ul>



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### PRINCIPLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

#### **PRINCIPLE\* 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Management activities conducted by or for *The Organization\** for the *Management Unit\** shall be selected and implemented consistent with *The Organization\**'s economic, environmental and social policies and *objectives\** and in compliance with the *Principles\** and *Criteria\** collectively.

**Criterion\* 10.1** After harvest or in accordance with the *management plan\**, *The Organization\** shall, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion to pre-harvesting or more *natural conditions\**.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<p><b>Indicator 10.1.1*:</b> Harvested sites are regenerated in a <i>timely manner*</i> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Protects affected <i>environmental values*</i>; and</li> <li>2) Is suitable to recover overall <i>pre-harvest</i> or <i>natural forest*</i> composition and structure.</li> </ol>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for logging</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up if the actions were implemented in accordance with what was stipulated in the plans.</li> <li>- Check up of the condition of the natural regeneration, supported regeneration and of the artificially made <i>forest cultures*</i>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information if the personnel and forest <i>workers*</i> are acquainted with the appropriate ways for regeneration after the harvest.</li> <li>- Give information if the stipulated in the documentation activities are being implemented.</li> <li>- Local communities are also being interviewed (about the preharvest condition, affected <i>environmental values*</i> etc.)</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Indicator 10.1.2*:</b> Regeneration fellings in <i>natural forests*</i> are being implemented in a way that leads to natural regeneration of the basic tree species typical for the region and in accordance with the characteristics of the locality and the economic objectives of the <i>Management Unit*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Карнет-описи of the sites in which regeneration fellings were done.</li> <li>- Technological plans for logging</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> On the field is checked up of the stipulated regeneration fellings were implemented in a way that leads to natural regeneration of local species. Check up of the condition of the natural regeneration, supported regeneration or artificially made <i>forest cultures*</i>.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel and forest <i>workers*</i> are acquainted with the specifics of the silviculture systems for natural regeneration. Check up if the stipulated in the documentation activities are being implemented in accordance with the <i>management plan*</i> and other regulations.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.1.3*:</b> For <i>restoration*</i> of degraded <i>natural forest*</i> ecosystems, for supplement of the natural regeneration and after <i>large-scale natural disturbances*</i> artificial regeneration can be used if the following requirements are observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Afforestation is done only in sites where the natural regeneration is laboured and for afforestation are used only local species and origins;</li> <li>- Natural succession processes and the evolvement of the present early-succession local tree species are being tolerated.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> <li>- Relevant documentation in case of <i>large-scale natural disturbances*</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the afforestation meets the requirements of the indicator.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Gives information if the personnel is acquainted and applies the requirements of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.1.4*:</b> The activities related to regeneration of coppices lead to their transformation into seed forests, except if in the <i>Management plan*</i> are stipulated other economic objectives for</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <p>Forest management plan</p> <p>Tree marking documentation of coppices in which regeneration fellings were</p>



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<p>those certain forests.</p>	<p>implemented</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> On the field is checked if the stipulated regeneration fellings were implemented in a way that leads to natural seed regeneration of the forest. Check up of the condition of the natural regeneration or the artificial supportive activities for the regeneration.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Gives information if the personnel is acquainted with the main objective for the management of coppices and if the stipulated regeneration activities are being implemented in accordance with the forest management plan and regulations.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.1.5:</b> The activities related to regeneration of forest <i>plantations*</i> are implemented in a way that leads to regeneration of the forest vegetation in accordance with the <i>Management plan*</i> and the requirements of the national legislation. In the cases where the objective is a transformation of the forest <i>plantation*</i> into forests with more natural species composition and structure, for regeneration are used only native species and origins.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for harvesting</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the stipulated activities were implemented as described in the plans. Check up if the planned transformation is implemented through afforestation with <i>native species*</i> and origins.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Gives information if the personnel is acquainted with the requirements of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.1.6:</b> When in the management plan is stipulated artificial regeneration of forest <i>plantations*</i>, the afforestation is made within two years from the harvest of the forest.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentation for harvesting and afforestation</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if on the harvested areas of forest <i>plantations*</i> was implemented afforestation.</p>



