

Requirements for PEFC BS scheme users in Slovenia



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## **Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management at the Regional Level**

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## 1. INTRODUCTORY NOTES TO CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN SLOVENIA

Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management define the system of forest management in Slovenia based on key control points that were developed by Institute for Forest certification from 10.12.2019 to 10.6.2021 on the participatory principle and consensus based on international standard PEFC ST 1001. Document is used with other documents of Balkan Forest PEFC Certification Scheme and is its constituent part.

The purpose of this document is:

- Definition of minimum requirements of sustainable forest management for the needs of certification, taking into account all ecological, social and productive functions of the forest.
- Definition of key points and areas of sustainable forest management audit for the regional level on the basis of which certification bodies will be able to audit sustainable forest management.

Criteria and indicators have been prepared taking into account the following international and national documents:

- Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (Lisbon Resolution L2/1, Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Lisbon 1998),
- Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (Lisbon Resolution L2/2, Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Lisbon 1998),
- Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (MCPFE Expert Level Meeting, Vienna, 2002),
- National Forest Development Programme (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 14/96),
- The Forest Act (Official Gazette of the RS no. 30/1993, 13/1998 Decision of the Const. Court: U-I-53/95, 24/1999, Decision of the Const. Court: U-I-51/95, 56/1999 (31/2000 - cor.), 67/2002, 110/2002),
- Rules on the Protection of Forests (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 92/00),
- Safety and Health in Forestry Work, ILO 1998, (official translation into the Slovenian language, 2003),
- Regulation on the Forest Management and Silviculture Plans (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 5/98),
- Expert Bases for the Inclusion of Slovenia in the Pan-European Forest Certification Scheme (SFI, Ljubljana, 2002),
- other international commitments adopted by Slovenia and other documents affecting forest management in Slovenia,
- Criteria and Indicators for Assessing Sustainable Forest Management in Austria (PEFC Austria, 1999),
- Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (CFCS 1002/2001, PEFC Czech Republic, 2001).

*Note: <sup>1</sup> Slovenia is defined as one region, which is justified especially from the point of view of the existing system for the collection of data about the condition of forests for forest management planning and other purposes. The division of Slovenia into several regions would be irrational and insensible mainly because of the discrepancy of phytogeographic areas with the borders of forest management areas, and also as there is only one region, cost-effectiveness of the certification system is easier to achieve.*

PEFC emphasizes that the agreement on sustainable forest management must be reached at a local level which is why it seeks for solutions to make improvements and reach progress in forest management together with national organisations. The International umbrella organisation PEFC endorses and supports national forest certification systems which have been developed through multi-

stakeholder processes tailored to local conditions and priorities. In order to ensure consistency with international requirements, all regional and national forest certification systems are subject to rigorous third-party assessment against PEFC's unique Sustainability Benchmarks before their international endorsement is achieved.

### **PEFC's Sustainability Benchmarks - Setting sustainable forest management standards**

The development of international standards and guidelines which determine the criteria for sustainable forest management, is at the core of PEFC's work. These standards form the basis for nearly all PEFC's other activities, from providing certification solutions to assessing compliance with standard requirements and endorsing national certification systems.

Every national standard goes through a detailed and rigorous development process and is reviewed after five years at the latest and revised if necessary. When developing or revising a standard, various national stakeholders are invited to participate. A representation of diverse stakeholders ensures that no single interest can dominate, and that the process is consensus-driven, open and transparent.

PEFC provides sufficient information so that everyone interested can be involved and stay up-to-date as regards their possibilities for cooperation. Opportunities for participation include participation in a standard setting working group which is responsible for the core of the revision work. The enquiry draft standard is then subject to a 60 day global public consultation. After having received the national approval, all technical documentation requires formal approval by the PEFC Board of Directors and the General Assembly.

Neither of these two bodies has the ability to modify the final draft submitted by the working group; they can only approve or reject it as a whole. Approved PEFC standards are published on the PEFC website together with a standard development report, which provides comprehensive information about the development process.

### **Regional and national forest certification systems**

Local adoption of global standards is accomplished through regional and national forest certification systems. These forest certification systems outline the rules, procedures and management criteria for carrying out forest certification at regional, national or sub-national level. They include a range of standards and guides, such as the requirements for sustainable forest management, group certification, standard setting and many more.

Through its regional and national systems, PEFC can ensure that the sustainable forest management requirements of each country are tailored to the specific forest ecosystems, the legal and administrative framework, the socio-cultural context and other relevant factors.

This also ensures that all stakeholders are represented in the process; that they participate in determining what sustainable forest management means in the context of their country and how it can best be implemented locally. Issues that are relevant at the local level, but not captured in PEFC's Sustainability Benchmarks, are also naturally incorporated into these standards. This is key to the success of PEFC, as it empowers those managing forests to do so in compliance with the standards that they themselves have participated in developing.

Just like standard setting processes at international level, regional, national or sub-national standards are developed through multi-stakeholder working groups with balanced representation. These processes need to be consensus driven, open and transparent, with no single interest dominating – and provide ample opportunity for involvement.

### **Alignment of national standard with PEFC's Sustainability Benchmarks**

The Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management set the forest management system on the basis of the international requirements referred to in PEFC ST 1003:2018 and form an integral part of the Slovenian Forest Certification Scheme developed by using the PEFC method. This document replaces "The Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management PEFC SLO 03:2012".

The process for developing this standard took place from December 2019 to June 2021.

The criteria and indicators have been classified according to I. – VI. of the principal criteria for sustainable forest management adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Lisbon, Portugal, 1998. The main criteria, known as the "Helsinki Criteria", are:

- Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles
  - Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality
  - Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)
    - Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems
    - Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)
    - Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions

### **Ensuring alignment of regional, national and sub-national standards with PEFC's Sustainability Benchmarks - PEFC's endorsement process**

To ensure that international requirements are consistently applied at regional, national and sub-national level, all forest certification systems applying for PEFC endorsement go through a comprehensive and thorough independent assessment and quality assurance process. This process takes on average nine months to complete, and includes the following elements:

1. an independent assessment that evaluates compliance of the system with PEFC requirements and includes a global public consultation;
2. a quality assurance process;
3. after a system has successfully passed the assessment and quality assurance process, the PEFC General Assembly votes on its endorsement.

Documentation concerning all endorsed systems, including the full assessment report, is publicly available on the PEFC website.

Through this process, PEFC can ensure that the standards meet the globally accepted PEFC Sustainability Benchmarks. In practical terms, this means that wood or non-wood forest products certified to a forest certification system are considered PEFC-certified anywhere in the world and when sold via a certified chain of custody they are eligible to carry the PEFC label.

### **Certification – Demonstrating compliance with standard requirements**

Certification is the actual process of validating that individuals or organisations wishing to obtain PEFC forest management or chain of custody certification are in compliance with the requirements of the standard. At the regional or national level, standard setting, the process of defining certification requirements, is undertaken in collaboration with interested parties.

Credible certification requires certification decisions to be impartial, independent and competent. This means that standard setting, certification and accreditation must be completely separate in order to eliminate the risk of conflicts of interest and ensure the highest level of competency. Certification, the process of checking whether a forest manager or company fulfils the certification requirements, is carried out by a certification body.

Accreditation, the process of assessing the competence of the certification body, is carried out by an accreditation body with membership within the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) or an IAF regional accreditation group.

Entities wishing to obtain PEFC certification are required to demonstrate their conformity with PEFC endorsed standards. If compliance is demonstrated, the certification body issues a certificate valid up to five years, after which operators must become re-certified.

Additional checks are done through annual surveillance audits to proactively verify on-going compliance with the requirements. Only if practices and operations continually meet the requirements of PEFC endorsed standards do entities earn the right to make "PEFC-certified" claims and use the PEFC label.

PEFC is aware that, as with any programme or activity, there may be issues of nonconformity or non-compliance from time to time, in which regard the general objective of aiming at improvements must be pursued. Complaints against certified entities are dealt with by the respective complaints and appeals procedures put in place by certification bodies. Issues that remain unresolved at this level should be raised with the respective complaints and appeals mechanisms of national accreditation bodies and thereafter - as a third level of appeal - with the IAF.

If a certified entity does not comply with PEFC's requirements, its certificate can be suspended or withdrawn. If the certification body, or indeed an accreditation body, is judged to not have dealt with a complaint appropriately, it risks losing its licence to operate.

## Scope of the Standard

This document summarizes PEFC International's Sustainability Benchmark for PEFC and national sustainable requirements for the management of Slovenian forests. Trees outside forests and forest plantations on agricultural land are not part of this Standard.

The Standard requirements apply to owners and managers responsible for assuring compliance with Forest Management Standard, as well as to contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas. They cover all necessary processes of a management system, from forest management planning to proper felling and harvesting.

Forest owners and managers must ensure that evidence-keeping processes demonstrate compliance with forest management standards. The minimum period for keeping records which are important as an evidence-based demonstration of compliance with these standard requirements, is 5 (five) years.

The Standard covers the processes for forest management with the aim of ensuring product declaration. The owners of certified forest may declare and sell wood products as "100% PEFC certified". When the ownership is transferred, the chain of custody certification must be obtained to ensure further declaration of products.

The "100% PEFC certified" label may only be used by forest owners or managers who have the necessary certificate or have been certified as members of the regional certification system by the authorised certification body. Further chain of custody certification for wood from trees outside forests is not included in this Standard.

## 2. Mandatory documents

The PEFC Council and the Slovenian Forest Certification Scheme requires the following documents to be included as mandatory when the scheme is renewed.

