Attachment 1

The Draft FSC standard for Finland

Approved by the Board of the Finnish FSC Association at 17th February 2005

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1. PREFACE

1.1. Descriptive Statement of the FSC

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, non-profit organisation, whose goal is to encourage environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests through forest certification.

Certification is the process by which an independent organisation provides a guarantee that a product or service conforms to certain specified requirements. These independent organisations are the accredited certification bodies. The independence and quality of any FSC accredited certification body is in turn guaranteed by FSC.

Certification in the FSC standard is based on ten major FSC Principles and related Criteria. The aim of the FSC is that each country draws up a standard for forest management on the basis of general Principles and Criteria which are used in certification.

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1.2. Descriptive Statement of the Finnish FSC Working Group

Finnish FSC Working Group had its founding meeting on October 18, 2000. The purpose of the group was to develop FSC certification standards for Finland.

On June 15, 2001, Finnish FSC Association was founded as an registered association, to act as the official national FSC initiative in Finland. 10 members of the FSC working group joined the association. It was agreed that the ‘Finnish FSC Working Group’ would thereafter refer to the FSC Association. The old ‘FSC Working Group’ with 32 members was continued as the ‘Finnish FSC standards committee’ under the aegis of the FSC Association.

The Finnish FSC Working Group (Finnish FSC Association) has designed the indicators for the Forest Stewardship Council Principles and Criteria to suit the conditions in Finland, in short 'the Draft FSC Standard for Finland'. Sections dealing with verification list what kind of documents or other measures certifiers may employ in assessing how well the indicators have been achieved. The listed verification measures do not bind the certifiers and other verification measures may also be applied.

The FSC Standard does not seek to be a comprehensive guide to forest management. In addition to the Standard, recommendations issued by the Finnish Forestry Development Centre Tapio, or those of the member organizations of the international FSC can be applied.

The FSC certification is voluntary. For certification to take place, a forest owner or a group of forest owners ('group certification') need to apply for certification from a certifier accredited by the FSC. The certifier audits the forest before granting the certificate. Thereafter, the forest will be audited regularly. Forestry must comply with the FSC Standard before and after the certificate is granted. In group certification, the Standard applies to each individual forest owner and each candidate personally signs an agreement in which he or she commits to comply with the standard. The certification candidate pays the costs incurred by the audit to the certifier. Group certification can be used to lower the audit costs per hectare and various state subsidies provide financing for forest management and regeneration, and protection of high conservation value forests.

The Finnish FSC Association will analyse the need for revising the Draft FSC standard not later than 3 years after the endorsement of the standard. Comments from the certification holders, auditors and applicants of the FSC certification will have priority in the continuous development work..

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Purpose of the Standard

The Draft FSC standard for Finland is the locally applicable and workable version of the FSC Principles and Criteria, developed for the certification assessments in the Finnish territory. The standard is derived from the global FSC Principles and Criteria in accordance with the Finnish ecological, social and economic circumstances. It contributes to a fair, transparent and systematic certification process in Finland.

2.2. Scope of the Standard

The Draft FSC standard for Finland is aimed to be applied in all forest types occurring in Finland.

2.3. Background information on the standard setting process

The Finnish FSC Working Group started the standard setting procedure at October 2000. It has designed the indicators for the Forest Stewardship Council Principles and Criteria to suit the conditions in Finland, in short the 'Finnish FSC Standard'. The work of the Finnish FSC Working Group has been conducted openly and by consensus; the Working Group comprises all interested parties. The composition of the standard has taken into account current legislation, criteria, and forest management guidelines, as well as the FSC standards in the neighbouring regions.

3. STATUS OF THE STANDARD

3.1 Milestones of the standard setting process

Some of the key milestones of the Finnish FSC standard setting process are listed below:

Date	*Activity*
18th October 2000	Founding Meeting of the Finnish FSC Working Group at the House of Parliament
2nd July 2001	First Draft submitted for comments to the interest groups by email (500 recipients) hard copy (100 recipients) and to the web for 60 days
16th August 2001	First Draft (dated 2nd July 2001) submitted to international FSC for comments
14th February 2002	Subsequent, revised Draft (dated 14th February 2002) submitted to international FSC for endorsement
May 2004	Draft Standard submitted to international FSC for accreditation
February 2005	Draft Standard submitted to international FSC for accreditation The need for revision will be assessed not later than February 2008

3.2. Statement of the responsible parties

The Board members of the Finnish FSC Association support the Draft FSC standard for Finland in its current form, as well as all the Finnish members of the international FSC.

4. CONTEXT

4.1 General description of the geographical area covered by the standard[1]

Finland is the most highly forested country in Europe: forests cover 72 per cent of the land area. The total forest area is 22 million hectares, making it the largest in Europe after Sweden, which has 27 million hectares.

The impact of forests on the national economy and the whole of society has been the substantial in Finland. The development of Finland from an agrarian society into a prosperous, post-industrial country has largely been based on forestry and the forest industry. In the 1950s, the forest industry accounted for as much as 80 per cent of the Finnish export income. Today, about one quarter of Finland's export income still comes from the forest sector, especially from high-tech paper products.

The Finnish forest industry is considered competitive. It has grown rapidly to become an increasingly globalised sector. Many of the Finnish forest industry companies operating on the global market are among the leading companies in the world. More than half of their production is located outside Finland, especially in Central Europe.

In Finland, about two thirds of the forests are family owned. Due to the land ownership history, the holdings are small, averaging about 30 ha. Forestry activities, such as fellings and silvicultural measures, are applied in rather small lots, averaging 1-2 ha in size. The forests have provided employment, income and wood for many generations. The Finnish Government has been active in supporting and guiding private forestry. Since the 1950s, the forested area has increased, and the annual increment has risen from 55 million to 80 million cubic metres. The growing stock has steadily increased since the first national forest inventory in the 1920's.

Everybody has free access to all the forests, including privately owned ones, to enjoy outdoor recreational activities or, for example, to pick wild berries and edible mushrooms.

Since the 1980s three comprehensive surveys have been carried out on threatened plant and animal species in Finland. The last one was completed in 2000, and was based on the criteria of the World Conservation Union IUCN. The survey covered more than 15,000 of the 43,000 known species in Finland. The number of species classified as threatened was 1,505, of which 43 per cent live primarily in forests.

Forest species in Southern Finland are especially threatened for a number of reasons. Woodland pastures have almost completely disappeared because forest grazing is nowadays an extremely rare practice. Forest management has reduced the amount of decaying wood and the number of broadleaved trees, especially aspen. The forests are now younger than before, and forest fires, which are a part of the natural cycle of boreal forests, are nowadays rapidly brought under control.

Finnish forestry is based on the main indigenous tree species in boreal forests, Scots pine, Norway spruce and birch, which reach maturity in 60-120 years. During the rotation period the stands are subjected to 1-3 thinnings and, when the stand has reached maturity, it is regenerated by clear cutting or seed tree felling. Natural regeneration by seeding is used in about one third of the regenerated sites.

Clear cutting is used in about two-thirds of the regeneration fellings, the stand then being regenerated by planting or seeding. The clear cutting areas are usually very small, between one and two hectares, and retention trees are left to maintain the landscape and biodiversity. Seedlings of indigenous tree species are used in planting almost without exception.

[1] Source: Biodiversity in Finnish Forests. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of the Environment. 2003.

4.2 List of members of the Working Committee that prepared the standard

The Working Committee was chaired by Dr Tari Haahtela, or in his absence by the vice-chairman Dr Pasi Miettinen, and it consisted of following experts:

Economic Chamber:
Mr Mikko Jalas (private forest owner)
Mr Seppo Huurinainen (private forest owner)

Ecological Chamber:
Mr Juho Pennanen (Finnish Association for Nature Conservation)
Mr Niklas Hagelberg (WWF)

Social Chamber:
Ms Maili Mustonen (Consumers - a Finnish consumers' organization)
Mr Esa Maa (Association of Finnish Artists)

4.3 List of key consultants and advisors who assisted the committee

Following experts, who might not be committed to the FSC Principles and Criteria, were consulted during the standard setting process with some technical issues related to sustainable forest management:

1) Markus Lassheikki	Tapio (Forestry Development Centre Tapio)
2) Markku Meriluoto	Tapio (Forestry Development Centre Tapio)
3) Jouko Kostamo	Tapio (Forestry Development Centre Tapio)
4) Annikka Selander	Kustens skogscentral (Regional Forest Centre)
5) Kai Karlsson	Metsämannut Oy (Metsäliitto wood purchasing company)
6) Satu Holm	Metsämannut Oy (Metsäliitto wood purchasing company)
7) Matti Hakkarainen	Metsämannut Oy (Metsäliitto wood purchasing company)
8) Jarmo Ylinen	Metsäliitto International
9) Leena Hömmö	Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)
10) Hannu Kukkonen	Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)
11) Miikka Kajanus	Silvia Oy (Forest management planning company)
12) Timo Kuuluvainen	Helsingin Yliopisto (University of Helsinki)
13) Jari Kouki	Joensuun Yliopisto (University of Joensuu)
14) Egbert Beuker	Metsäntutkimuslaitos (The Finnish forest research Institute)
15) Kåre Pihlström	Fiskars (Large forest owner)
16) Peter Tigerstedt	Mustila Arboretum
17) Pirkko Velling	Metsäntutkimuslaitos (The Finnish forest research Institute)
18) Jouni Mikola	Metsäntutkimuslaitos (The Finnish forest research Institute)

5. THE BODY OF THE DRAFT FSC STANDARD FOR FINLAND

PRINCIPLE #1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES

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

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

1.1.1. Absence of known violations of law by the forest management.

Verification: Forestry Centre, Regional Environment Centre registers.