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	<p><u>Interviews:</u> Gives information if the personnel is acquainted with the deadlines for afforestation of harvested <i>plantations*</i> and whether the deadline is being observed.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.1.7.*</b> Forests with artificial origin that are not forest <i>plantations*</i> are managed by ways and methods that enhance their transformation into <i>natural forests*</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The methods enhance the regeneration of native, typical for the region species in the forests;</li> <li>- The silviculture activities contribute to the creation and maintenance of structural characteristics typical for the <i>natural forests*</i> in the region.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for harvesting</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up if the activities are implemented in accordance with the documentation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information if the personnel is acquainted with the requirements for <i>restoration*</i> of the forest.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 10.1.8*:</b> Efforts are made to regenerate the natural species composition and structure of degraded forest <i>ecosystems*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> <li>- Documentation for cases of <i>large-scale* natural disturbances*</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the requirements of the indicator are observed.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is acquainted and applies the requirements of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.1.9*:</b> Artificial afforestation of <i>natural open fields*</i> within forest territories is not allowed except in cases for control of erosion processes.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> </ul>



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	<p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if <i>natural open fields*</i> are left without afforestation.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Gives information if the personnel is acquainted with the requirement that <i>natural open fields*</i> must be left without afforestation.</p>
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**Criterion\* 10.2:** The Organization\* shall use species for regeneration that are ecologically well adapted to the site and to the *management objectives\**. The Organization\* shall use *native species\** and local *genotypes\** for regeneration, unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others.

Indicators*	Verifiers*:
<p><b>Indicator 10.2.1*:</b> Forests of local tree species shall not be transformed into forest <i>plantations*</i> or into <i>forest cultures*</i> of <i>alien species*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for harvesting</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if forests of local tree species if are transformed into forests of <i>alien species*</i> or <i>plantations*</i>.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is acquainted and applies the requirements of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.2.2*:</b> For afforestation shall be used well adapted to the habitat <i>native species*</i> with local origin, except for the cases when clear and credible motivation is shown for the use of <i>alien species*</i> and <i>genotypes*</i> and still the use of <i>alien species*</i> and <i>genotypes*</i> can only be on a territory not exceeding 5% of the afforested area.</p> <p><u>Забележка:</u> The 5% limitation is not for the areas that are being managed as forest <i>plantations*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> <li>- Documentation for cases of large-scale <i>natural disturbances*</i></li> <li>- Documents with motivation on the necessity of afforestation with <i>alien species*</i> and <i>genotypes*</i>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the requirements of the plans are implemented on the field.</p>



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	<p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel and forest <i>workers*</i> are acquainted with the species used for afforestation and what are their ecological demands regarding the habitat.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.2.3:</b> The choice of species for afforestation is clearly motivated and documented regarding the afforestation objectives and the general <i>management objectives*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> <li>- Documentation for cases of large-scale <i>natural disturbances*</i></li> <li>- Documents with motivation on the necessity of afforestation with <i>alien species*</i> and <i>genotypes*</i>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel and forest <i>workers*</i> are acquainted with the species used for afforestation and what is the economic or ecological objective.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.2.4</b> When the afforestation objective is to <i>restore*</i> degraded terrains are used only species that naturally occur in the region except for the cases when <i>alien species*</i> have no alternative.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> <li>- Documents with motivation on the necessity of afforestation with <i>alien species*</i> and <i>genotypes*</i>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if during the <i>restoration*</i> activities were used only species that naturally occur in the region.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is acquainted and applies the requirements of the indicator.</p>



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**Criterion\* 10.3:** The *Organization\** shall only use *alien species\** when knowledge and/or experience have shown that any invasive impacts can be controlled and effective mitigation measures are in place.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<p><b>Indicator 10.3.1*:</b> <i>Alien species*</i> from Annex 8 are not used for afforestation.</p> <p><u>Nota bene:</u> <i>Robinia pseudacacia</i> can be used for afforestation only in <i>plantations*</i> (see the definition for <i>plantation*</i> in the current standard) where the forest managers strictly control the distribution of the species.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if afforestations are made with species from Annex 8</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is acquainted with and applies the requirements of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.3.2*:</b> The <i>Organization*</i> implements monitoring and controls the distribution of <i>invasive species*</i> on its territory and watches for possible ecological impacts.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans</li> <li>- Documented programme/system for monitoring and control of the <i>invasive species*</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if there is uncontrolled distribution of <i>alien species*</i> and negative environmental impact over neighbouring territories.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is acquainted and applies a programme/system for monitoring and control of the distribution of <i>invasive species*</i>.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.3.3*</b> Programmes for removal of <i>alien species*</i> with invasive potential are being developed and applied.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Documented programme for monitoring and control of <i>invasive species*</i></li> </ul>