The Criteria and Indicators have been set and approved by the Slovenian Forest Certification Scheme by taking into account the following:

- The Pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (the Lisbon Resolution L2/1, the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Lisbon, 1998).
- The Pan-European Operational level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management and Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management – FORESTEUROPE (MCPFE)
- Resolution on National Forest Programme (Official Gazette RS, No. 111/07),
- Act on Forests (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia Nos. 30/93, 56/99 – ZON, 67/02, 110/02 – ZGO-1, 115/06 – ORZG40, 86/2004, 110/07, 106/10, 63/13, 101/13 – ZDavNepr, 17/14, 22/14 – Constit. Court Decision, 24/15, 9/16 – ZGGLRS, and 77/16)
- Varnost in zdravje pri delu ("Safety and Health in Forestry Work"), Zavod za gozdove Slovenije, 2003 (translation of the document: "Safety and Health in Forestry Work", ILO 1998),
- national legislation regulating forest management,
- international resolutions and conventions adopted by the Republic of Slovenia having an impact on forest management in Slovenia, including:
  - ILO No. 87, Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948,
  - ILO No. 29, Forced Labour Convention, 1930,
  - ILO No. 98, Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949,
  - ILO No. 100, Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951,
  - ILO No. 105, Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957,
  - ILO No. 111, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958,
  - ILO No. 138, Minimum Age Convention, 1973,
  - ILO No. 169, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989,
  - ILO No. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999,
  - ISO/IEC 17021-1, Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements,
  - United Nations, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007,
  - United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948,
  - Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 1998,
  - international PEFC requirements:
    - PEFC ST 1001, Standard Setting – Requirements,
    - PEFC ST 1002, Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements,
    - PEFC GD 1007, Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision PEFC ST 2002,
    - Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements,
    - ISO Guide 2, Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary.

### 3. Terms and definitions

#### 3.1 Affected stakeholder

A stakeholder who might experience a direct change in living and/or working conditions caused by implementation of a standard, or a stakeholder who might be a user of a standard and therefore is subject to the requirements of the standard.

Note 1: Affected stakeholders include neighbouring communities, indigenous people, workers, etc. However, having an interest in the subject matter of the standard (e.g. NGOs, scientific community, and civil society) is not equal to being affected.

Note 2: A stakeholder who might be a user of the standard is likely to become a certified entity, e.g. a forest manager in the case of a forest management standard, or a wood processing enterprise in the case of a chain of custody certification.

The Slovenian Forest Service directs the management of all forests in Slovenia – irrespective of ownership.

#### 3.2 Afforestation

Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land that, until then, was under a different land use, implies a transformation of land use from non-forest to forest (source: FAO 2018).

#### 3.3 Certified area

The forest area covered by a sustainable forest management system according to the PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standard.

#### 3.4 Degraded forest

Land with long-term significant reduction of the overall potential to supply benefits from the forest, which includes carbon storage, wood, biodiversity and other goods and services (definition based on FAO 2003).

A degraded forest is the forest in which forest growth or the productivity of the forest area is inhibited due to negative external impacts, or the capacity to perform its function is reduced.

#### 3.5 Ecologically important forest areas

(1) An ecologically important area is the area of a habitat type or a part thereof or a larger ecosystem unit that significantly contributes to biodiversity conservation.

(2) Ecologically important areas referred to in the preceding paragraph are:

1. the areas of habitat types that with regard to their biotic characteristics are exceptionally diverse or well preserved where there are habitats of threatened or endemic plant or animal species and habitats that are internationally important according to the criteria of ratified international treaties or which in any other manner contribute to biodiversity conservation;
2. the areas of a habitat type or large ecosystem unit that significantly contribute to the maintenance of natural balance by being evenly biogeographically distributed with regard to other ecologically important areas and composing an ecological network;
3. the habitats of the species referred to in Article 26 of the Nature Conservation Act
4. animal migration routes; and
5. areas that significantly contribute to the gene flow among populations of plant or animal species.

#### 3.6 Ecosystem services

Benefits obtained from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fibre; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling (based on Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005).



### 3.7 Forest

The term "forest land" includes:

- a plot of land overgrown with forest tree stands which may reach a minimum height of 5 metres and cover a minimum surface area of 0.25 hectares;
- a plot of land reverting to natural vegetation which covers a minimum surface of 0.25 hectares and has not been used for agricultural purposes for the past 20 years and where forest trees may reach a minimum height of 5 metres and the canopy cover has attained 75%;
- riverside forest corridors and windbreaks if their widths are at least wider from one mature tree-height and cover a minimum surface area of 0.25 hectares

*Note: The currently available wording referred to in the Act on Forests (ZOG) applies to the definition of "the forest".*

### 3.8 Forest conversion

Forest felling or any other human-induced change of forest for the purpose of changing the planned land use to non-forest land or forest plantation.

Forest conversion for agricultural purposes is an intervention in a forest as defined by Act on Forests with the aim of changing the use of forest land to obtain a land intended for agricultural purposes.

*Note 1: Regeneration by natural planting or human-induced regeneration is not considered a conversion.*

*Note 2: Forest plantations on agricultural land are not treated by this Standard.*

### 3.9 Forest plantation

A forest plantation is a plantation of forest trees exclusively intended for the production of wood, ornamental trees or forest products or other parts of trees in which case the distance between trees at their plantation is such as achieved with the envisaged final development state of stands.

### 3.10 Fundamental ILO conventions

Eight conventions (ILO 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182) identified by the ILO's Governing Body as "fundamental" in terms of principles and rights at work: i) freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; ii) the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; iii) the effective abolition of child labour; and iv) the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

### 3.11 Genetically modified trees

A genetically modified organism is an organism in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination, taking into account applicable legislation providing a specific definition of genetically modified organisms.

*Note 1: The following techniques are considered as genetic modification resulting in genetically modified trees (EU Directive 2001/18/EC):*

- 1) recombinant nucleic acid techniques involving the formation of new combinations of genetic material by inserting foreign DNA into the genetic material of a host. The transfer runs by inserting foreign DNA into any virus, bacterial plasmid or other vector system. Then the foreign DNA is capable of being transferred to a host cell, getting incorporated with a host genome and capable of continued propagation;
- 2) techniques involving the direct introduction into an organism of heritable material prepared outside the organism including micro-injection, macro-injection, and micro-encapsulation;
- 3) cell fusion (including protoplast fusion) or hybridisation techniques where live cells with new combinations of heritable genetic material are formed through the fusion of two or more cells by means of methods that do not occur naturally.

*Note : The following techniques are not considered as genetic modification resulting in genetically modified trees (EU Directive 2001/18/EC):*

- 1) *in vitro* fertilisation;
- 2) natural processes such as: conjugation, transduction, transformation;
- 3) polyploidy induction.

### 3.12 Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

An integrated approach to pest management in forest management and careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage

the development of pest populations with the aim of reducing or minimising risks to management and human health, while simultaneously having a minimum impact on the environment.

### **3.13 Landscape**

A socio-ecological system that consists of a mosaic of natural and/or human-modified ecosystems, with a characteristic configuration of topography, vegetation, land use, and settlements that is influenced by the ecological, historical, economic and cultural processes and activities of the area (source: Scherr et al. 2013).

### **3.14 Management plan**

Documented information specifying conditions for coordinated use of forests and interventions in forest management unit, the necessary scope of forest cultivation, the maximum level of their exploitation and conditions for fauna management.

### **3.15 Management system**

Set of interrelated or interacting elements of an organisation to establish policies and objectives and processes to achieve those objectives.

### **3.16 Manager**

Person who directs and controls an organisation.

Note: A manager may also be a person executing her or his ownership rights or traditional or customary tenure rights.

### **3.17 Non-forest ecosystem**

Land not meeting the definition of forest referred to in the Act on Forests (ZGO).

### **3.18 Non-wood forest products**

Products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from forests and trees outside forests (source: summarized from FAO 2017).

### **3.19 Organisation**

Person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its objectives.

Note: An organisation applies for PEFC certification and is responsible for the compliance with PEFC sustainable forest management requirements and may represent several owners, such as for example, a regional representative.

### **3.20 Reforestation**

Re-establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land classified as forest (source: FAO 2018).

### **3.21 Stakeholder**

A person, group, community or organisation with an interest in the subject of the standard.

### **3.22 Standardising body**

Body that has recognised activities in standardisation.

Note: A standardising body for a forest management certification system/standard is a body which is responsible for the development and maintenance of standards for the forest certification system. The standardising body can be a PEFC national governing body or the standardising body can be separate from the governance of the forest certification system.

## 4. Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard

### General requirements

a) All forest management requirements that can be implemented in practice and can be verified at the forest management unit level.

*Note: For data and legal requirements which are verified through national monitoring at regional level with higher sampling than with forest certification, gathered impartially with sufficient level of trust, a regional can be sufficient if appropriate.*

b) Guidelines for sustainable forest management are clear and auditable.

c) Requirements which have an impact on achieving compliance with the PEFC requirements apply to activities of all forest owners in the defined forest area.

d) Record-keeping is required that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.

e) Specifying "100% PEFC certified", or another system specific claim, typical of a system as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in **an area covered by the standard** to customers with a PEFC chain of custody.

*Note:* Standards endorsed by PEFC Council have approved abbreviations and their translations into national languages are published online on the PEFC website [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org).

f) Where owners/managers of forests are selling products from areas other than covered by the standard, only products from areas covered by the standard are sold with the claim "100% PEFC-certified" or a system specific claim.

g) Claims on the origin of products in an area covered by the standard are only used on the basis of a PEFC recognised certificate issued against the standard or on the basis of a certificate of membership in regional certification system;

h) Upon their requests, a forest owner/manager submits to organisations from the PEFC chain of custody a copy of the certificate or a copy of a certificate on membership in regional certification system.

*Note:*

*In case of regional certification, it is advised that a valid certificate with geographically defined boundaries is available online.*

Requirements, which are not reflected in the national standard and which must be satisfied by forest owners/managers, are already addressed through the legislation.