1.1.2. Forest owner and forest managers are aware of existing forestry legislation

Verification: The forest management has copies of the Forest Act (1997), Nature Protection Act (1996) and direct access to the Act on the Funding of Sustainable Forest Management (1996).

1.1.3. The forest management undertakes specific corrective actions when incidences of non-compliance are identified

Verification: Records of corrective actions

1.2 All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.

1.2.1. Taxes and fees related to forestry and forest use, such as
a) forest management fee,
b) income tax,
c) VAT related to forestry, and
d) employment payments, have been paid.

Verification: Bookkeeping of the holding.

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

1.3.1. The forest management is aware of the legal and administrative obligations with respect to international treaties and conventions signed by Finland.

Verification: Forest management has copies of those international agreements that are relevant, relative to the nature and scale of forestry operations.

1.3.2. The forest management undertakes specific corrective actions when incidences of non-compliance are identified

Verification: Records of corrective actions

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

1.4.1. If there appears to be a conflict between legislation and fulfilling the certification standard due to amendments in legislation, the certifier shall decide the significance and their effect on certification, after hearing the certification candidate and the FSC Association in Finland.

Verification: Certifier's decision in writing, including the statements by the certification candidate and the FSC Association in Finland.

1.4.2. Situations in which conflict can not be solved using the provisions of the current indicators have to be referred to the FSC Accreditation Business Unit

Verification: Appropriate documentation, and records of communication with FSC

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

1.5.1. The activities conducted in forest either by the forest management or on its request shall be legal.

Verification: There are no such violations of the law, which the certification candidate could have prevented.

1.5.2. The certification candidates shall notify the authorities of any knowledge of illegal activities in their forest.

Verification: There are no such violations of the law, which the certification candidate could have prevented.

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

1.6.1 The forest owner/manager shall make a commitment to adhere to the FSC Standard by writing such statement in

a) the forest management plan,
b) the policies of forest operations or
c) other document related to the management of the forest

Verification: Interviews, management plan, Statement of Commitment.

1.6.2. If some other party acts for the certification candidate within the application scope of the standard, the candidate shall supervise that the activities are in accordance with the standard.

Verification: Interviews, management plan.

1.6.3. The candidate shall require that forest workers are given spoken or written instructions necessary for good quality of work.

Verification: Interviews, working instructions

1.6.4. If the area set aside for certification no longer complies with the standard and the certificate is given up, new certification shall not be possible without specific evidence demonstrating a renewed commitment to the FSC principles.

Verification: Interviews, certification contract, management plan.

1.6.5 The areas set aside for protection, in order to fulfil the standard, shall be kept under protection as long as the certificate is effective.

Verification: Interviews, certification contract, management plan.

PRINCIPLE #2: TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

2.1.1. Ownership of the land by the applicant is
a) demonstrated or
b) the forest management has obtained the legal right to manage the lands and utilize the forest resources

Verification: Certificate of registration of title, extract from land register, forest management contract, abstract of the register of mortgages, or corresponding documents.

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

2.2.1 The Manager of the state forest shall be aware of the customary tenure or resource use rights in the Sámi homeland

Verification: Documentation, including oral evidence of immemorial land use and control. Maps showing areas of customary rights

2.2.2. In the Sámi homeland:

a) The Sámi Parliament, the concerned Skolt Village assembly as well as the concerned reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units retain control over the forest operations or

b) they have given free and informed consent (= written approval) to the state forest manager's forest operations that affects their rights or resources, as a result of the participatory forest management planning

Verification: Documents of the forest operations, written approval, documents of the participatory forest management planning. Interviews.

Note: It not in the interest of the Sámi to set requirements to the private forestry in the Sámi homeland, because it is of very small scale and it has not caused threat to the indigenous culture or livelihoods. In addition, the Reindeer Herding Act separates state lands from the private lands.

2.2.3. State forest manager shall not sell out land in the Sámi homeland for a third party

Verification: Interviews, field inspection, documents

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

2.3.1. The forest management and the other disputants
a) agree to and
b) have implemented (when required) a process to address disputes

Verification: Description of the mutually agreed process to address disputes. Interviews.

2.3.2. The forest management maintains a record of disputes and the status of their resolution

Verification: A register of disputes and documentation of steps taken to resolve the dispute

2.3.3. The forest management is not involved in outstanding (=majority of neighbours) disputes involving a significant number of interests (combination of social; environmental and economical interests)

Verification: Description of disputes and number of on-going disputes

PRINCIPLE #3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

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

3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

3.1.1. The forest management plans shall be designed separately to each reindeer herding association in the Sámi homeland.

Verification: Forest management plans, interviews

3.1.2. The Manager of the state forest shall produce documents demonstrating that in the Sámi homeland, Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly (regarding the forest management in the Skolt region), and the concerned reindeer herding associations and their sub-units have controlled the forest management planning through participatory forest management planning procedure. The documents shall indicate:

a) A description of the roles and responsibilities of the parties in the forest management planning;
b) The interests of the parties;
c) A description of appropriate decision-making authorities for all parties;
d) Conditions under which the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly, the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units have delegated the control on forest management on their lands to other agencies, and under which it might be withdrawn

Verification: The Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly, the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units indicate that they are satisfied that forest management has incorporated their interests and

concerns within the management plan.

3.1.3. Neither the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly (regarding the forest management in the Skolt region), and the concerned reindeer herding associations and their sub-units have questioned the applied forest management practises

Verification: Interviews indicate that the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units are satisfied with the forest management's forest management practises.

3.1.4. A dispute resolution mechanism for addressing and resolving grievances has been jointly developed with the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly, the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units and is being fairly implemented

Verification: Interviews indicating the knowledge of the dispute resolution mechanisms within the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units. Documents.

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

3.2.1. Forest management of the state lands shall support reindeer herding in the long run and in all conditions

Verification: Interviews of the Sámi reindeer herders

3.2.2. In the Sámi homeland, Manager of the state forest undertakes an assessment together with the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units on the impact of the forestry activities to

a) the indigenous livelihoods
b) natural resources
b) tenure rights in the affected sites

Verification: Baseline data on numbers of land users and revenues generated from traditional land use. Documentation of the tenure rights.

3.2.3. In the Sámi homeland, Manager of the state forest shall conduct forest management measures so that they support traditional livelihoods and culture.

Verification: The Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units indicate that the forest management has not threatened or diminished their resources or tenure rights

3.2.4. In the Sámi homeland,

a) Natural Resource Plans
b) Landscape Ecological Plans
c) Operational plans of the Manager of the state forest shall be endorsed through participatory planning procedure by the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units prior to enforcement.

Note: The Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units are encouraged to recommend the withdrawal of the FSC certificate, if they consider the operations to

have an adverse impact to their livelihoods or to their culture

Verification: Natural Resource Plans; Landscape Ecological Plans and Operational plans with appropriate signatures

3.2.5. The manager of the state forests shall provide a lawyer or other expert fully trusted by the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units, for assisting them when their written approval is requested for any document related to the Sámi culture or livelihoods

Verification: Documents indicating the appointment of the lawyer, interviews of the affected Sámi people

3.3 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.

3.3.1. The Manager of the state forest shall support, financially or technically, the efforts of the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units to conduct land use studies and mapping of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance in the Sámi homeland

Verification: Evidence of the support to conduct land use studies and mapping. Maps.

3.3.2. In the Sámi homeland, the manager of state forests shall protect the sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance, both recently identified and those earlier mapped. These sites include, at least:

a) forests with beard lichen,
b) lichen heaths;
c) separation corral systems, earmarking corral systems, pasture fences, feeding corrals
d) reindeer herding huts with their immediate surroundings
e) the routes for moving reindeer including the most important winter and spring grazing sites
f) sites important to the Sámi culture e.g. religious sites, old camping sites, old hunting and fishing sites and
g) current hunting and fishing areas

Verification: The sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance are shown in the Forest management plans. Local Sámi people confirm that the forest management has not caused damage to these sites.

3.3.3. The Manager of the state forests shall not allow damping down the ground lichen by the forest machinery, when the snow is not thick enough to protect the ground.

Verification: field investigations, interviews.

3.4 Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.

3.4.1. The Manager of the state forest shall enter into an agreement with the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units on the compensations paid for utilizing the traditional Sámi knowledge:

a) in the forest management,
b) in the forest management planning and

c) in the use of forest species, in particular non-timber forest products

Verification: Evidence of satisfaction of the affected Sámi people with the application of the agreement. Knowledge among the Sámi people that such agreement exists. Evidence that compensation has been delivered.