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme for removal of <i>alien species*</i> with invasive potential.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if there is invasive distribution of <i>alien species*</i> and if measures were applied to control the distribution.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel and the forest <i>workers*</i> are acquainted and apply the programme for removal of <i>alien species*</i> with invasive potential.</p>
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**Criterion\* 10.4:** The *Organization\** shall not use *genetically modified organisms\** in the *Management Unit\**.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<b>Indicator 10.4.1*</b> <i>Genetically modified organisms*</i> are not used in the forest management activities. .	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Documented orders that prohibit the use of <i>GMO*</i></li> <li>- Documents related to the usage of <i>GMO*</i> during the forest management activities</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if <i>GMO*</i> were used.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is acquainted with and applies the prohibition for usage of <i>GMO*</i>.</p>

**Criterion\* 10.5:** The *Organization\** shall use silvicultural practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and *management objectives\**.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
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<p><b>Indicator 10.5.1*</b> Sylvicultural systems are applied that create and maintain species, age and structural diversity of the forest both on the level of the stand and on a <i>landscape*</i> level. Thus, in the types of forests where suitable loggings with long regeneration period and thinnings are used with priority.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Tree marking documentation of the stands in which harvesting was made</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if suitable sylvicultural systems are used.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is acquainted with the suitable sylvicultural systems and practices.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.5.2*</b> Clear fellings are not applied except in plantations* and the <i>forest cultures*</i> from poplar, acacia, locust and linden. The area of linden clear fellings is not bigger than 1 ha.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Tree marking documentation of the stands in which harvesting was made</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if clear fellings are made in types of forests different from those mentioned in the indicator.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel applies the limitations regarding the clear fellings.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.5.3*</b> Thinnings in the managed stands are being done in accordance with the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- they guarantee collective and individual stability of the stands</li> <li>- they support the growth of <i>trees of the future*</i> through applying the principles of <i>positive selection*</i></li> <li>- are not implemented according to the linear schematic principle and thinning from below;</li> <li>- they tolerate the presence of single occurring species and precious genetical forms on the territory.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Tree marking documentation</li> <li>- Technological plans</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the mentioned in the indicator principles are being applied.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is acquainted with the mentioned in the indicator principles.</p>



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<p><b>Indicator 10.5.4*</b> During the thinnings and regeneration fellings in the forest shall be left elements important for the support of the <i>biological diversity*</i> in the forest ecosystem* (<i>isles of old age*</i>, <i>tranquility zones*</i>, single and groups of <i>biotope trees*</i>, specific <i>microhabitats*</i>, etc.)</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Tree marking documentation</li> <li>- Technological plans</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the important elements for the <i>biological diversity*</i> mentioned in the indicator are left in the forest.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is acquainted with the requirements for preservation of important elements for the <i>biodiversity*</i> in the forest ecosystem*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.5.5*</b> Except if other objectives are mentioned in the forest management plan, <i>forest cultures*</i> are being managed in ways and methods that support their transformation into <i>natural forests*</i> through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The activities support the regeneration of native, typical for the region species;</li> <li>- The silvicultural activities support the creation and maintenance of structural characteristics typical for the natural forests in the region.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Tree marking documentation</li> <li>- Technological plans</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the principles mentioned in the indicator are being applied.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is acquainted with and applies the indicator.</p>

**Criterion\* 10.6:** The *Organization\** shall minimize or avoid the use of *fertilizers\**. When *fertilizers\** are used, The *Organization\** shall demonstrate that use is equally or more ecologically and economically beneficial than use of silvicultural systems that do not require *fertilizers\**, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to *environmental values\**, including soils.

<i>Indicators*</i>	<i>Verifiers*</i>
<b>Indicator 10.6.1*</b> Fertilizers are not used except in plantations and forest	<u>Documentary check-up:</u>



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<p>nurseries. Yet, in plantations and forest nurseries fertilizers are used only in cases of justified necessity and the usage is reduced to minimum. In plantations and forest nurseries fertilizers are not used in the buffer zones of 20 m from water sources, water bodies and localities of rare and threatened species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Register of used <i>fertilizers</i>*</li> <li>- Technological plans for afforestation</li> <li>- Invoices for bought <i>fertilizers</i>*</li> <li>- Documents proving that the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>* is being diminished aiming at complete termination of the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>*.</li> <li>- Results of soil analyses</li> <li>- Motivations for the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>*</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if <i>fertilizers</i>* are used and if the personnel is aware of the requirement to diminish the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>*.</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up of the forest nursery-gardens</li> <li>- Check up of store premises</li> <li>- Check up of areas prepared for afforestation with the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 10.6.2</b> Written analysis of the best alternative methods that were taken into consideration and thrown aside before the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>*.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentation for alternative methods that were considered or applied instead of <i>fertilizers</i>*.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware with the requirement for documentation of the alternative methods that were considered or applied instead of <i>fertilizers</i>*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.6.3</b> The usage of <i>fertilizers</i>* is being documented by registering the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) type of <i>fertilizers</i>*</li> <li>b) location of the site where they were used</li> <li>c) size of the treated site</li> <li>d) date of usage</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Register of the used <i>fertilizers</i>*</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if <i>fertilizers</i>* are being used and if the personnel is aware of the requirement to keep a register of the <i>fertilizers</i>*.</p>