*Note: The list of currently applicable forestry legislation is accessible on the web site of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MKGP).*

### 4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders

The standard requires that the organisation shall determine:

- a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to the sustainable forest management;
- b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.

### **4.3 Determining the scope of the management system**

4.3.1 The organisation, which holds a certificate, or in case of a regional certification system, a regional representative shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the management system to establish its scope.

4.3.2 The standard requires that forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management practices. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement.

## **5. Leadership**

5.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine:

- a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;
- b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.

5.2 The standard requires that this commitment shall be publicly available.

5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.

## **6. Planning**

### **6.1. Actions to address risks and opportunities**

6.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest management. Size and scale of the operations of the organisation shall be considered.

6.1.2 The standard requires that inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described in this international benchmark standard.

### **6.2. Forest Management Plan**

6.2.1 The standard requires that management plans shall be:

- a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;
- b) appropriate to the size and use of the forest area;
- c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and
- d) adequately covering forest resources.

6.2.2 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.

6.2.3 The standard requires that management plans shall include at least a description of the current forest management unit, long-term objectives, and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification.

6.2.4 The standard requires that the annually allowable use of non-wood forest products shall be included in the management plan where forest management covers commercial use of non-wood forest products at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability.

6.2.5 The standard requires that management plans specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.

6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.

6.2.7 The standard requires that a summary of the management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information on the general objectives and forest management principles.

6.2.8 The standard requires that the publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.

## **6.3 Compliance requirements**

### **6.3.1 Legal compliance**

6.3.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation.

6.3.1.2 The standard requires that the organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest management, including but not limited to forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues;

land-use rights for indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.

6.3.1.3 The standard requires that where no anti-corruption legislation exists, the organisation must take alternative anti-corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption.

6.3.1.4 The standard requires that measures shall be implemented to address protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.

### **6.3.2 Legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land**

6.3.2.1 The standard requires that property rights, tree ownership and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.

6.3.2.2 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights issued by the United Nations, as well as the ILO framework of legal, customary and traditional rights, described under Chapter 2.

### **6.3.3 Fundamental ILO conventions**

6.3.3.1 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.

### **6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions**

6.3.4.1 The standard requires that forest operations shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.

6.3.4.2 The standard requires that working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those who participate in the forest management process. Training in safe working practices must be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations. Working hours and leave shall comply with national laws or applicable collective agreements.

6.3.4.3 The standard requires that wages of local and migrant forest workers as well as of contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas shall meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards or, where applicable, collective bargaining agreements.

Note: Where wages are below the living wage of a country, steps should be taken to attain increased wages towards a living wage level over time in addition to increases for inflation.

6.3.4.4 The standard requires that the organisation is committed to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and freedom from workplace harassment. Gender equality shall be promoted.

## 7. Support

### 7.1. Resources (human and material)

7.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.

### 7.2 Competence

7.2.1 The standard requires that forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and kept up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this document.

### 7.3 Communication

7.3.1 Effective communication and consultation with local communities and other interested parties relating to sustainable forest management shall be provided.

### 7.4 Complaints

7.4.1 Appropriate mechanisms must be in place at the level of organisation and national governing body for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.

### 7.5 Documented Information and Rules of Procedure

7.5.1 Organisation's management system shall include rules of procedures or another form of documented information determined by the standard as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.

7.5.2 The Rules of Procedure and other documented information must be regularly updated and relevant to the activities of the organisation.

## 8. Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

The criteria and indicators are relevant for all forest types in Slovenia. Forest plantations on agricultural land and trees outside forests are not treated by this document.

The suitability of forest management is assessed by criteria for sustainable forest management. They have been designed according to the following structure:

- **Criterion:** criteria I – VI **Sub-criterion:** an individual element or aspect of the criterion; in most cases a guideline is a summary from the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management.
- **Descriptive indicator:** A descriptive parameter used to clearly and objectively describe the contents of the sub-criterion with the aim of assessing sustainable forest management in relation to an actual sub-criterion. Four principal aspects of an indicator are described in order to ensure better transparency: i) legal or regulatory framework; ii) institutional framework; iii) economic policy and financial instruments; and iv) information and communication.

- **Quantitative indicator:** A numeric parameter for objective and unambiguous evaluation of sustainable forest management which presents the actual state or indicates the development of an aspect in question.
- **Unit:** unit of measurement applied to quantitative indicator.
- **Source of data:** a list of institutions, programmes or projects used as sources of data.
- **Comments:** explanation and notes

## STRUCTURE OF CRITERIA AND MEASURES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Criteria for sustainable forest management for the regional level are formed according to the following structure:

- Criterion:** criteria I – VI of the Pan-European Criteria for Sustainable Forest Management.  
**Sub-criterion:** individual element or aspect of the criterion; in most cases a guideline adopted from the Pan-European Criteria for Sustainable Forest Management or the National Forest Development Programme.
- Descriptive indicator:** A descriptive parameter used to clearly and objectively describe the contents of the sub-criterion with the aim of evaluating sustainable forest management in relation to a concrete sub-criterion. Four principal aspects of the indicator are described, for better transparency: legal or regulatory framework, institutional framework, economic policy and financial instruments, and informational means.
- Quantitative indicator:** A numeric parameter for objective and unambiguous evaluation of sustainable forest management which presents the actual state or indicates the development of a concrete aspect.
- Unit:** unit of measurement applied to quantitative indicator.
- Source of data:** a list of institutions, programmes or projects used as sources of data.
- Comments:** explanation and notes.

### USED ABBREVIATIONS:

Abbreviation	Full name
FA	Forest Act
NFDP	National Forest Development Programme
SFS	Slovenian Forest Service
SFI	Slovenian Forestry Institute
BF	Biotechnical Faculty (together with the Department for Forestry and Renewable Forest Resources)
SORS	Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
EARS	Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia
MKO	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
BF	Biotechnical Faculty
SFWIS	Secondary Forestry and Wood Industry School Postojna
LIRS	Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia
IPH	Institute of Public Health
CAFS	Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia
IRSAFF	Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry and Food
FLFF	Farm Land and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia
APLRS	Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Services
NPIRS	Nature Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
IUCN	World Conservation Union

# CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AUDIT AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

No.	Criterion	Sub-criteria	No. of descriptive indicators	No. of quantitative indicators
1	Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest funds	Forest area	1	6
		Growing stock and increment	1	2
		Development stages by main forest types	1	1
		Carbon balance	1	1
2	Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality	Monitoring of forest health condition, impacts on forests and protective measures in forests	1	3
		Unauthorised felling and forest pasture	1	2
		Use of chemicals in forest	1	1
		Nutrient balance of soil and forests	1	3
3	Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forest (wood and non-wood)	Forestry planning system	1	1
		Wood production function – felling	1	3
		Wood production function – biological investment in forests	1	1
		Wood production function – accessibility by forest roads	1	1
		Non-wood products and services	1	2
4	Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems	Biodiversity - general	1	0
		Ecologically significant biotopes and habitats and specific areas of their conservation	1	5
		Threatened plant and animal species	1	1
		Conservation and use of forest genetic resources	1	1
		Natural forest regeneration	1	1
		Degree of habitat conservation	1	1
		Dead wood mass in forests	1	1
		Tree diversity of stands	1	1
		Landscape diversity	1	1
5	Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management	Influence of game on forest	1	1
		Maintenance and enhancement of soil protection function of forest	1	1
		Maintenance and enhancement of water protection function of forest	1	1
		Protective forests declared by Government regulation	1	1
6	Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions	Maintenance and enhancement of protection function of forest	1	1
		General social significance of forests and forestry	1	2
		Economic significance of forests and forestry	1	5
		Production and use of wood for energy purposes	1	1
		Special purpose forests	1	1
		Social significance of forests particularly as regards recreation	1	2
		Education and work	1	1
		Occupational health and safety	1	3
		Raising public awareness on the significance of forests and forestry and wood-processing industry	1	2
Participation of the public	1	1		
Cultural, historical and spiritual values of the forests	1	1		
Total			37	63



## CRITERION 1. Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest funds

<b>1.1.</b>	<b>Forest area</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	<p>Forest management must be adequately planned and focused on conservation of forests and of their ecosystem functions by conserving and enhancing economic, ecological and social functions.</p> <p>The quality of forest stands and their carbon sink capacity shall be ensured by means of a balanced increment utilisation and appropriate silviculture measures and techniques. The efficient utilisation of forests shall be encouraged together with their management which aims at increasing carbon sink.</p> <p>Deforestation shall be allowed when in line with national strategies and legislation and spatial planning and shall include consultation with interested stakeholders. Forest conversion for agricultural purposes can be allowed when forest is not classified as protective forest or a special purpose forest.</p> <p>Areas reverting to natural vegetation must be left to the natural regeneration of forests in all ecologically unstable or vulnerable types of soil.</p> <p>Unplanned enhancement of forest density in individual landscapes, preservation, shaping and design of individual trees and groups of forest trees outside forests as well as prevention of forest area fragmentation shall be advocated. This shall be implemented by utilizing and aligning existing tools and coordinating institutions responsible for spatial planning and protection of nature, and by collaborating with key stakeholders.</p>

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 1.1.a General characteristics</b>
<p>1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework which defines the conservation of forest areas, restriction of land overgrowing, preservation and shaping of individual forest trees outside forests and the prevention of forest area fragmentation.</p>
<p>2. Institutional frameworks: Existence and the capacity of institutional framework regarding the conservation of forest areas, restriction of overgrowing of land, preservation and shaping of individual forest trees outside the forest and the prevention of forest area division. Existence of tools and institutions at the level of forestry, spatial planning and nature protection.</p>
<p>3. Economic policy and financial instruments: Existence and type of economic policy and financial instruments for promoting measures aimed at restriction of overgrowing of land, preservation and shaping of individual forest trees outside the forest.</p>
<p>4. Informational means: Existence and capacity of informational means to establish and monitor the condition and measures related to overgrowing of land, preservation and shaping of individual forest trees outside the forest and the prevention of forest area fragmentation.</p>
<p>5. Deforestation of a certified forest which is aimed at converting land into agricultural or other non-forest land use, including the conversion of forest into a plantation of forest trees, shall not be allowed except in justified cases. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- when such conversion is compliant to the national and regional spatial planning programme and</li> </ul>

legislation;  
 - when agreement has been reached with materially and directly interested persons and organisations;  
 - it represents a small share (no greater than 5 %) of an individual forest type and has no negative impacts on threatened species (including vulnerable and rare species), forest eco-systems, cultural and social functions and on important habitats of threatened species or on other protected areas,  
 - does not destroy larger areas of forests with significantly high carbon stock  
 - when it contributes to the long-term preservation of economic and social benefits.