3.4.2. The agreement of compensation has to be reached before the commencement of forestry operations

Verification: Interviews, agreement of compensation

PRINCIPLE #4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS

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

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

4.1.1 The forest management shall seek information about forestry services offered by local residents or entrepreneurs and strives to use competitive and local services of high quality.

Verification: Evidence of opportunities provided to workers and contractors from local communities: Newspaper ads, use of local employment services etc. Written policy regarding local hiring, including the Sámi people. Interviews with employee representatives. Interviews with the local people.

4.1.2 Remuneration, including wages and benefits (such as health, retirement provisions and life-long education) for forest workers is comparable with prevailing regional standards in the industry

Verification: Level of workers satisfaction. Contracts, receipts.

4.1.3. The forest management treats employees in a fair and equitable manner by adhering to labour, employment, workplace and human rights standards

Verification: Level of workers satisfaction. Inspections of conditions at remote logging sites. Records of possible disputes and grievances and efforts to resolve these disputes

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

4.2.1. The forest management, the contractors and the forest workers shall be familiar with the regulations and legislation for the health and safety of the forest work.

Verification: Awareness of the forest management and the employees indicated by interviews. Availability of the regulations. Absence of accidents and illnesses caused by the negligence of the regulations.

4.2.2. The forest management, the contractors and the forest workers shall work in compliance with the regulations and legislation for the health and safety of the forest work.

Verification: Field inspection. Absence of accidents and illnesses caused by the negligence of the regulations.

4.2.3. Only such contractors shall be used in forest work who have paid statutory fees and taxes and adhere to

a) the legislation
b) collective labour agreements,
c) occupational safety and health, and
d) provisions pertaining to workers' rights in their employee relations.

Verification: Employment and other contracts, work instructions, interviews, examination of safety and other equipment.

4.2.4. Workers shall have the personal safety devices required, as determined by an evaluation of the risks.

Verification: Working instructions, interviews, examination of safety and other equipment, assessment of occupational health risks.

4.2.5. If work is done by the forest owners or on a voluntary basis or similar, the same level of occupational safety as in other employment must be maintained.

Verification: Working instructions, interviews, examination of safety and other equipment, assessment of occupational health risks.

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

4.3.1. Workers shall be allowed to form and join a trade union of their choice without fear of intimidation or reprisal

Verification: Interviews with workers and their organisations. Collective agreements. Records of labour inspectorate.

4.3.2. In case trade unions organise collective bargaining with the forest management, it shall be carried out in good faith and with best efforts to come to an agreement

Verification: Interviews with workers and their organisations. Collective agreements. Records of labour inspectorate.

4.3.3. Workers shall be allowed to form and join interest groups of their choice without fear of intimidation or reprisal

Verification: Interviews with workers and their organisations. Records of participation to roundtables, committees, hearings etc.

4.3.4. Interest groups of the workers shall be allowed to participate decision making

Verification: Interviews with workers and their organisations. Records of participation to roundtables, committees, hearings etc.

4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups directly affected by management operations.

4.4.1 The social impact shall be evaluated in relation to forest management planning.

Verification: Report on the evaluation of the social impact. Interviews.

4.4.2. (a) Municipalities with at least 1,000 hectares of forest land and (b) forest owners with at least 10,000 hectares of forest land shall compose a landscape ecological plan (LEP, or equivalent land use plan) according to the participatory planning principles established by the Forest and Park Service (state enterprise managing public lands).

Verification: Landscape Ecological Plan, documented participatory methods and their results, interviews.

4.4.3.The LEP shall take into consideration the results of social impact evaluations.

Verification: Landscape Ecological Plan, social impact evaluations, interviews.

4.4.4. Forest owners with less than 10 000 ha shall take into account the results of social impact evaluations in their forest management plan

Verification: Management plan, social impact evaluation, interviews of stakeholders.

4.4.5. Forest owners with less than 10 000 ha shall negotiate with the people and groups directly affected by management operations.

Verification: Records of the negotiations, interviews of stakeholders.

4.4.6. The forest management plan shall include the areas designated for:

a) hiking and outdoor activities (VR areas in municipal plans),
b) nearby areas for recreation (VL areas),
c) areas mainly used in agriculture and forestry where there is a need for guided activities (MU areas),
d) areas with high ecological values (MYareas),
e) other areas important for outdoor activities, e.g. hiking routes, the surroundings of recreational routes, and areas of scenic importance.

Verification: Management plan, interviews.

4.4.7. Forest management planning of the areas listed at the Indicator 4.4.6. shall be designed with participatory planning at the municipal and state lands

Verification: Documents describing the participatory planning procedures, including the roles of the participants, field inspection, interviews.

4.4.8. The forest areas listed at the Indicator 4.4.6. shall be managed at uneven age structure at the municipal and state lands (These areas can be included to the 10 % quota described at 6.3.3.).

Verification: Management plan, field inspection, interviews.

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

4.5.1. Forest management takes proactive steps to prevent loss or damage caused by forest operations

Verification: Field inspections, interviews

4.5.2. In case of disputes, affected parties shall be free to seek legal compensation.

Verification: Description of procedures used when conflicts occur.

4.5.3. The handling and resolution of disputes shall be documented

Verification: Documents of disputes

4.5.4. The enterprise shall be covered by employer's liability insurance or private insurance

Verification: Insurance documents

4.5.5. Forest management shall regularly check that the enterprise is meeting its duty to safeguard the public and keeps records of checks.

Verification: Records of safeguard checks

PRINCIPLE #5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

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

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

5.1.1 The certification candidate shall set the economic targets of forest management in the management plan.

Verification: Forest Management Plan

5.1.2. Forest management shall have at its disposal adequate funding to carry out the planned management operations including responsible care and preservation of the forest.

Verification: Bookkeeping of the holding

5.1.2.1.As a part of the bookkeeping, all relevant business proceedings shall be documented in accounting statements.

Verification: Bookkeeping of the holding

5.1.3. The certificate candidates shall be aware of the opportunity to apply for a subsidy based
a) on the Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry (1094/1996), or
b) environmental and other subsidies as compensation for social and ecological measures conducted on their lands.

Verification: Interviews, documents describing subsidies available

5.1.4. In order to retain the productivity of forests, they shall be regenerated after final felling with tree species suitable for the habitat, in compliance with the Forest Act.

Verification: Bookkeeping of the holding, management plan, interview, field inspection.

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

5.2.1. The forest management shall seek the optimal value for forest products in the region

Verification:

a) Efforts to collect information about the potential buyers of timber, energy wood, and other forest products, and about the market conditions relating to them in the neighbouring area.
b) Application documents of forest improvements funds and other subsidies
c) Documentation on efforts made to determine quality and value of products prior to harvest
d) Product sorting at harvest operations
e) Records of sales by forest products, including energy wood, hunting lease contracts etc. and/or
f) Trend over time in value obtained per unit of product

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

5.3.1. All merchantable and marketable timber shall be utilized unless left on-site to provide structural diversity

Verification: Utilization levels observed at field inspections, guidelines for work. Evidence of by-product use (e.g. use of cutting residues as energy wood)

5.3.2. Harvesting and silvicultural operations shall be conducted in such a way as to reduce to acceptable levels the damage to the remaining stand, including non-merchantable trees.

Verification: Damage to residual trees as determined by field inspection. Directions provided to operators related to preventing damage. Training materials related to reducing damage. Appropriateness of harvesting and silvicultural equipment to site conditions.

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

5.4.1 Areas designated for multiple use shall be documented in the management plan and the use of these areas shall be taken into account in forestry operations.

Note: The multiple uses may include, for example, the collection of natural products, hunting, reindeer herding, and nature-based tourism.

Verification: Management plan, field inspections, interviews.

5.4.2 In areas designated for reindeer herding in particular (Reindeer Management Act 848/90), the areas shall be managed in a way that supports reindeer husbandry.

Verification: Management plan, field inspections, interviews, recordings of the meetings with the reindeer herders

5.4.2.1. The endorsement of the herding co-operatives and their sub-units in question must be acquired for the state forestry operations before implementation of the plans.

Verification: The endorsement, recordings of the meetings with the reindeer herders

5.4.2.2. Important pastures shall be confirmed in co-operation with herding co-operatives and their sub-units.

Verification: Management plan, field inspections, interviews, recordings of the meetings with the reindeer herders

5.4.3 In areas in which reindeer lichen (*Cladonia alpestris*) is gathered, harvesting shall take place during winter.

Verification: Management plan, field inspections, interviews

5.4.4 The use of forest roads shall not be restricted without reason

Note: Justified reasons could be e.g. damping of garbage to the forests, or irresponsible use of everyman's rights

Verification: Management plan, field inspections, interviews

5.4.5 The forest management shall provide hunters of moose and deer the right to use forest roads for transporting the quarry.

Note: The forest owner is expected to get reasonable compensation for providing the right to use forest roads for transporting the quarry.

Verification: Documents of the compensation. Interviews with the hunters. Field inspections.

5.4.6. The right to hunt moose and deer shall not be prohibited without justification.

Verification: Hunting right agreements. Interviews with the hunters.

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

5.5.1 In connection to forestry activities, suitable habitats for game animals shall be created according to the recommendations of the Forestry Development Centre Tapio.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection, interview.