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e) quantity of the used <i>fertilizers</i> *	
<p><b>Indicator 10.6.4</b> In the cases when <i>fertilizers</i>* are used, the <i>environmental values</i>* are protected including through measures for prevention of the negative impact.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u> Programme or guideline for <i>protection</i>* of the <i>environmental values</i>* in the cases when <i>fertilizers</i>* are used. Instructions for application of measures for prevention of negative impacts.</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if there are negative impacts from the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>* and what measures for prevention of the negative impacts were applied.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware applies the measures for prevention of the negative impacts from the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.6.5</b> The negative environmental impacts from the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>* are mitigated and the damaged <i>environmental values</i>* are restored.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u> Programme, instructions or other documentation for the implementation of measures for mitigation and/or <i>restoration</i>* of negative impacts from the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>*.</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if there are negative impacts from the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>* and what measures were taken to mitigate the impact or to <i>restore</i>* the damages.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware and applies measures for mitigation and/or <i>restoration</i>* of the negative impacts caused by the usage of <i>fertilizers</i>*.</p>

**Criterion\* 10.7:** The Organization\* shall use integrated *pest*\* management and silviculture systems which avoid, or aim at eliminating, the use of



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chemical *pesticides*\*. *The Organization*\* shall not use any chemical *pesticides*\* prohibited by FSC policy. When *pesticides*\* are used, *The Organization*\* shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to *environmental values*\* and human health.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.1*</b> There is available integrated system for control of the <i>pests</i>* including through silviculture systems in order to diminish the intensity*, <i>scale</i>* and quantity of the used chemical <i>pesticides</i>*. The aim is to reach definitive termination of the usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>* or significant general diminishing of their usage.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programmes for monitoring and control of the <i>pests</i>* and results of these programmes.</li> <li>- Programme for diminishing the usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>*</li> <li>- Technological plans</li> <li>- Reports from the Forest Protection Stations.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up of the applied methods for control of the <i>pests</i>*.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware and applies the programmes for monitoring and control of the <i>pests</i>* and diminishing of the usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.2*</b> The usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>* is based on written analysis of the most appropriate alternative methods and is applied only when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alternative products and practices are not known;</li> <li>- The known alternative products and practices have been proven to be ineffective;</li> <li>- The usage of alternative products and practices is significantly more expensive than the chemical <i>pesticides</i>*.</li> <li>- The chosen product, method for application, time and way of use of the chemical pesticide* hold out the smallest risk for the people and non-target species.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Written analysis of the alternative methods</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware of the requirement for documentation of the alternative methods that were considered and thrown aside before the usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.3*</b> Forbidden by FSC chemical <i>pesticides</i>* are not kept neither used within the Management Unit*, except if a request for</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme for the usage of chemical pesticides*</li> </ul>



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<p>derogation from FSC was approved.</p> <p><i>Забележка: See Annex 9 - FSC-STD-30-001a List of highly hazardous pesticides</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current list of the forbidden by FSC chemical <i>pesticides</i>*</li> <li>- Register of the used chemical <i>pesticides</i>*</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware with the <i>procedures</i>* for usage of forbidden chemical <i>pesticides</i>*.</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check up of the warehouses</li> <li>- Check up of forest nurseries</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.4*</b> A register of the used chemical pesticides* is kept. The register contains information for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- trade name of the used product</li> <li>- active ingredients</li> <li>- quantity of the used active ingredients</li> <li>- date/ period of usage</li> <li>- location of the processed site</li> <li>- size and location of the treated area within the site</li> <li>- method of application</li> <li>- reason for usage of the chemical <i>pesticides</i>*</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Register of the chemical <i>pesticides</i>*</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware with the requirements for registration of the used chemical <i>pesticides</i>*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.5*</b> The use of <i>pesticides</i>* complies with the ILO document “Safety in the use of chemicals at work” regarding requirements for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency <i>procedures</i>* for cleanup following accidental spillages.</p> <p><i>Nota bene:</i> See Annex 10 – Chapter 2.3. of ILO „Safety and health in the use of agrochemicals: A guide“)</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A valid risk assessment that includes measures for healthy and safe working conditions during the usage of chemicals.</li> <li>- Evidence for trainings held of the personnel that is responsible for work and storage of chemicals.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if on the field are observed the health and safety instructions for work with and storage of chemicals.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel and forest <i>workers</i>* are aware</p>