The conversion of abandoned agricultural land into forest land shall be carried out if economic, ecological, social or cultural functions of the landscape are thus improved.  
 Afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems is not allowed.

*Note: Restrictions regarding the picking of non-wood products shall be laid down in case when commercial picking has an impact on the long-term sustainability of non-wood products.*

### Quantitative indicators

<b>Indicator 1.1.b Forest area</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total forest area	ha	SFS
Forest area by main forest type	ha	SFS
Change in forest area by main forest types	%	SFSFnatural
Share of forestation	%	SFS
Change in share of forestation	%	SFS
Forest area by economic-forest category (multi-purpose, protective, special-purpose)	%	SFS
Comments:	Forest means land overgrown with forest trees in the form of stands or other forest plants which provides any of the functions of a forest. Definition of forest also includes overgrown plots of land defined as forest in the spatial element of the forest management plan (FA). Main types of forests are defined based on the type of tree composition of a forest according to the Regulation on the Forest Management and Silviculture Plans (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 5/98).	
Forest management plans	%	SFS
Sivicultural plans	%	SFS
Holding plans	%	SFS

<b>1.1.c Forest mapping</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Share of mapping of forest cover in terms of details (representative fraction) and method of mapping	%	SFS
Share of mapping of forest site in terms of details (representative fraction) of mapping	%	SFS, SFI
Share of mapping of forests in terms of details (representative fraction) of mapping forest functions	%	SFS

<b>Indicator 1.1.d Deforested forest areas in the last five years</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total area of deforested forests	ha	SFS
Share of deforested forest areas by purpose	%	SFS

<b>Indicator 1.1.f Forest ownership</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Share of forests in terms of ownership forms	%	SFS
Structure of forest holding in terms of size classes	%	SFS

<b>Indicator 1.1. g Land being overgrown</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total area of land being overgrown	ha	SFS
Total share of land being overgrown	%	SFS
Change of the share of land being overgrown in the last five years	%	SFS
Comments:	Land being overgrown is non-forest area which is no longer actively used for initial purpose and is overgrown by forest trees, but does not yet fulfil the conditions to be classified as forest area.	

<b>1.2.</b>	<b>Growing stock and increment</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Suitable silviculture and other measures must be introduced to improve the exploitation of site potential, both in terms of quantity and quality, and by accumulation of increment in forests must be increased.

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 1.2.a General characteristics</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: Existence and type of legal or regulatory framework providing sustainable forest management aimed at increasing growing stock and improving the utilisation of site production capacity.
2. Institutional frameworks: Existence and the capacity of institutional framework for directing forest management aimed at increasing growing stock and improving the utilisation of site production capacity.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: Existence and type of economic policy and financial instruments to provide suitable incentives for the implementation of measures aimed at improving the utilisation of site potential, especially in terms of quality.
4. Informational means: Existence and capacity of informational means to establish and monitor the forest site potential and the measures implemented to improve it.

### Quantitative indicators

<b>Indicator 1.2.b Growing stock</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Average wood stock by main forest type	m <sup>3</sup> /ha	SFS
Thickness structure of growing stock by main forest type and wide-spread thickness classes	%	SFS
Change in growing stock by main forest type	%	SFS
Comments:	Contents are presented separately for coniferous, deciduous trees and together by main forest type.	

<b>Indicator 1.2.c Current annual increment</b>		
Contents	Contents	Contents
Annual increment by main forest type	Annual increment by main forest type	Annual increment by main forest type
Change in annual increment by main forest type	Change in annual increment by main forest type	Change in annual increment by main forest type
Comments:	Comments:	

<b>1.3.</b>	<b>Development stages by main forest type</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Suitable silviculture measures must be introduced in accordance with ecological characteristics of tree species and site conditions to promote the variety of horizontal and vertical structure as well as diversity of stands in terms of age, aimed at adequate balance between development stages and thickness structure of stands.

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 1.3.a General characteristics</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework which ensures sustainable forest management that aims at a suitable balance of stands of uneven structures and ages suitable for the site.
2. Institutional framework: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to target sustainable forest management towards a suitable balance between uneven-sized and uneven-aged stand structures suitable for the site.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: Existence and type of economic policy and financial instruments for ensuring suitable incentives supporting the forestry policy, which is aimed at providing uneven size and uneven age stand structures suitable for the site.
4. Informational means: Existence and capacity of informational means to implement and improve suitable monitoring of uneven size and uneven age stand structures.

### Quantitative indicators

<b>Indicator 1.3.b Development stages by main forest type</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Area of stands by development stages, separately for main forest types	ha	SFS
Share of development stages, separately for main forest types	%	SFS

<b>1.4.</b>	<b>Carbon balance</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	In order to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, efficient use of wood as a renewable energy source, which greatly contributes to rural development, shall be promoted.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 1.4.a General characteristics</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework which covers the policy for improving wood biomass utilization.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop programmes for improving wood biomass utilization.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments which promote (subsidies) wood biomass utilization.
4. Means of information: The existence and the capacity of means of information to improve the wood biomass supply and the efficiency of organised waste paper collection, and similar activities.

**Quantitative indicator**

<b>Indicator 1.4.b Quantity of carbon in forest stands</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total carbon storage in forest stands	t C/ha	SFI, SFS
Changes in carbon storage in forest stands	%	SFI, SFS

**CRITERION 2. Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality**

<b>2.1.</b>	Monitoring forest health condition and impacts on forests as well as implementing protective measures in forests and encouraging vitality of forest ecosystems.
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Planning and forest management must be targeted at the maintenance and the improvement of health and vitality of forest ecosystems. The integral forest protection is implemented, as well as regular and systematic monitoring of threats to forests and to their life potential, monitoring of natural impacts and human-induced impacts on forest. Preventive and other protective measures are implemented. Forest management measures are implemented to improve the quality of degraded stands. Forest tending, felling and skidding are implemented in a manner so as to prevent lasting damage being incurred on ecosystems.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 2.1.a General characteristics</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: Existence and type of legal or regulatory framework providing an efficient system for monitoring and preventing harmful occurrences in the forest. The disruptions, such as diseases, insects, fire, damage due to extreme climatic factors, pollution and damage resulting from forest management can be monitored.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework which provides an efficient system for monitoring and preventing harmful disruptions in forests.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments which provides an efficient system for monitoring and preventing disruptions in the forest.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of communication to provide support and to communicate on the process of monitoring disruptions in forests and on their prevention.

**Quantitative indicators**

Indicator 2.1.b Quantity and structure of protective-sanitary cut		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total annual quantity of protective-sanitary cut	m³	SFS
Share of protective-sanitary cut in terms of total cut	%	SFS
Structure of protective-sanitary cut by cause	%	SFS

Indicator 2.1.c Damaged forests due to natural and anthropogenic impacts			
Contents		Unit	Source of data
Trend of young forest tree browsing - total		%	SFS
Trend of young forest tree browsing by tree species		%	SFS
Total area of damaged and degraded forests by cause (biotic, abiotic and anthropogenic)		ha	SFS
Quantity of damaged and degraded forest wood stock by cause (biotic, abiotic and anthropogenic)		m³	SFS
Share of damaged and degraded forests (due to exogenous impacts) in terms of total forest area		%	SFS
Annual number of forest fires		number	SFS
Average size of forest fires		ha	SFS
Comments:	Presentation by cause: - biotic impacts: insects, phytopathogenic organisms, wild life, pasturing cattle,		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- abiotic impacts: wind, snow, sleet, fire, avalanche, other,</li> <li>- anthropogenic impacts: forest management, pollution.</li> </ul> <p>Damaged forest is a forest in which negative external impacts prevent natural development of the ecosystem and the provision of forest functions. Degraded forest is a forest in which negative external impacts diminish its growth potential and fertility of the forest land or in some other way deteriorate the possibilities of implementing forest functions. (Article 3 of the AF)</p>
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<b>Indicator 2.1.d Status and changes in the defoliation of crowns and mechanical damage of forest trees</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Status and changes in serious defoliation of crowns using the UN/ECE and EU defoliation classification (classes 2, 3 and 4) by main tree type	%	SFI
Status and changes in serious mechanical damage of forest trees	%	SFI

*Note: The mechanical damage of forest trees is a direct indicator of the quality and the sustainability of forest management. The threshold for the mechanical damage of forest trees (serious damage) is defined in the Regulation on Forest Management and Silviculture Plans.*

<b>2.2.</b>	<b>Unauthorised felling and forest pasture</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Clear-cutting of trees as a forest management method shall be prohibited. It shall be prohibited to take any action in forest, which diminishes the growth potential of the stand or the fertility of the site, the stability or the sustainability of a forest, or which endangers its function, its existence or its purpose. Pasture in forests which is not provided in the silviculture plan shall be prohibited.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 2.2.a General characteristics</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework which prevents, monitors, supervises and sanctions ecologically unacceptable actions which take place in forests.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework which prevents, monitors, supervises and sanctions ecologically unacceptable actions which take place in forests.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments which inhibit ecologically unacceptable actions taking place in forests, and which promote ecologically acceptable actions to take place in forests.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information for the prevention, monitoring and supervision of ecologically unacceptable actions, which take place in forests.
5. Forest management planning Forest management planning guidelines which improve the forest ecosystem health and vitality and limit harmful impacts and degradation of forest land.