5.5.2. Sites important for game management, such as Capercaillie leks and the boundary forests of the Black Grouse leks, shall

a) be documented in the management plan and
b) taken into consideration in forestry operations.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection, interview.

Note: The impact of forestry operations on watersheds and thereby also fisheries are discussed under the Principle 6

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

5.6.1 Harvest shall not exceed the long term productivity capacity of the forest.

Verification: Management plan, volume of harvest.

5.6.2 The management plan shall determine the long-term level of harvesting which will not be exceeded.

Verification: Management plan, volume of harvest.

PRINCIPLE #6: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

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

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

6.1.1. The environmental impact of forest operations shall be assessed
- a) at the forest property level,
- b) landscape level and
- c) around on-site processing facilities

Note: This assessment can be conducted by the forest owner. The procedure does not refer to the Act on the Environmental Impact Assessment (1994/468).

Verification: The results of the environmental impact assessment, interviews

6.1.2. The results of the environmental impact assessment shall be addressed at the forest management plan before conducting the operations.

Verification: Forest management plan. Time schedule of operations.

6.1.3. (a) Forest road network plans, (b) drainage renewals and (c) other operational plans affecting areas over 200 ha shall be submitted to the regional Environment Centre in order to assess the need for conducting the EIA procedure as defined in the Act on the Environmental Impact Assessment (1994/468).

Verification: Management plan, interviews at the regional Environment Centre.

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

6.2.1. During spring and early summer harvesting shall be limited in the valuable bird nesting habitats as described in the Annex 6.

Note: It is recommended the forest management negotiates with the local representative of the Birdlife Finland in order to gain site specific information of the conservation needs. In general terms, summer time fellings should be avoided.

Verification: Management plan, work plans, interviews, field inspection.

6.2.2. Prescribed burning shall be conducted in forest management units larger than 1000 hectares of commercial forest land according to the guidelines given at Annex 6 .

Verification: Management plan, work plans, field inspection.

6.2.3. If renewal drainage plans include endangered peatland habitats (as classified by the Finnish Peatland Society) which still contain characteristics of the original habitat type, they shall be restored to their natural state by, for instance, damming or filling the ditches.

Verification: Drainage plan, restoration plan, field inspection.

> 6.2.3.1. A restoration plan shall be included in the drainage plan if endangered peatland habitats exist in the target area.
>
> Verification: Drainage plan, restoration plan, field inspection.

6.2.4. Forests shall not be established in cultural landscapes, where the species composition still show special characteristics brought about by pasturing or mowing.

Verification: Forest Management Plan, Field inspection.

6.2.5. The forest owner shall comply with hunting and fishing regulations.

Verification: Interview revealing the forest management is aware of the regulations. Availability of the regulations.

6.2.6. The maintenance of viable populations of game and fish species shall not be threatened due to the activities of the forest management

Verification: Interviews, field inspection

6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:
a) Forest regeneration and succession.
b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.
c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.

6.3.1 Dead trees shall be preserved in harvesting operations as described in Annex 6.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.3.2 Retention trees shall be preserved in each harvesting operation as described in Annex 6.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.3.3 At least 10% of the forest land shall be permanently placed outside final felling operations as described in Annex 6. This quota may include the permanently protected areas defined at 6.4.1.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.3.4. Forest owners with more than 10,000 hectares of forests shall manage their high-altitude forests (more than 300 metres above sea level) as uneven-aged. These areas can be included to the 10 % quota described at 6.3.3.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.3.5. Spruce and pine swamps shall not be harvested,

a) if they are not drained, or
b) if there are only old, individual ditches that do not have a significant impact on the water balance.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.3.6. Fragmentation of forests shall be avoided according to the guidance given at Annex 6.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.3.7. Forest management shall ensure sufficient share of broadleaved tree species according to the guidelines given at Annex 6.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.3.8. Soil scarification shall not be conducted on

a) spruce and pine swamps nor
b) in paludified depressions on mineral soil, if these are undrained or if old, individual ditches do not have a significant effect on the water balance.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.3.9. Ploughing shall not be used as a soil scarification method.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.3.10. Large down logs and dead trees (DBH > 20 cm) shall be preserved intact in soil scarification.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.3.11.The adverse impacts of fertilization shall be minimized according to the guidelines given in Annex 6.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection

6.3.12. A buffer zone of at least 50 metres shall be left between the fertilised area and water courses (including small waters).

Verification: Management plan, field inspection

6.3.13. In drained areas, a non-fertilized buffer zone of at least 5 metres shall be left around the ditches.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection

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

6.4.1 At least 5% of the productive forest land shall be set aside for biodiversity protection as described in the Annex 6.

Verification: Management plan, map, field inspection

6.4.2. Forestry operations shall not be carried out on unproductive forest lands and wastelands in their natural state, as described in the Annex 6.

Verification: Management plan, map, field inspection

6.4.3 (a) Construction of forest roads, (b) delineation of harvest sites, and (c) renewal of drainage systems shall strive not to harm the protected sites under this criterion or other existing or planned (confirmed by the Council of State) protected areas.

Verification: Management plan, map, field inspection, interviews, statements by the involved parties.

6.4.3.1. (a) Municipalities with at least 1,000 hectares of forest land; (b) private forest owners with at least 10,000 hectares of forest land and (c) the Forest and Park Service (FPS) shall comply with the buffer zones defined at the Environmental Guidelines to Practical Forest Management published by the FPS

Verification: Management plan, map, field inspection, interviews, statements by the involved parties.

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

6.5.1 Erosion shall be avoided in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Forestry Development Centre Tapio.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.5.2 A sufficient (20 metres wide) untouched buffer zone shall be reserved adjacent to waters and small waters, as described in Annex 6.

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.5.3 Forest road construction shall comply with the recommendations of the Forestry Development Centre Tapio.

Note: Construction of forestry roads is also discussed in criterion 6.4

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

6.5.4 Undrained peat land, paludified sites, or even parts of such sites shall not be drained.

Note: Single ditch may be dug on undrained site, if it is necessary to lead water to its natural direction from previously drained areas.

Verification: Drainage plan, field inspection.

6.5.5. Drainage shall not occur in the protective zones of important ground water areas.

Verification: List of important ground water areas provided by Regional Environmental Center

6.5.6. Drainage shall not be conducted on sites where old or individual ditches do not have a significant effect on the water balance.

Verification: Drainage plan, field inspection.

6.5.7 Drainage system renewal shall take into account the environmental impacts assessment.

Verification: Drainage plan, environmental impacts assessment , field inspection.

6.5.8. In collecting harvest slash for wood energy, the recommendations of the Forestry Development Centre Tapio shall be adhered to.

Note: Large down logs in regenerated areas shall not be harvested (Indicator 6.3.)

Verification: Management plan, field inspection.

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

6.6.1. The forest management shall design an environmentally friendly plan for the pest management in case the productivity of the forest is threatened by pests.

Verification: Pest management plan, documentation of the use of biological control, field inspections.

6.6.1.1. In summer harvesting of spruce and pine, biological control methods shall be used in areas with a heavy risk of infection by *Heterobasidion annosum*.

Verification: Pest management plan, documentation of the use of biological control, field inspections.

6.6.2. Chemicals prohibited by

a) the FSC under Criterion 6.6.
b) the Act on Prevention of Fungal and Insect Damage in Forest 263/1991 and/or
c) the EU Commission decision C(2000) 4140 (permethrin)

shall not be used.

Verification: Interviews, field inspections.

6.6.3 Biological or mechanical methods shall be used for pest and weed management instead of chemical substances.

Verification: Pest management plan, documentation of the use of biological or mechanical control, field inspections.

6.6.3.1. Chemical treatment of pine seedlings against pine weevil is allowed in tree nurseries, using chemicals not prohibited in 6.6.2.

Verification: Pest management plan, documentation of the use of the chemical, field inspections.

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

6.7.1. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed in an appropriate manner at off-site location in accordance with the Waste Act (1072/1993) and Decree (1390/1993).

Verification: Bookkeeping of the holding, interview, field inspection.

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

6.8.1. Biological control agents shall only be used when other non-chemical pest control methods are, or can be expected to be ineffective.

Verification: Records of application of biological control agents. Pest management plan

6.8.2. The rationale for the use of biological control agents is documented and based on scientific evidence.

Verification: Records of application of biological control agents. Pest management plan. Documented rationale for the use of biological control agents.

6.8.3. If biological control agents are used, it shall be done in compliance with relevant provincial laws, national laws and internationally accepted protocols.

Verification: Records of application of biological control agents. Pest management plan.

6.8.4. The impacts and effectiveness of the use of biological control agents shall be monitored.

Verification: Monitoring records, field inspection.

6.8.5. Genetically modified organisms shall not be used

Verification: Bookkeeping of the holding, seedling and seed receipts, origin certificates, field inspection

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

6.9.1 The origin of seeds and seedlings used in cultivation shall be documented. Apart from the native species, use of Siberian larch (*Larix sibirica*) is allowed.

Verification: Bookkeeping of the holding, field inspection.

6.9.2 The total area of hybrid aspen plantations owned by the forest management shall not exceed 2 ha.

Note: The Finnish FSC Working Group shall revise this indicator at the end of 2006, using scientific information on the regeneration of hybrid aspen, on its cross pollination with the native aspen, and on the ecological effects.