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	and observe the health and safety instructions for work with and storage of chemicals.
<b>Indicator 10.7.6*</b> There are available precepts with measures for <i>timely*</i> neutralization of spills or other incidents with chemicals. Detailed documentation is kept about all incidents with chemicals.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Written <i>procedure*</i> for applying of urgent measures for neutralization of spills or other incidents with chemicals.</li> <li>- Documentation of performed instructions of the personnel</li> <li>- Register of incidents</li> <li>- Written instructions for work with chemicals</li> </ul> <u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if on the field are available means for neutralization of spills or other incidents with chemicals.  <u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware and applies the <i>procedures*</i> in case of spill or other incidents.
<b>Indicator 10.7.7*</b> The personnel working with chemical <i>pesticides*</i> is trained for work with chemicals and management of urgent situations.	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- - Documentation of performed trainings of the personnel</li> </ul> <u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware and applies the measures for usage of chemical <i>pesticides*</i>
<b>Indicator 10.7.8*</b> During the usage of chemical <i>pesticides*</i> the following general requirements are followed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chemical <i>pesticides*</i> are applied in the minimum effective quantities and strictly following the instructions of the producer and the relevant regulations;</li> <li>- The usage of chemical <i>pesticides*</i> is forbidden on sites within 20 meters from water streams and within 30 meters from still waters,</li> </ul>	<u>Documentary check-up:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documented instructions for the usage of chemical <i>pesticides*</i> that include the requirements of the indicator.</li> <li>- Register of the used chemical <i>pesticides*</i></li> </ul> <u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the requirements of the indicator are applied on





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<p>dams and lakes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>* is forbidden if heavy rainfalls are expected, if the weather is wet and windy, over frozen, covered with snow or dry from drought land;</li> <li>- Saplings treated with chemicals shall not be put into water streams, lakes, marshes, water sources, karst springs or other <i>water bodies</i>*;</li> <li>- Buffer zones are arranged around the habitats of rare and <i>threatened</i>* species, rare plant communities, riparian sites and <i>wetlands</i>*. In these buffer zones chemical <i>pesticides</i>* are not applied.</li> </ul>	<p>the field.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware and applies the norms for usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.9*</b> At least 2 weeks before the usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>* that may have negative impact over people, domestic and farm animals (incl. bees), products and activities (for instance if the usage is planned to be close to large unfenced areas, bee hives, meadows, arable land, etc.) the relevant communities and local interested parties are being informed (for instance farmers, beekeepers, herb-gatherers, mushroom-gatherers, tourist associations, etc.) for the chemical <i>pesticides</i>* that will be used, the area that is going to be treated and the potential negative impacts.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documented <i>procedure</i>* for informing the communities and local interested parties in case of usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>*.</li> <li>- Evidence that the <i>local communities</i>* and interested parties were informed before the usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>*.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give information if the personnel is aware and applies the <i>procedure</i>* for informing the local municipalities and interested parties before the usage of chemical <i>pesticides</i>*.</li> <li>- With the municipalities and local interested parties.</li> </ul>

**Criterion\* 10.8:** The *Organization*\* shall minimize, monitor and strictly control the use of *biological control agents*\* in accordance with *internationally accepted scientific protocols*\*. When biological control agents\* are used, The *Organization*\* shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to *environmental values*\*.