**Quantitative indicator**

<b>Indicator 2.2.b Unauthorised felling</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total annual quantity of unauthorised felling	m <sup>3</sup>	SFS, IRSAFF
Total share of unauthorised felling in terms of total felling	%	SFS, IRSAFF
Total annual clear-cut area	ha	IRSAFF, SFS
Average annual clear-cut area	ha	IRSAFF, SFS

*Note: Unauthorised felling is considered to be felling which has not been anticipated and is not allowed, as stipulated by the Forest Act and by implementing regulations and plans.*

<b>Indicator 2.2.c Forest pasture</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Area of forests grazed by domestic animals	ha	SFS
Share of areas with organised forest pasture in terms of total area of forests with forest pasture	%	SFS



<b>2.3.</b>	<b>Use of chemicals in forest</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	<p>Integrated forest protection shall be implemented. The use of pesticides and other chemical substances in the forest shall be prohibited, unless by virtue of a decision by the public forestry services aimed and controlling the gradation of harmful insects and for ensuring protection against game wildlife. The use of chemical substances must be targeted and limited to the minimum, taking into account the alternative silviculture and other biological measures. If fertilizers are used, this must be supervised and the fertilization executed in an ecologically acceptable manner.</p> <p>Prohibited pesticides are: i) the World Health Organisation Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other very poisonous pesticides, ii) chlorinated hydrocarbons pesticides whose derivatives remain biologically active and are accumulated in the food chain, and iii) any pesticides banned by international agreements.</p> <p>Producer's instructions are observed for the use of pesticides. Proper equipment and recognized training must be completed if pesticides are used.</p>

*Note: "any pesticides banned by international agreements," are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2001 and its later versions.*

#### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 2.3.a General characteristics</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: Existence and type of legal or regulatory framework to prevent and restrict the use of chemical substances, regulating appropriate usage of exceptionally permissible chemical substances in the forest.
2. Institutional frameworks: Existence and capacity of institutional framework to direct and supervise the use of chemical substances in forestry.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: Existence and type of economic policy and financial instruments for ecologically most acceptable use of exceptionally permissible chemical substances in forestry.
4. Informational means: Existence and capacity of informational means to supervise the usage of exceptionally permissible chemical substances in forestry.

#### Quantitative indicator

<b>Indicator 2.3.b Quantity of used chemical substances in the forest</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Average annual quantity of used chemical substances for the protection of forests by main group (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides).	L, kg / 1000 ha	SFS
Average annual quantity of used fertilizers in the forest	kg / 1000 ha	SFS
Annual number of instances on non-permitted use of chemical substances in forests	Number of instances	IRSAFF

<b>2.4.</b>	<b>Nutrient balance of soil and forests</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Health condition of forests and availability of nutritional substances to soil and trees must be documented.

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 2.4.a General characteristics</b>
The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the implementation and the development of regular monitoring of the health condition of stands are provided for, specifically, in terms of the availability of nutritional substances to forest trees and soil, soil acidity and defoliation of forest trees.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework by way of which the implementation and the development of regular monitoring of the health condition of stands are provided for, specifically, in terms of the availability of nutritional substances to forest trees and soil, soil acidity and defoliation of forest trees.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments by way of which budgetary and other funds are provided for the implementation of regular monitoring of the health condition of stands, specifically, in terms of the availability of nutritional substances to forest trees and soil, soil acidity and defoliation of forest trees.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information for the implementation and the development of regular monitoring of the health condition of stands, specifically, in terms of the availability of nutritional substances to forest trees and soil, soil acidity and defoliation of forest trees.

### Quantitative indicators

<b>Indicator 2.4.b Values and changes in the characteristics of forest soil (pH values, C/N ratio, cation exchange capacities - CEC and base saturation)</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
pH values of soil (acidity, basicity)	pH value	SFI
Total carbon to nitrogen ratio (C/N) in soil	C/N	SFI
Value of cation exchange capacity of soil (CEC)	cmol <sup>+</sup> /kg of soil	SFI
Value of base saturation (V)	%	SFI
Changes in pH value of soil (acidity, basicity)	%	SFI
Changes in total carbon to nitrogen ratio (C/N) in soil	%	SFI
Changes in cation exchange capacity of soil (CEC)	%	SFI
Changes in base saturation (V)	%	SFI

<b>Indicator 2.4.c Values and changes in the availability of mineral nutrients to forest trees</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Availability of mineral nutrients to forest trees	mg,µg / g of conifers, leaves	SFI
Change in the availability of mineral nutrients to forest trees (±)	%	SFI
<b>Indicator 2.4.d Input of air pollutants to forests</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Input of nitrogen and sulphur pollutants (N-, S-) by dry and wet deposits into forest ecosystems	kg/ha/year	SFI
Changes in input of nitrogen and sulphur pollutants (N-, S-) by dry and wet deposits into forest ecosystems (±)	%	SFI

<b>2.5</b>	<b>Pollution of forests with fuels, lubricants and other waste</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	In operations carried out in forests with machines and equipment, residues of fuels and lubricants must be removed. Any disposals of waste in forests that would pose a threat to the growth and the fertility of earth, the stability or sustainability of forest or jeopardizing its function, subsistence and purpose, shall be prohibited. Any such instance must be recorded and reported to a suitable institution or organisation.

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicators 2.5.a General characteristics</b>
1. Legal or regulative framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulative framework by way of which leaving residues of fuels and lubricants in forests is prohibited, as well as the disposing in forests of waste that would pose a threat to the growth and fertility of earth, to the stability or the sustainability of the forest or that would jeopardize its function, its subsistence and its purpose. Measures regarding such instances are stipulated by way of such framework.
2. Institutional framework: The existence and the type of an institutional framework by way of which the following is provided for: the supervision over the usage and spillage of fuels and lubricants, as well as the supervision over illegal disposal of waste in forest.
3. Economy policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economy policy and financial instruments for ecologically most acceptable usage of fuels and lubricants in forests as well as for waste management in forests.
4. Information means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to exercise control over the usage and the spillage of fuels and lubricants in forests as well as over waste disposal in forests.

### Quantitative indicators

<b>Indicator 2.5.b Number of annual instances of forest pollution with fuels, lubricants and other waste</b>		
Content	Unit	Data source
Annual number of instances of spillage of fuels and lubricants in forests	Number of instances	SFS, IRSAFF
Annual number of recorded new wild dumping waste grounds in forests according to types (communal waste, special waste)	Number of instances	SFS, IRSAFF

### CRITERION 3. Maintenance and encouragement of productive function of forest (wood and non-wood) and services

<b>3.1.</b>	<b>Forestry planning system</b>
<b>Subcriterion</b>	Forest management must be based on valid forest management plans, which have to be aligned with other plans and guidelines, especially those related to spatial planning and protection of nature. Plans must encourage various forest uses and functions. Plans must be periodically revised. For the purpose of planning, forest resources and the impact of forest management must be periodically monitored. Forest management planning should promote wood and non-wood forest products and services.

#### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 3.1.a General characteristics</b>
The existence and the capacity of institutional framework by way of which regular periodical forest management planning is provided for and developed, and integral connection of spatial planning schemes, the management of protected areas and forest management planning is ensured.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework by way of which regular periodical forest management planning is provided for and developed, and integral connection of spatial planning schemes, the management of protected areas and forest management planning is ensured.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments by way of which regular periodical implementation of forest management planning is provided for and the integration of spatial planning schemes, the management of protected areas and forest management planning is promoted.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to ensure constant periodical implementation of forest management planning and to carry out the monitoring of the condition of forest resources, of the forest management actions and of their impacts.

#### Quantitative indicator

<b>Indicator 3.1.b Coverage of forests by forest management plans</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Coverage of forests by forest management plans of forest management units	%	SFS
Coverage of forests by silviculture plans	%	SFS
Share of forests with drawn up holding plans	%	SFS
Coverage of forests by regional hunting-breeding plans	%	SFS

<b>3.2.</b>	<b>Wood production function – harvesting</b>
<b>Subcriterion</b>	<p>Planning and forest management must permanently provide for optimal wood yield from forest without diminishing the biotic diversity of the forest, its life potential or weakening its generally useful functions.</p> <p>It shall be preferred to intensify forest management practices, especially in private forests, due to a too great a gap between the actual and the potential felling.</p> <p>Wood scrap shall be used in an optimum manner whereby excessive removal of nutrient substances from stands must be limited on weaker sites.</p> <p>In the long-term, the forest management should preserve and improve forest funds and promote new products and services.</p> <p>The goal of the holding planning should be an adequate economic performance which, when planned, should take into account the available market studies, sale potentials of new markets and economic activities related to products and services provided by forests.</p> <p>Felling shall be carried out in those periods of time and in such a manner so as to prevent the reduction in the production capacity of plots of land and to limit the damage being incurred to soil and trees to the greatest possible extent.</p>

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 3.2.a General characteristics</b>
<p>1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which forest holders are bound and encouraged to manage their forest sustainably and in a nature-friendly manner. While simultaneously fulfilling other forest functions, and acting in accordance with forest management plans, this in turn makes it possible to achieve optimal wood yield.</p>
<p>2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework by way of which support to a more active, sustainable and nature-friendly forest management is provided for and an organised market and a sale of timber products and services is promoted.</p>
<p>3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and type of economic policy and financial instruments by way of which suitable incentives are provided for the implementation of measures aimed at improving the utilisation of site potential, especially in terms of quality.</p>
<p>4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to monitor and give support to a more active, sustainable and nature-friendly forest management and to enhance the development of an organised market of forest timber products and forestry services.</p>