Verification: Bookkeeping of the holding, field inspection.

6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:
a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and
b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and
c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.

Note: According to the FSC definition, a plantation lacks most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, which results from the human activities of intensive silvicultural treatments. When forests are managed according to the indicators under criteria 6.1.-6.9., forest structure will remain sufficiently natural, so that conversion of forests to plantations cannot occur. Plantations founded on non-forest sites are discussed under principle 10.

6.10.1 Forest conversion to non-forest land uses (except roads required for access) shall not occur on High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) areas.

Verification: Completed assessment of HCVFs as per Principle 9.. Maps showing locations of plantations and HCVFs. Field inspection of HCVFs. Rationale and impact of addition of roads.

6.10.2 The forest management does not convert forest to non-forest land (beyond that permitted in approved plans e.g. for roads, trails, landings).

Verification: No evidence of deforestation beyond that permitted in approved plans. Field inspections.

6.10.3 Management actions are undertaken to convert all non-forest areas (landings, gravel pits, etc.) back to forest once the non-forest use has ceased.

Verification: Documented plans related to re-establishment of forest cover in non-forest areas. Field inspection of re-establishment efforts.

PRINCIPLE #7: MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:

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

7.1.1 The certification candidate shall present a holding-specific forest management plan which is drawn up with a view to the owner's needs.

Verification: Forest management plan.

7.1.2. The forest management plan shall include the long-term:

a) economic,
b) social, and
c) ecological objectives of management, and
d) the means of achieving them

Verification: Forest management plan.

7.1.3 In addition, the forest management plan shall include:

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

Note: The methods can be chosen by using the guidelines provided by the Finnish Forestry Development Centre Tapio, unless otherwise required in the standard.

Verification: Forest management plan.

7.1.4.The maps of the forest management plan shall provide:

a) Description of the forest resource base including planned management activities and land ownership.
b) Protected sites;
c) important sites for reindeer husbandry forests with beard lichen and lichen heaths including the

immediate surroundings of separation corral, earmark corral system, control fence and feeding corrals including routes for moving reindeer, the surroundings of huts and the most important winter and spring grazing sites (map endorsed by the herding co-operatives and their sub-units);

d) in the Sámi homeland, religious sites important to the Sámi culture (map endorsed by the Sámi parliament);
e) known habitats of endangered species;
f) sites where harvesting should be avoided in the bird nesting season;
g) important sites for game;
h) herb-rich forests and forests on mineral soils to be restored to natural state;
i) managed cultural landscapes;
j) traditional monuments;
k) known Capercaillie leks ; and
l) trekking routes and recreational areas.

Verification: Forest management plan.

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

7.2.1 The forest management plan shall be revised at least every 10 years.

Verification: Forest management plan.

7.2.1.1. Important habitats and habitats of endangered species shall be entered in the plan immediately after their identification.

Verification: Forest management plan, field inspection.

7.2.2 Measures carried out shall be documented in the forest management plan.

Verification: Forest management plan, field inspection.

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

7.3.1. The certification candidate shall ensure that training and vocational skills of the forest workers are adequate in order to conduct the measures specified in the forest management plan.

Verification: Documentation of the training events, interviews

7.3.2. A supervisory system is in place to ensure consistent and reliable implementation of the plan. The level of supervision is relative to the difficulty and importance of their task.

Verification: Interviews of the supervisors and forest workers.

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

7.4.1. Management plans by state enterprises and municipalities shall be completely public and available after their official approval.

Verification: Availability of the forest management plan.

7.4.2. Private forest owners shall provide a summary of the management plan (including the primary elements of the management plan, listed in Criterion 7.1.) for interested parties, if requested to do so

Note: Forest owner shall have the right to ask for compensation for the actual costs of delivering the summary to the interested parties. Information concerning the quantity of timber and timber trade are not necessarily included in this summary.

Verification: The summary of the forest management plan

PRINCIPLE #8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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

Note: The internal documentation and evaluation of an enterprise shall be conducted in a fashion which allows the certification organization to assess compliance with these guidelines

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

8.1.1. The forest management has an internal monitoring plan, adjusted to the scale and intensity of the forest operations that outlines:

a) the parameters,
b) the frequency,
c) procedures,
d) rationale and
e) responsibility for monitoring

Verification: The monitoring plan, including continuously monitored parameters

8.1.2. Internal monitoring of forest management shall include and document following:

a) execution and deviations of the forest management plan
b) unexpected impacts on business management and operations
c) resulting adjustments to the forest management plan

Verification: Internal monitoring report

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

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

8.2.1. Yield of all forest products harvested shall be documented in the bookkeeping of the holding.

Verification: Bookkeeping, field inspection

8.2.2. Growth, regeneration, and forest condition shall be included in the forest management plan.

Verification: Forest management plan, field inspection

8.2.3. Forest management shall compile information on the monitoring of flora and fauna from
a) the Forestry Development Centre Tapio,
b) Forestry Centres,
c) the Finnish Forest Research Institute,
d) the Regional Environment Centres and/or
e) the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute.

Verification: Monitoring information on flora and fauna easily available

8.2.4. The owner shall be aware of the forest use opportunities provided by public right of access.

Verification: Interview, guidelines of everyman's rights easily available

8.2.5. (a) The times and (b) locations of fertilisation and pesticide use, as well as (c) the corresponding amounts, shall be documented in the forest management plan.

Verification: Bookkeeping, field inspection

8.2.6. Data shall be collected on the amount of preserved trees in harvesting and on the dead wood in the forest in connection with forest and operational planning at the forest holding level.

Verification: Forest management plan, field inspections

8.2.7. Management activities and their costs shall be documented so that (a) their implementation can be compared with the management plan, and (b) the activities conducted in each forest stand can be ascertained.

Verification: The bookkeeping of the holding, management plan.

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

8.3.1. Certified forest products shall be clearly marked and/or labelled

Verification: Field inspection

8.3.2. Accounting shall document
a) volume of sales;
b) site of production;
c) date of harvest; and
d) data on customer or other parties with whom the enterprise has legal relationship.

Verification: Timber contracts, bookkeeping of the holding, forest management plan.

8.3.3. The transfer of ownership shall be clearly defined regarding the goods covered by the certificate.

Verification: Timber contracts, bookkeeping of the holding, forest management plan.

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

8.4.1. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan as soon as such needs are observed

Verification: Management plan, monitoring results.

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

8.5.1. A summary of the results under 8.2. shall be made publicly available at the end of each planning period

Verification: The availability of monitoring results.

PRINCIPLE #9: MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

Note: The concept of High Conservation Value Forest is defined in Annex 5

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

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

9.1.1. The forest management shall perform an evaluation that results in the identification and mapping of high conservation attributes for the forest management unit, if such exist.

Note:. A landscape ecological plan defined under Criterion 7.1 will be drawn up in relation to the size of the forest property. Criteria 3.3., 4.4., 5.4., 5.5, 5.7., and 6.4. define how sites with social/cultural value shall be taken into account in the forest management. Forest and environmental authorities provide expert services in identification, location and protection of sites of high conservation value.

Verification: Documented results of the assessment. Management plan, maps, field inspection, interviews, statements by the involved parties.

9.1.2 The ecological values of (a) traditional and (b) cultural landscapes and (c) nationally important scenic landscapes shall be preserved in accordance with the guidelines delivered by the regional Environment Centres and/or the National Board of Antiquities

Verification: Chosen sites, results of consultation, Landscape Working Group report (Ministry of the Environment), management plan, guidelines provided by regional Environment Centres and the National Board of Antiquities

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

9.2.1. During the consultation process connected to the certification phase, the forest management and the certification body shall focus on the identified conservation attributes

Verification: Certification body.

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

9.3.1. The forest management demonstrates that the management strategies and measures selected to maintain or restore High Conservation Values are consistent with a precautionary approach, and with respect to each conservation attribute:

a) Will create conditions with a very high probability of securing the long-term maintenance or the restoration of the applicable conservation attribute;
b) Are being implemented; and,
c) Are proving effective or are adapted as required based on the results of monitoring.

Verification: Documentation of management strategies and those portions addressing the above points. Field observations. Monitoring data.

Note: Precautionary principle has been applied in the wording of Criterion 6.4, which only allows measures which aim to preserve conservation values or enhancing them. The management plan shall determine how the conservation values of socially significant sites defined in Criteria 3.3.1, 4.4.2, 5.4.2, 5.5.1 and 5.7.1 are addressed.

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

9.4.1. (a) Measures targeted at preserving or enhancing the attributes of high conservation value (Criteria 3.3., 4.4., 5.4., 5.5., 5.7. and 6.4) shall be documented in the forest management plan and (b) their impact shall be assessed annually.

Verification: Field inspection, interview, notes.

PRINCIPLE #10: PLANTATIONS

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

Note: In the Finnish context, plantations refer to the forest stands established on the abandoned agricultural lands or on abandoned peat production sites. They are very few in number, and usually covering only small areas. The aim of these plantations is to allow the site to develop towards the natural forest type, even if the process is envisaged to take several rotation periods.

10.1. The management objectives of the plantation, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives, shall be explicitly stated in the management plan, and clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the plan.