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Indicators*	Verifiers*:
<p><b>Indicator 10.8.1*</b> The use of <i>biological control agents*</i> is minimized, monitored* and strictly controlled. <i>Biological control agents*</i> are used only in cases of scientifically proven necessity and in accordance with the national legislation.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procedure for usage of <i>biological control agents*</i> that includes instructions for diminishing the usage and the methods for control and monitoring.</li> <li>- Register of the used <i>biological control agents*</i>.</li> <li>- Motivation for the usage of <i>biological control agents*</i></li> <li>- Evidence for implemented monitoring and control in the cases when <i>biological control agents*</i> were used.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware with the requirements for control and monitoring of the <i>biological control agents*</i>.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.8.2</b> The use of <i>biological control agents*</i> is recorded by keeping a register with information about the type, quantity, period, location and reason for use.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Register of the used <i>biological control agents*</i>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware with the requirement for keeping a register of the <i>biological control agents*</i>.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.8.3</b> Measures for prevention and mitigation of negative impacts over the <i>environmental values*</i> that may be caused by the usage of <i>biological control agents*</i> are being documented. In cases of damage caused to the <i>environmental values*</i> <i>restoration*</i> measures are applied.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme for the usage of <i>biological control agents*</i>.</li> <li>- HCVF* Report – to check up if <i>biological control agents*</i> were used in HCVF*.</li> <li>- Documented activities of applying measures for prevention and mitigation of negative impacts by the usage of biological control agents* over the <i>environmental values*</i>. Documented <i>restoration*</i> measures in the cases of caused damage.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware with the requirements for applying measures for prevention and mitigation of the negative impacts from <i>biological control agents*</i> over the <i>environmental values*</i>. Give information if in the cases of caused damage <i>restoration*</i> measures were applied.</p>



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**Criterion\* 10.9:** The *Organization\** shall assess *risk\** and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from *natural hazards\** proportionate to *scale\**, *intensity\**, and *risk\**.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<p><b>Indicator 10.9.1</b> There is available risk assessment regarding the type, frequency and level of impact from <i>natural hazards*</i> and <i>natural disturbances*</i> that potentially may occur on the territory of the <i>Management Unit*</i> (for instance floods, strong winds, avalanches, fires, landslides, etc.) and the possible negative impacts over the infrastructure, forest resources and communities. When preparing the assessment the following documents to be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plan for management of the risk from floods</li> <li>- Plans for fire prevention and fire combating</li> <li>- National program for prevention and limitation of landslides on the Territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, erosion and abrasion at the Black Sea coast and the Danube River banks.</li> <li>- National program for protection in cases of disaster and annual plans related to the program.</li> <li>- Operational documents on a district level</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documented risk assessment regarding the the type, frequency and level of impact from <i>natural hazards*</i> and <i>natural disturbances*</i> that potentially may occur on the territory of the <i>Management Unit*</i> (for instance floods, strong winds, avalanches, fires, landslides, etc.)</li> <li>- Forest management plan</li> </ul> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware of the <i>risk*</i> from <i>natural hazards*</i> and <i>natural disturbances*</i> that may happen on the territory of the <i>Management Unit*</i> and the possible negative impacts.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.9.2</b> Measures are planned and applied for diminishing the expected negative impacts from possible <i>natural hazards*</i> and <i>natural disturbances*</i>.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentation for planned and applied measures for diminishing of the expected negative impacts from the potential <i>natural hazards*</i> and <i>natural disturbances*</i>.</li> <li>- Forest management plan</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the planned measures for diminishing of the expected negative impacts are applied.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware and applies the</p>



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	planned measures for diminishing of the expected negative impacts.
<b>Indicator 10.9.3*</b> An assessment is made for the risk of increasing frequency, coverage and level of impact from <i>natural hazards*</i> that are resulting from the forest management activities.	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u> An assessment of the <i>risk*</i> from the management activities regarding the stability on <i>natural hazards*</i>. The assessment must include the typical for the <i>Management Unit* natural hazards*</i>: floods, avalanches, fires, etc.</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if on the field the applied forest management activities have diminished the stability of the forest regarding <i>natural disturbances*</i> and if they have affected the <i>risk*</i> from growth of the frequency, coverage and level of impact of the <i>natural hazards*</i>.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware with the negative impacts from the management activities regarding the stability of the forest and the <i>risk*</i> from growth of the frequency, coverage and level of impact of the <i>natural hazards*</i>.</p>
<b>Indicator 10.9.4*</b> The forest management activities are adapted and / or measures are developed and applied for diminishing of the identified <i>risks*</i> .	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment of the risk from the implemented forest management activities regarding the stability of the forest towards <i>natural hazards*</i> and regarding the growth of the frequency, coverage and level of impact from <i>natural hazards*</i> resulting from forest management activities.</li> <li>- Developed measures for change of the applied practices in case of negative assessment.</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if measures are applied for diminishing the risk from negative impacts from <i>natural hazards*</i> resulting from the forest management activities.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware with the planned measures for diminishing the risk of negative impacts from <i>natural hazards*</i></p>