### Quantitative indicators

Indicator 3.2.b Quantity and intensity of annual felling		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total annual felling by felling type	m <sup>3</sup>	SFS
Share of annual felling in terms of increment	%	SFS
Share of annual felling in terms of maximum possible felling	%	SFS
Share of annual felling in terms of growing stock	%	SFS
Comments:	Contents are presented by ownership or holding size category, separately for coniferous, deciduous trees and together	

<b>Indicator 3.2.c Intensity level of forest management</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Area of multi-purpose forests by management intensity level	ha	SFS
Share of multi-purpose forests by management intensity level	%	SFS
Changes in the area of multi-purpose forests by management intensity level	%	SFS

<b>Indicator 3.2.d Quantity and value of sold round wood</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total annual net quantity of sold round wood	m <sup>3</sup>	SORS, FLFF
Total annual net quantity of sold round wood by main range group (logs, other technical timber, cellulose wood, heating wood)	m <sup>3</sup>	SORS, FLFF
Average value of round wood sold annually	EUR /m <sup>3</sup>	SORS, FLFF
Average value of round wood sold annually by main range group (logs, other technical timber, cellulose, heating wood)	EUR /m <sup>3</sup>	SORS, FLFF

*Note:*

*Content is presented by ownership or by holding size category, separately for coniferous, deciduous trees and in aggregate figures.*

<b>3.3</b>	<b>Wood production function – biological investment in forests</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	As wood production is promoted, more intensive silviculture works and investments in the implementation of protective measures must be provided to improve the quality and ecologic stability of forest stands.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 3.3.a General characteristics</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: Existence and type of legal or regulatory framework binding on and encouraging forest holders to implement silviculture and other measures in forests in accordance with forest management plans.
2. Institutional frameworks: Existence and capacity of institutional framework to provide and encourage forest holders to implement silviculture and other measures in forests.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: Existence and type of economic policy and financial instruments providing and encouraging forest holders to make silviculture and other investments in forests.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to encourage and direct forest holders to make silviculture and other investments in forests and to monitor such investments.

**Quantitative indicator**

<b>Indicator 3.3.b Quantity and share of implemented silviculture - protective works</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total area of annually implemented silviculture-protective works by measure	ha	SFS
Total quantity of daily work involved in silviculture-protective works by measure annually	daily work	SFS
Share of annually implemented silviculture-protective works compared to the plan by measure	%	SFS

*Note:*

*Content is presented separately by ownership and together.*

<b>3.4.</b>	<b>Wood production function – accessibility of forests by forest roads</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	<p>In order to ensure efficient forest management, the network of forest traffic routes must be suitably planned, set up and maintained, while ensuring adequate permanent production and exploitation of forest resources as well as the functioning of forest for generally beneficial functions, and minimising negative impacts of the road network on the environment. A special attention shall be dedicated to the planning of forest roads in the area of ecosystems with rare and sensitive species and endangered genetic resources.</p> <p>The construction of forest roads and hauling roads and bridges shall be carried out in a manner which minimises the danger of erosion on non-protected soil and the threat of leaching into near water courses. An adequate drainage of forest routes shall be provided for.</p>

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 3.4.a General characteristics</b>
<p>1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the planning, the construction and the maintenance of the network of forest traffic routes is regulated and provided for.</p>
<p>2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and capacity of institutional framework to plan construct and maintain the network of forest traffic routes.</p>
<p>3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and of economic policy and financial instruments to support the planning, construction and the maintenance of the network of forest traffic routes.</p>
<p>4. Informational means: The existence and capacity of informational means for the needs of the planning, the construction and the maintenance of the network of forest traffic routes.</p>

**Quantitative indicator**

<b>Indicator 3.4.b Accessibility of forests by forest roads</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Accessibility of forests by forest roads	m/ha	SFS
Length of roads opening the forest	m	SFS
Changes in the length of roads opening the forest	%	SFS
Share of inaccessible commercial forests	%	SFS

<b>Indicator 3.4.c Annual maintenance and construction of forest roads</b>		
Content	Unit	Source of data
Length of annual newly-constructed forest roads	km	SFS
Length of annual maintenance of forest roads	km	SFS
Annual cost for maintaining forest roads according to type of works	EUR	SFS



<b>3.5.</b>	<b>Non-wood products and services</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	<p>Forest management must provide sustainable production and exploitation of non-wood forest products and services, which does not exceed the capacity of forests and does not deteriorate their quality and general condition.</p> <p>The sustainable exploitation of non-wood forest products must be promoted, including in the form of ancillary activities within the scope of forest holding activities.</p>

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 3.5.a General characteristics</b>
<p>1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the sustainable production and use of non-wood forest products as well as the provision of services related to non-wood forest benefits are regulated.</p> <p>The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to provide professional guidance, monitoring and supervision over the production and the use of non-wood forest products and the provision of services.</p> <p>3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments to enable the promotion of and the guidance for sustainable exploitation and the use of non-wood forest resources and services.</p> <p>4. Informational means: The existence and capacity of means of information for planned forest management and for monitoring forest management practices which are aimed at exploiting non-wood forest resources.</p>

### Quantitative indicators

<b>Indicator 3.5.b Quantity and value of annual game cull and hunting-management importance of forests</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Share of forests with emphasised hunting-management function	%	SFS
Total number of annual game cull by game type	number	SFS
Value of annual game cull by game type	EUR	SFS

<b>Indicator 3.5.c Quantity of other non-wood products produced from the forest and the share of forests important for obtaining other wood resources</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Annual quantity of major non-wood forest products by type/group	kg	SFS, SFI
Share of forests with emphasised function of producing other wood resources in terms of total forest area	%	SFS

*Note:*

*Data, that are accessible, are presented.*

## CRITERION 4. Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems

<b>4.1.</b>	<b>Biodiversity - general</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	<p>Planning and forest management must be targeted at sustainable maintenance, conservation and enhancement of biotic diversity at the level of the landscape, the ecosystem, species, and at the genetic level.</p> <p>Tending and harvesting operations shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems.</p>

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 4.1.a General conditions</b>
<p>1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the definition is provided for the conservation, the protection and the sustainable development concept of biodiversity and the conformity of national legal instruments with international instruments is ensured.</p>
<p>2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to establish, conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and to evaluate forests in which management is adjusted to preserve biodiversity.</p>
<p>3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and type of economic policy and financial instruments by way of which the development of mechanisms is enabled that are aimed at identifying and monitoring human-induced impacts on forests, as well as promoting forest management practices by way of which the management is aligned with practices for preserving and enhancing biodiversity.</p>
<p>4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to produce new inventories, carry out new audits of ecological impacts on biodiversity and to develop tools for assessing the consequences of forest management on biodiversity.</p>

<b>4.2.</b>	<b>Ecologically significant biotopes and habitats and specific areas of their conservation</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	When planning and managing forests, the ecologically significant, typical, rare and sensitive forest biotopes, habitat types and species must be preserved, especially within the scope of the network of special areas of conservation (the so-called NATURA 2000 areas and ecologically significant areas - ESAs). Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to maintain or improve biological diversity.

*Note: Preservation does not exclude a tailored forest management activity which does not diminish biodiversity value of these biotopes.*

#### **Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 4.2.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which legal means are provided for preserving and protecting ecologically significant biotopes and habitats and their areas, especially NATURA 2000 areas and ecologically important areas.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to preserve ecologically significant biotopes and habitats and their areas, especially NATURA 2000 areas and ecologically significant areas, and to provide for the implementation of adopted conservation programmes.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economy policy and financial instruments to give support to measures for preserving ecologically significant biotopes and habitats, especially within the scope of NATURA 2000 areas and ecologically important areas.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information for identifying and monitoring the conditions and measures aimed at the preservation of ecologically significant biotopes and habitats, especially within the scope of NATURA 2000 areas and ecologically important areas.

#### **Quantitative indicators**

<b>Indicator 4.2.b Forest area under special management regime and the area of other forest land for preserving biotic and landscape diversity and special nature elements</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Forest area by MCPFE protective categories	ha, %	SFS
Change in forest area by MCPFE protective categories	%	SFS

<b>Indicator 4.2.c Area and share of forests in special areas of conservation (NATURA 2000 and ecologically important areas)</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total forest area in ecologically significant areas and separately in Natura 2000 areas	ha	SFS, SFI
Share of forest area in ecologically significant areas and separately in Natura 2000 areas in terms of total forest area	%	SFS, SFI
Change in total forest area in ecologically significant areas and separately in Natura 2000 areas	%	SFS, SFI

<b>Indicator 4.2.d Area and changes in forest area with exceptionally stressed function of natural heritage protection</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Forest area where natural heritage protective function is highly important	ha	SFS
Change in forest area where natural heritage protective function is highly important	%	SFS

<b>Indicator 4.2.e Area and changes in forest area with exceptionally stressed biotope function</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Forest area where biotope function is highly important	ha	SFS
Change in forest area biotope function is highly important	%	SFS

<b>Indicator 4.2.f Scope of budgetary funds allocated to measures for ensuring a favourable condition of ecologically important habitat types and species</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Scope of funds annually allocated to forest conservation measures in the scope of NATURA network by type of measure	EUR	SFS, EARS
Share of funds annually allocated to forest conservation measures in the scope of NATURA network in terms of all NATURA funds	%	SFS, EARS

<b>4.3.</b>	<b>Threatened plant and animal species</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Forest management must provide for protection and conservation of rare and threatened animal and plant species. Protected and threatened animal and plant species must not be used for commercial purposes. When necessary, measures shall be adopted for their protection or for spreading the threatened species.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 4.3.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which legal means for protecting threatened species are provided for.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop and maintain institutional instruments for protecting threatened species.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments to support the protection and conservation of threatened species.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information by way of which the occasional verification of the status of endangered plant and animal species is provided for, the knowledge of endangered species is improved, the production of inventories is enabled and research activities on threatened species are carried out.