10.1.1. Objectives of the management, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives, shall be determined in accordance with Criterion 7.1.

Verification: Management plan.

10.1.2. The management objectives shall be clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the plan

Verification: Field inspection

10.2 The design and layout of plantations should promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods, shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands found within the natural landscape.

10.2.1 For important agricultural landscapes, a landscape level plan shall be created before planting activities take place.

Note: The planning shall take into account traditional and cultural landscapes, landscape change, areas important for environmental protection, and the adaptation of the lands to be afforested into the visual landscape.

Verification: Bookkeeping of the holding. Field inspection, landscape level plan, Forestry Centre.

10.2.2 Geometric and linear shapes shall be avoided in planting the trees. Planted seedlings shall be grouped avoiding artificial shapes.

Verification: Field inspection, landscape level plan, Forestry Centre.

10.2.3 Zones, at least 20 meters in width, adjacent to waters shall be restored to natural condition.

Verification: Field inspection, landscape level plan.

10.3 Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.

10.3.1. Monocultures are not established in areas of more than 3 hectares.

Note: Varying tree species shall be favoured taking into account their habitat requirements.

Verification: Field inspection, management plan.

10.3.2. Plantation areas are planned and managed in a manner that contributes to site level and landscape level diversity.

Verification: Field inspection, management plan.

10.4 The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological impacts.

10.4.1 In planting of fields, southern broad-leaved trees shall be favoured within their natural range.

Note: Broad-leaved trees shall be generally favoured and several tree species used, site conditions and pest risks permitting.

Verification: Field inspection, bookkeeping of the holding.

10.4.2 Seedling or seed material is of suitable, documented origin.

Verification: Field inspection, bookkeeping of the holding.

10.4.3. In case exotic species are planted, they shall be monitored to detect
- a) unusual mortality,
- b) disease,
- c) insect outbreaks and
- d) adverse ecological impacts.

Verification: Field inspection, bookkeeping of the holding.

10.5 A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation and to be determined in regional standards, shall be managed so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover.

10.5.1. Apart from exceptions mentioned under Criteria 6.9.1 and 6.9.2, only native species shall be used, aiming to restore the natural forest type.

Verification: Field inspection.

10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.

10.6.1 When planting agricultural lands adjacent to waters, leaching of nutrients shall be minimised by using buffer zones at least 20 metres wide (as defined under 6.5.2) which shall be left untreated.

Verification: Field inspection, work instructions.

10.6.2. In the buffer zone of the planted agricultural lands, mechanical weed control shall be used instead of chemical methods.

Verification: Field inspection, work instructions.

10.6.3. On areas to be planted after being released from peat production, a 15-30 cm thick peat layer shall be left.

Verification: Field inspection, work instructions.

10.6.4. If planting of areas released from agriculture or peat production requires drainage, the main and feeder drains shall be designed according to the general principles applied in forest drainage.

Verification: Field inspection, work instructions.

10.6.4.1. Ditches from the fields shall not be led directly to the waters.

Verification: Field inspection, work instructions.

10.6.5. Measures of water protection shall be (a) planned, (b) implemented, and (c) monitored according to the guidelines and regulations regarding renewal of drainage systems (Criterion 6.2).

Verification: Field inspection, work instructions.

10.7 Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimize outbreaks of pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions. Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Plantation management should make every effort to move away from chemical pesticides and fertilizers, including their use in nurseries. The use of chemicals is also covered in Criteria 6.6 and 6.7.

10.7.1 Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimize outbreaks of
a) pests,
b) diseases,
c) fire and
d) invasive plant introductions in plantations.

Note: Integrated pest management forms an essential part of the management plan for plantation areas, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Plantation management requires progressively less chemical pesticides and fertilizers, including their use in nurseries.

Verification: Forest management plan, monitoring reports, records of application rates and areas of pesticides and fertilizers, field inspections

10.7.2. Seedlings shall be acquired from nurseries with environmental quality systems.

Note: Nurseries used shall actively decrease use of fertilisers, chemical pest agents, and other chemicals, and use environmentally friendly methods of seedling production.

Verification: Bookkeeping of the holding, documents of nurseries used.

10.8 Appropriate to the scale and diversity of the operation, monitoring of plantations shall include regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site ecological and social impacts, (e.g. natural regeneration, effects on water resources and soil fertility, and impacts on local welfare and social well-being), in addition to those elements addressed in principles 8, 6 and 4. No species should be planted on a large scale until local trials and/or experience have shown that they are ecologically well-adapted to the site, are not invasive, and do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems. Special attention will be paid to social issues of land acquisition for plantations, especially the protection of local rights of ownership, use or access.

10.8.1 Plantation monitoring shall be consistent with the monitoring requirements described in Principle 8.

Note: Monitoring shall include regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site ecological and social and economic impacts (e.g. natural regeneration, invasiveness of exotic species, effects on water resources and soil fertility, and impacts on local welfare and social well-being),

Verification: Forest management plan; monitoring plan and monitoring records, site inspection reports, social and economic impact assessments.

10.9. Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion.

10.9.1. Natural forests converted after 1994 to forests with foreign tree species shall not be certified.

Note: Forests consisting of domestic tree species aren't considered intensively managed plantations, when the natural structures are allowed to be restored by managing the forest according to this standard.

Verification: Field inspection, bookkeeping of the holding, management plan.

Annex 1: Bibliography

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Rassi, P., Alanen, A., Kanerva, T. & Mannerkoski, I. (eds.) 2001: Suomen lajien uhanalaisuus 2000. - Ympäristöministeriö & Suomen ympäristökeskus, Helsinki. ISBN 951-37-3594-X.

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Suomen ympäristö 437, Luonto ja luonnonvarat, s. 284. ISBN 952-11-1598-X

Environmental Guidelines to Practical Forest Management, Forest and Park Service 2004

Annex 2: Explanations

1) Indicator 5.4.5
Forestry roads are not only used for transporting logs out of the forests. The roads are often used by berry and mushroom pickers, hikers, reindeer herdsmen, nature tourism entrepreneurs, hunters etc. Therefore the roads are an important part of the infrastructure of the area and they are a important part of the possibilities the forest offers. The roads may however be closed for some particular reasons as: log transports, season of frost damaged roads, rainy seasons or misuse of the roads (e.g. rally or garbage dumping)

2) Criterion 6.10 deals with forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses. The conversion of forests to non-forest land uses is small in Finland. Between the period 1951-1953 and the period 1987-1999 the Forestry land decreased from 26 315 00 hectare to 26 225 000 hectare. The decrease is to a great extent caused by conversion into urban or built areas. The decrease is balanced by the conversion of agricultural land into forestry land. Between 1995-1999 some 7000 hectares/ year was reforested. Reforestation is considered under principle 10.

Annex 3: List of relevant legislation

1.a) Relevant Legislation:
Metsälaki (12.12.1996/1093)
Laki kestävän metsätalouden rahoituksesta 12.12.1996/1094
Laki metsän hyönteis- ja sienituhojen torjunnasta (8.2.1991/263)
Laki metsänviljelyaineiston kaupasta (24.8.1979/684)
Puutavaranmittauslaki (22.2.1991/364)
Luonnonsuojelulaki (20.12.1996/1096)
Kiinteistönmuodostamislaki (12.4.1995/554),
Maankäyttö- ja rakennuslaki (5.2.1999/132),
Vesilaki (19.5.1961/264)
Erämaalaki (17.1.1991/62)
Ympäristönsuojelulaki (4.2.2000/86)
Laki ympäristövaikutusten arviointimenettelystä (10.6.1994/468)
Laki metsäkeskuksista ja metsätalouden kehittämiskeskuksesta (18.12.1995/1474)
Laki metsähallituksesta (17.12.1993/1169)
Laki metsäntutkimuslaitoksesta (3.12.1999/1114)
Laki metsänhoitoyhdistyksistä (10.7.1998/534)
Yhteismetsälaki (11.1.1991/37)

Other legislation that is related to forestry in Finland:
Suomen perustuslaki 11.6.1999/731,
Laki yksityisistä teistä 15.6.1962/358,
Ulkoilulaki 13.7.1973/606,
Geenitekniikkalaki 17.3.1995/377,
Kemikaalilaki 14.8.1989/744,
Torjunta-ainelaki 23.5.1969/327,
Jätelaki 3.12.1993/1072,
Maa-aineslaki 24.7.1981/555,
Muinaismuistolaki 17.6.1963/295,
Metsästyslaki 28.6.1993/615 ja
Poronhoitolaki 14.9.1990/848.
Työsopimuslaki 30.4.1970/320,
Työehtosopimuslaki 7.6.1946/436,
Työaikalaki 9.8.1996/605,
Työturvallisuuslaki 28.6.1958/299)