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	resulting from forest management activities.
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**Criterion\* 10.10:** The Organization\* shall manage infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture so that water resources and soils are protected, and disturbance of and damage to rare and *threatened\** species, *habitats\**, *ecosystems\** and *landscape values\** are prevented, mitigated and/or repaired.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<p><b>Indicator 10.10.1*</b></p> <p>Planning, development, maintenance and exploitation of infrastructure on the territory of the Management Unit* ensures the <i>protection*</i> of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>ecosystem functions*</i> of forests</li> <li>- <i>biological diversity*</i></li> <li>- water resources and <i>water bodies*</i></li> <li>- soils</li> <li>- <i>landscape values*</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Management plan*</i> (check up to what extent the documents include preventive measures regarding the indicator);</li> <li>- Technical projects for development of certain infrastructure;</li> <li>- Environmental assessments in conformity with the legislation;</li> <li>- Assessments for the impact from small infrastructure (assessments that are not obligatory according to the national legislation).</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up if the applied measures and actions fulfil the requirements of the indicator on the field – is there erosion, mechanical damage on the trees, etc.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware with the measures and actions related to the requirements of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.10.2 *</b> The following norms are observed in the development, maintenance and usage of forest roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new roads are planned in advance over topographic maps that show the water courses;</li> <li>- roads are planned in a way that allows minimum changes of the terrain;</li> <li>- where possible roads are set on natural terraces, ridges and horizontal /gentle slopes;</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plans</li> <li>- Plans for forest roads</li> <li>- Forest maps</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> The auditor checks if the forest roads meets the requirements of the indicator.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building of roads on steep and narrow valleys where danger of landslides exists, where the terrain is unstable or where natural drainage channels or water courses exist, shall be set to minimum;</li> <li>- roads shall not be made through ecologically vulnerable territories;</li> <li>- embankments and trenches shall be stabilized in order to avoid erosion processes;</li> <li>- to minimize erosion drainage systems and culverts are planned.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware and applies the requirements of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.10.3*</b> The following norms are observed during the implementation of the forest management activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- techniques and technologies are used that damage the roads, plant and soil coverage at a minimum level;</li> <li>- in logging sites and terrains with slope angle bigger than 25° the transportation of wood is done only by animal force or pipe ropeways. The usage of tractor winches is acceptable if they are stationed in neighbouring terrains;</li> <li>- transportation of wood is not allowed on forest or automobile roads of 4<sup>th</sup> category and on tractor or cart forest roads if the cases of waterlogged soils (due to heavy rainfall, snowmelt, etc.);</li> <li>- after finishing of the logging the tractor or cart roads on which erosion processes can develop are being rehabilitated and/or measures for avoidance of erosion are applied (piles of branches, hurdles, cross ditches, etc. are set.)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plans</li> <li>- Tree-marking documentation</li> <li>- Technological plans</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> The auditor checks if the requirements of the indicator are observed.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware and applies the requirements of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.10.4*</b> Negative impacts on water resources, soils, rare and endangered species, <i>habitats*</i>, <i>ecosystems*</i> and <i>landscape*</i>, due to the development, maintenance and operation of infrastructure are avoided or mitigated, and the affected <i>environmental values*</i> are <i>restored*</i> in a <i>timely manner*</i>. In cases of identified negative impacts, forest management activities change so as to avoid future damages.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <p>Plans, projects and programs with compensatory measures and activities for elimination of the negative impacts over <i>biological diversity*</i>, <i>environmental and landscape values*</i>.</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> Check up for the implementation of preventive,</p>



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	<p>compensatory and <i>protection</i>* measures (restoration of habitats and water courses, prevention of erosion, etc.)</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Gives information if the staff is familiar with and implements the measures and actions related to the limitation of negative impacts and <i>restoration</i>* of the damaged values.</p>
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**Criterion\* 10.11:** The *Organization*\* shall manage activities associated with harvesting and extraction of timber and *non-timber forest products*\* so that *environmental values*\* are conserved, merchantable waste is reduced, and damage to other products and services is avoided.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<p><b>Indicator 10.11.1*</b> Extraction and export of timber and <i>non-timber forest products</i>* is done in a way that protects <i>environmental values</i>* identified according to <i>Criterion</i>* 6.1</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forest management plan</li> <li>- Technological plans</li> <li>- HCVF report</li> <li>- Other relevant documents</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> The auditor checks for damages on the field.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel is aware of the identified <i>environmental values</i>* and the measures for their <i>protection</i>*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.11.2*</b> Logging and cutting out of wood is carried out in a manner ensuring optimal economic use of wood resources and reduction of waste wood with commercial value.</p>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <p>Trainings / instructions of the personnel and forest <i>workers</i>* for optimal use of the wood and reduction of waste wood with commercial value</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> On the field the auditor checks for damages on trees that are left after the logging, unused wood with commercial value, etc.</p>