**Quantitative indicators**

<b>Indicator 4.3.b Threatened forest species by IUCN category</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Number of species on the "Red List of Threatened Plant and Animal Species" related to the forest, by systematic group and IUCN category	number	SFI, NPIRS
Share of species on the "Red List of Threatened Plant and Animal Species" related to the forest, by systematic group and IUCN category	%	SFI, NPIRS

<b>4.4.</b>	<b>Preservation and use of forest reproductive material</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	For the needs of artificial regeneration of forests and reforestation whereby a preference is given to domestic species and their local provenances, a constant supervisory care with quality reproductive material of different types and provenances must be provided. The planting of those tree species shall be encouraged which are more resilient to climate change and which fit to the local climate conditions.  Planting and sowing of foreign tree species and tree species (allochthonous) and not adoptable to the site (non-appropriate provenances) shall be prohibited, unless such activities are foreseen by the forests-management or silvicultural plans. Genetically modified trees shall not be introduced into the forest.

*Note: The following techniques are not considered as genetic modification resulting in genetically modified trees (EU Directive 2001/18/EC): vitro fertilisation, natural processes such as: conjugation, transduction, transformation, polyploidy induction.*

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 4.4.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulative framework: Existence and type of legal or regulative framework which regulates preservation and use of forests genetic resources as well as planting and sowing of tree species for the needs of artificial regeneration of forests and reforestation.
2. Institutional framework: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to enable the development and the sustainability of institutional instruments aimed at the preservation and the use of forest reproductive materials.
3. Economy policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economy policy and financial instruments to support the preservation of forest genetic resources and to the acquisition and the use of domestic forest reproduction materials.
4. Information means: The existence and the type of means of information to enable the supervision over the circumstances, the acquisitions, the trade and the use of forest reproductive material.

### Quantitative indicators

<b>Indicator 4.4.b Number, area and changes in the proportions of forest stands managed for the conservation and utilisation of forest genetic resources</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Number of stands managed for the conservation and utilisation of forest genetic resources by tree species and seed object types (seed stands, gene reserve forests).	number	SFI, SFS
Proportions of stands managed for the conservation and utilisation of forest genetic resources by tree species and seed object types (seed stands, gene reserve forests).	ha	SFI, SFS
Change in the proportions of stands managed for the conservation and utilisation of forest genetic resources by tree species and seed object types (seed stands, gene reserve forests)	%	SFI, SFS

<b>Indicator 4.4.c Planting and sowing for the use of artificial regeneration and reforestation</b>		
Content	Unit	Data sources
Annual surface of planting	Ha	SFS
Annual surface of sowing	Ha	SFS
Annual number of planted saplings	Number	SFS
Percentage of foreign tree species plants as compared to total annual percentage of planted saplings	%	SFS

<b>4.5.</b>	<b>Natural forest regeneration</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Natural forest regeneration must strive for the maximum share of natural regeneration of stands in a manner most similar to natural processes, while at the same time ensuring that species, which are suitable in terms of commercial demand, and the stand design of high quality is observed.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 4.5.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the direction, the implementation and the monitoring of processes are provided for to focus on natural regeneration of economic forests.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework by way of which the direction, the the implementation and the monitoring of processes are provided for to focus on natural regeneration of economic forests.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments to stimulate natural regeneration of economic forests and to promote the conservation of biodiversity.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to identify the status of processes for natural regeneration of economic forests, and to enable their monitoring.

**Quantitative indicator**

Indicator 4.5.b Natural regeneration compared to total forest regeneration		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Share of natural regeneration compared to total forest regeneration	%	SFS
Change in the share of natural regeneration compared to total forest rehabilitation	%	SFS
Comments: The share of natural forest regeneration can be presented by the share of natural young forest compared to total area of young forest.		

<b>4.6.</b>	<b>Degree of habitat conservation</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Forest management must provide the conservation of favourable condition for forests and forest habitat types, in which case a special emphasis is given on habitat types that are important on the European level.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 4.6.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the conservation of favourable status of forests and forest habitat types is provided for.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework by way of which the conservation of favourable status of forests and forest habitat types is provided for.
The existence and type of economic policy and financial instruments to stimulate the conservation of favourable status of forests and forest habitat types.

**4. Informational means:**

The existence and the capacity of means of information to establish and monitor the conservation status of forests and forest habitat types.

**Quantitative indicator**

<b>Indicator 4.6.b Degree of habitat conservation</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Share of forests by degree of tree species composition conservation	%	SFS
Change in the share of forests by degree of tree species composition conservation	%	SFS
Comments	Degrees of tree composition conservation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conserved forests</li> <li>- altered forests</li> <li>- significantly altered forests</li> <li>- exchanged forests</li> </ul>	

<b>4.7.</b>	<b>Dead wood</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	In forest management, it shall be necessary to systematically preserve and not to remove the suitable quantity and distribution of standing, fallen dead trees and hollow trees, as this ensures the preservation of favourable conservation status of plant and animal species in forests. When drying coniferous trees are not removed, the potential impact on the health and stability of forests has to be considered.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 4.7.a General conditions</b>
<b>1. Legal or regulatory framework:</b> The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which systematic preservation and non-removal of a suitable quantity of standing and fallen dead trees in forests are provided for.
<b>2. Institutional frameworks:</b> The existence and the capacity of institutional framework by way of which the preservation and the non-removal of a suitable quantity of standing and fallen dead trees are simultaneously ensured in forest management.
<b>3. Economic policy and financial instruments:</b> The existence and the type of economy policy and financial instruments to promote systematic preservation and non-removal of a suitable quantity of standing and fallen dead trees in forests.
<b>4. Informational means:</b> The existence and the type of means of information to establish and monitor the status of standing and fallen dead trees in forests.

**Quantitative indicator**

<b>Indicator 4.7.b Quantity of dead wood mass</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total volume of (standing and fallen) dead wood	m <sup>3</sup> /ha	SFS
Quantity of dead wood per hectare by wide-spread thickness classes	m <sup>3</sup> /ha	SFS
Share of dead wood mass by wide-spread thickness classes	%	SFS
Change in the quantity of dead wood mass	%	SFS



Comments:	Contents are presented separately for standing and fallen trees and together
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<b>4.8.</b>	<b>Tree diversity of stands</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Forest management must promote tree structure suitable for the site as well as species diversity and mixed stands. Where applicable, the diversity of horizontal and vertical structures, such as uneven-aged structure and mixed stands, shall be stimulated by means of forest managing plans. Traditional management systems which have created special ecosystems (such as coppicing) shall be promoted at suitable sites, if applicable.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 4.8.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the promotion of tree diversity suitable for the site as well as for mixed stands is ensured.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework by way of which the promotion of tree diversity suitable for the site as well as for mixed stands are ensured.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments to promote tree diversity suitable for the site as well as for mixed stands.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to target measures and to monitor tree diversity suitable for the site as well as for mixed stands.

**Quantitative indicator**

<b>Indicator 4.8.b Tree diversity of stands</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Total number of existing tree species in forest by main forest type	number	SFS
Share of foreign tree species (in terms of wood mass) by main forest type	%	SFS
Change in the share of foreign tree species (in terms of wood mass) by main forest type	%	SFS

<b>4.9.</b>	<b>Landscape diversity</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	In forest management, it shall be necessary to strive for the preservation and the promotion of tree diversity at the landscape level, whenever possible.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 4.9.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the preservation and the promotion of landscape diversity are enabled.
2. Institutional frameworks:

The existence and the capacity of institutional framework by way of which the preservation and promotion of landscape diversity are enabled.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and type of economic policy and financial instruments to promote preservation and promotion of landscape diversity.
4. Informational means: The existence and capacity of means of information to identify and monitor landscape diversity.

### Quantitative indicators

Indicator 4.9.b Landscape types		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Share of landscape types in terms of total forest area	%	SFS
Share of forests by landscape type in terms of total forest area	%	SFS
Comments	Presentation by landscape type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- wooded mountain landscape</li> <li>- forest landscape</li> <li>- wooded landscape</li> <li>- agricultural and suburban landscape</li> </ul>	

<b>4.10</b>	<b>Game wildlife impact</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	The impact of game wildlife on regeneration, growth and biodiversity of forests must be monitored regularly. The results of the monitoring process must be observed when planning measures for game wildlife management.

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Kazalnik 4.10.a Splošni pogoji</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the monitoring and the prevention of adverse game wildlife impact on forests are provided for.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to enable the monitoring and prevention of adverse game wildlife impact on forests.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and measures to enable the monitoring and the prevention of adverse game wildlife impact on forests.
4. Information and Communication: The existence and the capacity of means of information to support the monitoring and the prevention of adverse game wildlife impact on forests.

### Quantitative indicators

Indicator 4.10 Damaged forests due to browsing wildlife		
Content	Unit	Source of data
The trend in browsing of tree saplings - total , by region	%	SFS
The trend in browsing of tree saplings, by tree species, by region	%	SFS

## CRITERION 5. Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management

<b>5.1.</b>	<b>Maintenance and enhancement of soil protection function of forest</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Forests having protective function must be mapped in forest management plans. Forest management must be targeted to maintain and enhance protective function, notably in terms of soil erosion and different effects of water, such as floods and landslides. Support ecosystem services must be promoted and maintained.

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 5.1.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which legal instruments are available for regulating and restricting forest management and game wildlife management in areas with sensitive soil, and for promoting supporting ecosystem services (soil formation, photosynthesis and nutrient cycling).
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to regulate and restrict forest management in areas with sensitive soil, and to promote supporting ecosystem services.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments to promote the implementation of the planned forest management measures in areas with sensitive soil.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to produce inventories and carry out research on soil erosion.