Annex 4: List of relevant treaties and conventions

ILO Convention (No. 98) in 1951
ILO Convention (No. 100) in 1963
SopS n:o 45/1976 CITES Asetus villieläimistön ja –kasviston uhanalaisten lajien kansainvälistä kauppaa koskevan sopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta.
SopS n:o 43/1985 Asetus vuoden 1983 kansainvälisen trooppista puuta koskevan sopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta.
SopS n:o 61/1994 Asetus ilmastonmuutosta koskevan Yhdistyneiden Kansakuntien puitesopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta
SopS n:o 1/1997 Asetus aavikoitumisen estämiseksi vakavasta kuivuudesta ja /tai aavikoitumisesta kärsivissä maissa, erityisesti Afrikassa, tehdyn Yhdistyneiden kansakuntien yleissopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta.
SopS n:o 78/1998 Asetus biologista monimuotoisuutta koskevan yleissopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta.
SopS n:o 29/1986 Asetus Euroopan luonnonvaraisen kasviston ja eläimistön sekä niiden elinympäristön suojelusta tehdyn yleissopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta.
SopS19/1994 Euroopan neuvoston ihmisoikeussopimus: Ihmisoikeuksien ja perusvapauksien suojaamiseksi tehdyn yleissopimuksen ja siihen liittyvien lisäpöytäkirjojen voimaansaattamisesta sekä yleissopimuksen ja lisäpöytäkirjojen eräiden määräysten hyväksymisestä annetun lain voimaantulosta
ILO Convention (No. 169) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries

Annex 5: Terms and Definitions

Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry

The Act on state subsidies to certain forest management practises. The level of the support is specified to three different geographical regions.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (EIA) came into force on September 1, 1994. The act is applied to projects where compliance with international agreements involving Finland requires assessment to be carried out, or which may have significant adverse environmental impacts on Finnish wildlife or other special features of the environment. Certain projects always require an EIA procedure. These include oil refineries, pulp, paper and board mills, large harbour projects, motorways and major hazardous waste disposal facilities. The procedure can also be applied in individual cases to a specific project or in the case of an essential change in an already completed project. In such cases, the Ministry of the Environment decides on the need for an EIA.

Everyman's right

Everyone has the right, among others, to walk and ski and collect berries and mushrooms in the forest disregarding who owns the forest

Final felling

Harvesting a mature forest with clear felling, regeneration felling, shelter wood felling or strip felling.

Forest Management Plan

A plan for using and managing the forest property for a certain period of time (usually 10 years), designed jointly with the forest owner and a forestry professional.

Key biotope

Site maintained intact also in managed forests due to its nature protection values (e.g. herb-rich sites, brook sides, shorelines and forests in archipelago).

High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF)

The following habitats shall always be considered as HCVF, as defined by the Forest Act 12 Dec 1996/1093:

- immediate surroundings of small waters (springs, immediate surroundings of spring fens, and wet hollows in the permanent beds of streams and small pools);
- herb-rich and grassy hardwood-spruce swamps, ferny hardwood-spruce swamps, eutrophic hardwood-spruce swamps;
- eutrophic fens;
- fertile patches of herb-rich forest (patches of fertile dry, fertile fresh and fertile moist herb-rich forest);
- heathland forest islets in undrained wetlands;
- gorges, ravines as well as steep bluffs, and the underlying forest.

These habitats shall be protected throughout the whole country, independent of their area and of how easily they may be distinguished or how representative they are regionally.

The following habitats shall always be considered as HCVF, as defined by the Nature Conservation Act (20 Dec 1996/1096):

- naturally regenerated stands with significant proportion of southern broad-leaved species;
- hazel groves;
- black alder swamps;
- sand beaches in natural state;
- coastal meadows;
- treeless or naturally almost treeless sand dunes;
- juniper meadows;
- coppice meadows;
- single trees and tree groups overlooking open landscapes.

The following habitats shall always be considered as HCVF, as defined at 'Metsäluonnon arvokkaat elinympäristöt' by Meriluoto and Soininen (1998) and 'Natura 2000 –

luontotyyppiopas' by Airaksinen and Karttunen (1998):

- Southern slopes of eskers,
- potholes,
- forest pastures,
- slash-and-burn meadows,
- forest meadows,
- herb-rich sedge-dominated spruce and pine swamps.
- *Myrtillus*, (*Rubus*) *chamaemorus*, and *Equisetum* spruce swamps, spruce swamps with shallow peat layer

Near-natural old forests, having at least 10 m^3 of varying types of dead wood per hectare, shall always be considered as HCVF regardless of their size. Definitions for near natural old forests are available in the Report of the Working Group for Protection of Old-Growth Forests, Volume II, and in the Habitat Guide for Natura 2000. Regarding old broad-leaved forests, the definition is found in 'Metsäluonnon arvokkaat elinympäristöt' by Meriluoto and Soininen (1998).

Known occurrences of nationally or regionally endangered species shall always be considered as HCVF

A buffer zone at least 20 m wide shall be preserved for habitats defined by the Forest Act (12 Dec 1996/1093), old-growth forests and endangered species dependent on sheltered microclimates. The buffer zone is included in the protected area quota introduced at Indicator 6.4.1. The buffer zone shall be considered as HCVF

Landscape Ecological Planning — Landscape Ecological Planning a participatory, multi-stakeholder process, which aims at socially, ecologically and economically sustainable utilization of natural resources in the target region. The process combines the local, scientific and professional knowledge into a GIS based land use plan.

Maintenance ditching — Clearing old ditch networks with a digging machine.

Marking the trees — Labelling the trees to be cut or set aside before harvesting the forest.

Plantation — In the Finnish context, plantations refer to the forest stands established on the abandoned agricultural lands or on abandoned peat production sites. They are very few in number, and usually covering only small areas. The aim of these plantations is to allow the site to develop towards the natural forest type, even if the process is envisaged to take several rotation periods.

Prescribed burning — Fire applied in a knowledgeable manner on a specific forest area under selected weather conditions to accomplish predetermined, well-defined management and conservation objectives.

Restoration — Retrieving a site closer to its pristine stage; e.g. blocking ditches in peat lands, imitating natural disturbance dynamics with prescribed burning etc.

Sámi homeland — Juridical definition for areas where the Sámi people have traditionally practised their indigenous livelihoods. Sámi region covers the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki, and the part of the Sodankylä municipality belonging to the Reindeer Owners' Association of Lappi.

Skolt Village Assembly — The Skolt Sámi have an independent official organisation recognised by the Skolt Act of 1995. Skolt Village Assemblies (*Siidsäbbar*) exist in the Näätämö and the Nellim-Keväjärvi districts and are the main forums for dealing with everyday Skolt affairs. There is also a Skolt Council (*Säämmsudvõõzz*) and a Skolt Alderman (*Õuddooumaz*). Skolts are also represented in the Sámi

Parliament. The Skolt Area, where the Skolt were resettled after the annexation of the Petsamo area by the Soviet Union, is specified by law and covers the eastern part of the municipality of Inari.

Sámi Parliament

Sámi Parliament (*Sámediggi*) was constituted through an Act of Parliament as a representative body for the Sámi at the beginning of 1996. It is the successor to the Saami Delegation, also known as the old Sámi Parliament that was established in 1973. Elections to the Sámi Parliament are held every four years; the latest were held in September 2003. The Sámi Parliament consists of 21 Sámi members and four substitutes elected by the Sámi themselves. There have to be at least three representatives from each of the four municipalities: Enontekiö, Inari, Utsjoki and Sodankylä.

The constitutionally guaranteed cultural self-government of the Sámi is exercised through the Sámi Parliament. It is responsible for maintaining the Sámi languages and culture and for certain duties pertaining to the status of the Sámi as an indigenous people. The Sámi Parliament decides how money set aside in the national budget for the benefit of Sámi culture and Sámi organisations is to be distributed. The amount of this appropriation in 2003 was EUR 197,000. Moreover, the Sámi Parliament may launch initiatives, make proposals and issue statements on matters concerning Sámi languages, culture and the status of the Sámi as an indigenous people. As these topics are given a broad interpretation, they cover such matters as mining claims, social planning, the leasing of state land in the Sámi Homeland and the establishment of nature reserves. The Sámi Parliament also represents the Finnish Sámi in international forums.

In connection with the revision of the national electoral laws in 1989, the possibility was considered of guaranteeing the Sámi a seat in the Finnish Parliament. The idea was rejected, but an obligation on the Government and Parliament to hear the Sámi on all matters of special concern to the latter has been introduced into Finnish legislation.

Scalping

A means for soil preparation, whereby spots of the top soil is opened in order to enhance planting the seedlings or sowing the seeds.

Annex 6

Detailed explanations of certain indicators

6.2.1. During spring and early summer (between March 15th and June 30th in Southern Finland, and April 15th and July 31st in Northern Finland, unless otherwise defined below) harvesting shall not be conducted in the following sites:

a) Between April 15th and July 31st throughout Finland, in the surroundings (100 meters to the shoreline) of internationally, nationally and regionally important bird lakes (as described at FINIBA the Birdlife Finland & the Finnish Environment Institute), if they are not of soil types as defined in item 6.2.1 c, below.

b) around nest trees of predatory birds (Species-specific distances are defined at Petolinnut ja metsätalous, 2002, Pohjois-Karjalan Lintutieteellinen Yhdistys),

c) in fertile forests surrounding water courses (250 meters distance to the watercourse),

d) on mesic mineral soil forest sites dominated by deciduous trees ('Lehtipuuvaltaisissa metsissä tuoreilla ja lehtomaisilla kankailla' in Finnish).

e) on grass-herb sites ('lehdoissa' in Finnish).