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	<p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel knows the nd applies the requirements for optimal usage of the wood and <i>protection*</i> of other forest resources.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.11.3</b> Logged wood is extracted from clearings and transported from the temporary storage in a <i>timely manner*</i> to avoid reducing its value.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Logging permit</li> <li>- Transport documentation</li> <li>- Other relevant documents</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> The auditor checks if on the field were left logged trees that were not extracted or transported in a <i>timely manner*</i>.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel and forest <i>workers*</i> are aware and apply the requiremments of the indicator.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.11.4*</b> In the implementation of thinnings and regeneration fellings in the forest are kept standing and lying <i>deadwood*</i> and dying trees that are preferably with a dimaeter over 22 cm. These are not less than 10% of the <i>growing stock of the stand*</i> before the logging. If 10% of the stock are not available, measures are implemented to guarantee the accumulation of the necessary amount of <i>dead wood*</i> in future.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <p>Forest management plan Tree-marking documentation Other relevant documents – orders, <i>procedures*</i>, instructions.</p> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> On the field the auditor checks how much dead wood and dying trees are left after the logging.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel and forest <i>workers*</i> are aware and apply the requiremments of the indicator for the <i>dead wood*</i>.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.11.5*</b> Felling and transportation of wood are planned and conducted in a way as to reduce damage on the remaining standing trees and undergrowth. If necessary measures are applied for individual or group <i>protection*</i> of remaining standing trees.</p>	<p><u>Documentray check-up:</u></p> <p>Forest management plan Technological plans Other relevant documents – orders, <i>procedures*</i>, instructions.</p>





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	<p><u>Field check-up:</u> On the field the auditor checks if there is damage on the trees that are left after the logging and if measures for <i>protection*</i> are applied.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel and forest <i>workers*</i> are aware and apply the requirements of the indicator.</p>
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**Criterion\* 10.12:** The *Organization\** shall dispose of *waste materials\** in an environmentally appropriate manner.

<b>Indicators*</b>	<b>Verifiers*:</b>
<p><b>Indicator 10.12.1*</b> The <i>Organization*</i> applies a system of waste management on its territory, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rules for collection of <i>waste*</i> in appropriate places (including for the sites for logging).</li> <li>- Measures to prevent illegal disposal and <i>waste*</i> disposal in forests, including <i>waste*</i> from visitors.</li> <li>- Prohibition of disposal of <i>waste*</i> into <i>water bodies*</i> for burial in the ground or for direct combustion;</li> <li>- Rules for transport, storage or disposal in an environmentally sound and legal way of chemicals, fuels, oils, containers, liquid and solid <i>waste*</i>.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plan for <i>waste*</i> management</li> <li>- Other relevant documents – procedures, orders, instructions</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> On the field the auditor checks if there is <i>waste*</i> in the forest and logging sites.</p> <p><u>Interviews:</u> Give information if the personnel and forest <i>workers*</i> know the rules for <i>waste*</i> management</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.12.2*</b> During forestry work on the territory of the <i>Management Unit*</i> are applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rules for the placement of tanks and fuel depots in a way that does not allow leaks into <i>water bodies*</i> or over the soil due to damage, defects or refueling;</li> <li>- Measures to prevent oil and fuel leaks from forestry and transport equipment and the use of means to absorb fuel lubricants in case of spills;</li> <li>- Rules for usage of biodegradable oil for lubrication of the chains of</li> </ul>	<p><u>Documentary check-up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plan for management of fuels and oils</li> <li>- Technological plans</li> <li>- Other relevant documents – procedures, orders, instructions</li> </ul> <p><u>Field check-up:</u> On the field the auditor checks the placement of storages and observation of the rules for refueling and the availability of appropriate absorbents.</p>



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chainsaws as well as for usage of reservoirs that are secured against spills and appropriate means for absorption of oils and fuels on the places for refueling.

Interviews: Give information if the personnel is aware and applies the rules for work with fuels and oils and the *procedures\** for action in case of spills.