6.2.2. Prescribed burning is used in order to create habitats for specialised species. The requirement shall apply to certified areas with more than 1,000 hectares of commercial forest lands. On burnt sites, at least 20 m3 large timber (DBH > 20 cm) per hectare shall be left. During the five-year period, at least 5% of *Myrtillus* type and less productive regenerated areas are burnt. If the quantity of burnt wood is higher than required, the area can be reduced proportionally. Naturally burned areas are included in the quota. Prescribed burning is not required on sites that are important to reindeer husbandry as pasture land.

6.3.1. Snags, windfalls, and other dead trees shall be preserved in harvesting operations. Trees that have died recently, apart from the proportion exceeding 10 m3 per hectare, are left on the site unless the Act on Prevention of Fungal and Insect Damage in Forest (263/1991) requires them to be harvested. When there is no dead wood present, snags (for instance, stumps that are several metres high) and large downed logs of several species shall be created during harvesting operations (at least 5 trees per hectare in total). The dead trees created during regeneration felling must be large.

6.3.2. In harvesting operations, the trees of the following types shall be preserved as living trees:

- nest trees of predatory birds,
- hole trees,
- living trees with fire scars,
- very large and old pine trees,
- feeding trees of Capercaillie, and
- trees that are more than 200 years old

Sturdy broad-leaved trees, excluding birch and exotic tree species, shall not be harvested, if their combined basal area is less than 10 m2 per ha. If the combined basal area is higher than 10 m2 per ha, the proportion exceeding the threshold may be harvested. A higher threshold of 20 m2 per ha is applied when it is possible to leave the trees in groups so that they do not form an excessive risk to forest regeneration. In each harvesting operation, at least 10 large (DBH at least 20 cm) living trees per hectare shall be preserved. These trees shall not be removed in future harvesting operations.

6.3.3 At least 10% of the forest land shall be permanently placed outside final felling operations, to maintain forests with permanent tree cover. Harvesting of these sites may be conducted as selective logging or gap harvesting while maintaining the multi-layered stand structure. The 10 % quota may include:

- Sites set aside according to Criterion 6.4.
- Spruce and pine swamps set aside according to the indicator 6.3.5.

- Moist or paludified forests,
- Herb-rich forests,
- Forests adjacent to water courses,
- High-altitude forests (more than 300 metres above sea level),
- Archipelago,
- Forests important for scenery or recreation
- Forests surrounding protected habitats or protected areas, or
- Other contiguous areas of mature forests

6.3.6. Fragmentation of forests shall be avoided. When designing the locations of final felling cutblocks, unnecessary forest fragmentation should be avoided by leaving the remaining mature forests in as large and contiguous blocks as possible. This means aggregating cutblocks and placing them at the edges of the blocks of mature forests, instead of dispersing cutblocks and placing them inside the areas of mature forest.
Note: The extend how these considerations can be taken into account depend on the land ownership structure and the current level of fragmentation.

6.3.7. In intermediate felling, the share of broad-leaved trees shall not be reduced below 10%. If the share of broad-leaved trees is less than 10%, broad-leaved species shall not be harvested.

Thinning of seedling stands have to preserve the 10% share of broad-leaved species. If the share of broad-leaved trees is less than 10%, broad-leaved species shall not be cut.

If the proportion of forests dominated by broad-leaved species is less than 5% of the forests on mesic sites (*Myrtillus* type and richer sites), these shall not be harvested. At least 5% of the stands regenerated on such mesic sites are managed as broad-leaved forests through rotation, when the ecological conditions allow it. In these stands, a more abundant supply of dead broad-leaved trees shall be maintained than normally (at least 10m3 per hectare).

6.3.11. Clean ash from wood burning, with no material from other fuels, may be returned as a fertilizer to the ecological cycle of the forest.

Vitality fertilisation preventing growth disturbances caused by nutrient imbalance may be conducted in old pastures, peat fields or other areas released from agricultural use. Elsewhere, fertilisation can be done only in forests with nutrient imbalances, which have created symptoms in soil or in trees, and have been confirmed through chemical nutrient analysis.

The nutrient and heavy metal content of fertilisers, ash, and other substances used for soil improvement must be analysed. The organisation doing the analyses must demonstrate the validity of the results with an international quality system (e.g. ISO 9000).

6.4.1 At least 5% of the forest land shall be set aside for biodiversity protection. Protected sites shall be indicated in the forest management plan and shall not be subjected to forestry operations. In the protected sites, only measures aiming at restoration or protection of endangered species shall be allowed, e.g. in the southern slopes of eskers and in the cultural landscapes. The protected areas can include legally protected areas, areas in official protection programmes, and areas designated for protection in official land use plans, provided that the land-owner has not received compensation for the protected land. Regarding state enterprises, only areas protected by the own decision of the state enterprises – thus excluding statutorily protected areas – can be included. If the protected area remains in private ownership or the area is transferred after certification from the private person in question to the state, with the purpose of protection, it can be included even after compensation for protection has been paid. In group certification, land owners do not need to individually meet the quota pertaining to protected sites.

The following habitats shall always be protected, as defined by the Forest Act 12 Dec 1996/1093:

- immediate surroundings of small waters (springs, immediate surroundings of spring fens, and wet hollows in the permanent beds of streams and small pools);
- herb-rich and grassy hardwood-spruce swamps, ferny hardwood-spruce swamps, eutrophic hardwood-spruce swamps;
- eutrophic fens;
- fertile patches of herb-rich forest (patches of fertile dry, fertile fresh and fertile moist herb-rich forest);
- heathland forest islets in undrained wetlands;
- gorges, ravines as well as steep bluffs, and the underlying forest.

These habitats shall be protected throughout the whole country, independent of their area and of how easily they may be distinguished or how representative they are regionally.

The following habitats shall always be protected, as defined by the Nature Conservation Act (20 Dec 1996/1096):

- naturally regenerated stands with significant proportion of southern broad-leaved species;
- hazel groves;
- black alder swamps;
- sand beaches in natural state;
- coastal meadows;
- treeless or naturally almost treeless sand dunes;
- juniper meadows;
- coppice meadows;
- single trees and tree groups overlooking open landscapes.

The following habitats shall always be protected, as defined at 'Metsäluonnon arvokkaat elinympäristöt' by Meriluoto and Soininen (1998) and 'Natura 2000 – luontotyyppiopas' by Airaksinen and Karttunen (1998):

- Southern slopes of eskers,
- potholes,
- forest pastures,
- slash-and-burn meadows,
- forest meadows,
- herb-rich sedge-dominated spruce and pine swamps.

Near-natural old forests, having at least 10 m3 of varying types of dead wood per hectare, shall always be protected regardless of their size. Definitions for near natural old forests are available in the Report of the Working Group for Protection of Old-Growth Forests, Volume II, and in the Habitat Guide for Natura 2000. Regarding old broad-leaved forests, the definition is found in 'Metsäluonnon arvokkaat elinympäristöt' by Meriluoto and Soininen (1998).

Known occurrences of nationally or regionally endangered species shall always be protected

A buffer zone at least 20 m wide shall be preserved for habitats defined by the Forest Act (12 Dec 1996/1093), old-growth forests and endangered species dependent on sheltered microclimates. The buffer zone is included in the protected area quota introduced at Indicator 6.4.1..

If the sites listed above do not cover 5% of the forest land, sites of the following types shall be protected in

sufficient amount to meet the quota, whenever such habitats are found:

- Capercaillie leks with their surroundings;
- forests with significant characteristics of forest in a natural state (e.g. a reasonable amount of dead wood);
- forests with abundant large aspen, willow, rowan, or southern broad-leaved trees;
- *Myrtillus*, (*Rubus*) *chamaemorus*, and *Equisetum* spruce swamps, spruce swamps with shallow peat layer;
- reindeer pastures important from the perspective of reindeer husbandry;
- forest fire areas where trees have not been removed;
- margins between forest and fields, dominated by broad-leaved species;
- traditionally managed habitats;
- cultural landscapes with their immediate surroundings;
- caves and geologically valuable sites with their surroundings, and
- occurrences of species in need of monitoring.

If the 5 %-quota is still not met, other types of forest shall be protected and restored to a natural state to meet the requirement. In this case, forest land of low-productivity and non-productive lands can also be included, if they are actively restored, and their area is calculated using a coefficient of 0.5.

6.4.2. Forestry operations shall not be carried out on unproductive forest lands and wastelands in their natural state. Peatland is considered to be in a natural state provided that it is undrained and old and individual ditches do not have a significant effect on the water balance. Other forest lands of low productivity or non-productive forest land shall be considered to be in a natural state if the current tree generation has been managed with light selective cutting only.

6.5.2 A sufficient untouched buffer zone shall be reserved adjacent to waters and small waters, which prevents significant changes in the nutrient and solid matter load and in the micro-climate of the habitat immediately surrounding the small waters. The buffer zone, measured from the water’s edge, shall be at least 20 metres wide. The buffer zones may be, in exceptional cases, managed using cautious selective logging, for restoration or scenic reasons or in order to improve the nutrient-absorbing capacity of the site.