### Quantitative indicators

Indicator 5.1.b Area and share of forests primarily managed to maintain and enhance soil protection function, including changes in the share		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Area of forests with exceptionally stressed soil protection function	ha	SFS
Share of forests with exceptionally stressed soil protection function in terms of total forest area	%	SFS

<b>5.2.</b>	<b>Maintenance and enhancement of water protection function of forest</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	In forest planning and management, a special attention must be paid to forests with water protection function to prevent harmful impact on the quantity and quality of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals and other harmful substances as well as other activities having an adverse impact on the quality of water must be prevented.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 5.2.a General conditions</b>
11. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which legal instruments are available for regulating and restricting forest management targeted to preserve waters and protect water resources.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop and maintain institutional instruments for regulating and restricting forest management targeted to preserve waters and protect water resources.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments to promote forest management targeted to preserve waters and protect water resources.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to produce inventories and carry out research on the quality of waters and on the characteristics of watercourses as connected with forest management.

**Quantitative indicators**

<b>Indicator 5.2.b Area and share of forests primarily managed to maintain and enhance water protection function, including changes in the share</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Area of forests with exceptionally stressed water protection function	ha	SFS
Share of forests with exceptionally stressed water protection function in terms of total forest area	%	SFS

<b>5.3.</b>	<b>Protective forests declared by Government regulation</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Forest management in forests declared as protective by Government regulation must be adjusted to the maintenance and enhancement of their protective role.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 5.3.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which legal protection or declaration of protective forests is regulated
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop and maintain institutional instruments for regulating and declaring protected forests.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments to provide for a regulated status of protected forests.
4. Informational means: The existence and capacity of means of information to develop expert basis for declaring forests to be protected by Government regulation and for monitoring their condition.

**Quantitative indicators**

<b>Indicator 5.3.b Area and share of protective forests declared by Government regulation, including changes in the share</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Area of protective forests declared by Government	ha	SFS

regulation		
Share of protective forests declared by Government regulation in terms of total forest area	%	SFS

<b>5.4.</b>	<b>Maintenance and enhancement of protective function of forest</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	When managing forests close to infrastructure facilities, special attention must be paid to maintaining and enhancing protective function of forests, particularly for the protection of infrastructure and other facilities.

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 5.4.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which legal instruments are available for regulating and restricting management in forests important for protection of infrastructure facilities.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop and maintain institutional instruments for regulating and restricting management in forests important for protection of infrastructure facilities.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments by way of which the functioning of forest for the protection of infrastructure facilities is provided for.
4. Informational means: The existence and capacity of means of information to carry out research activities concerning forest functioning and forest management aimed at the protection of infrastructure facilities.

### Quantitative indicators

Indicator 5.4.b Area and share of forests with emphasized protective function		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Area of forests with emphasized protective function	ha	SFS
Share of forests with emphasized protective function with regard to the total forest area	%	SFS

**CRITERION 6. Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions**

<b>6.1.</b>	<b>General social significance of forests and forestry</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	<p>When managing forests, the multi-purpose role of forests and their general social significance must be considered, and the recognition of the role of forestry by other sectors must be advocated, in particular those that are responsible for the protection of the environment and nature, for spatial planning and for rural development.</p> <p>The forestry discipline must strive to suitably raise general social and political awareness regarding national significance of forests, which must also be reflected by a stable provision of necessary budgetary funds for forestry.</p>

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 6.1.a General conditions</b>
<p>1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which intersectoral and general social significance of forests, including their multi-purpose role, is recognised and provided for.</p> <p>2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop and maintain instruments for ensuring multi-purpose role of all forests regardless of ownership.</p> <p>3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments to ensure operations of professional services and implementation of measures to maintain and enhance multi-purpose role of forests.</p> <p>4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to introduce, use and develop means of information that are important for ensuring and popularizing multi-purpose role of forests and their general social significance.</p>

**Quantitative indicators**

<b>Indicator 6.1.b Amount and share of budgetary funds allocated to forestry</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Annual amount of budgetary funds allocated to forestry	EUR	MKO
Annual share of budgetary funds allocated to forestry in the total budget and budget of the MKO	%	MKO
Changes in the annual amount of funds allocated to forestry in the total budget and budget of the MKO	%	MKO

<b>Indicator 6.1.c Availability of forestry experts performing public forestry service (professional and advisory duties in the public interest)</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Availability of forestry experts	ha/forestry expert or experts/10,000 ha	SFS, SFI, CAFS, MKO

<b>6.2.</b>	<b>Economic significance of forests and forestry</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	When targeting forest management, while acting in line with the concept of multi-purpose management, special attention must be paid to the role of forestry in the rural development, in particular in the field of employment in connection with timber production and forestry industry as well as with other socio-economic functions of forests. Forest management should promote long-term vitality and welfare of farms and settlements in forest landscapes. Rights to ownership, lease and easement must be clearly determined and taken into account in management.

<b>Indicator 6.2.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which more optimal implementation of economic function of forests and forestry is enabled.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to target and promote more optimal implementation of economic function of forests and forestry
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments to promote more intense forest management practices, particularly in the rural area.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to monitor and develop mechanisms by way of which a more optimal implementation of economic function of forests and forestry is enabled.

<b>Indicator 6.2.b Share of the forestry &amp; wood and paper industries in gross national product</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Share of the forestry industry in gross national product	%	SORS
Share of the wood-processing industry in gross national product	%	SORS
Share of the paper industry in gross national product	%	SORS
Total share of the forestry & wood and paper industries in gross national product	%	SORS
Change in the total share of the forestry & wood and paper industries in gross national product	%	SORS

<b>Indicator 6.2.c. Labour force in forestry sector</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Number of employees in forestry sector, separately by gender and age, education and characteristics of professions	number	SORS

<b>Indicator 6.2.d Annual consumption of wood and wood derivatives per inhabitant</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Annual consumption of wood per inhabitant	m <sup>3</sup>	SFI, SFS
Annual consumption of wood derivatives per inhabitant	kg, l	SFI, SFS

<b>Indicator 6.2.e Import and export of wood and wood derivatives</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Quantity of import and export of wood in terms of type of product range	m <sup>3</sup>	SORS
Ratio of import to export in terms of product range	%	SORS
Quantity of import and export of wood derivatives in terms of type	kg, l	SORS
Ratio of import to export of wood derivatives in terms of type	%	SORS

<b>Indicator 6.2.f Operating profit of companies and sole traders predominantly active in forestry and primary wood-processing industry</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Average annual operating profit of companies predominantly active in forestry and primary wood-processing industry	EUR	APLRS
Average annual operating profit of sole traders predominantly active in forestry and primary wood-processing industry	EUR	APLRS
Change in average annual operating profit of companies predominantly active in forestry and primary wood-processing industry as compared to five years ago	%	APLRS
Change in average annual operating profit of sole traders predominantly active in forestry and primary wood-processing industry as compared to five years ago	%	APLRS

<b>6.3.</b>	<b>Production and use of wood for energy purposes</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Production of wood biomass for energy purposes must be based on the principles of sustainable forest management and be implemented in compliance with the principles of forest care. Use of lower-value wood for energy purposes must be promoted.

<b>Indicator 6.3.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: Existence and type of legal or regulatory framework enabling sustainable production of wood biomass for energy purposes.
2. Institutional frameworks: Existence and capacity of institutional framework directing sustainable production of wood biomass for energy purposes.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: Existence and type of economic policy and financial instruments promoting sustainable production and use of wood biomass for energy purposes.
4. Informational means: Existence and capacity of informational means enabling efficient planning, directing and monitoring of sustainable production and use of wood biomass for energy purposes.

<b>Indicator 6.3.b Share of wood in total energy consumption</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Quantity of wood used for energy purposes	t	SFI, SORS
Share of wood biomass in total energy consumption	%	SFI, SORS
Change in the share of wood biomass in total energy consumption as compared to five years ago	%	SFI, SORS



<b>6.4.</b>	<b>Special purpose forests</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Management of special purpose forests declared by Government or local community regulation must be adjusted to the prominence of function that led to their declaration.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 6.4.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the legal protection or the declaration of special purpose forests is regulated.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop and maintain institutional instruments for regulating and declaring special purpose forests.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments to enable a regulated status of special purpose forests.
4. Informational means: The existence and capacity of means of information to develop expert basis for declaring special purpose forests so declared by Government regulation.

**Quantitative indicator**

<b>Indicator 6.4.b Area and share of special purpose forests, including change in the share</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Area of special purpose forests	ha	SFS
Share of special purpose forests with regard to the total forest area	%	SFS
Change in the share of special purpose forests with regard to the total forest area	%	SFS

<b>6.5.</b>	<b>Social significance of forests</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Free access and movement of forest visitors for the purpose of recreation and other similar activities must be enabled, whereby ownership and other rights, impact of recreation and other similar activities on the forest ecosystem as well as compatibility of such activities with other forest functions must be taken into account. Management and visits in forest with particularly emphasised social functions are adapted to such functions so as not to have a negative impact on forest resources and soil. Forest visitors are informed that relevant codes and forest visiting etiquettes must be observed during visits in nature.

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 6.5.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: Existence and type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which free access and movement of forest visitors are enabled and common and traditional rights of local population in terms of recreation, forest fruit picking in forests are acknowledged.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to govern recreation and other similar activities in forests.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and type of economic policy and financial instrument by way of which measures are promoted for maintaining and enhancing recreational and other social functions of forests.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to carry out research activities and assessments concerning social significance of forests, notably in terms of recreation.

### Quantitative indicators

<b>Indicator 6.5.b Area and share of forests with exceptionally stressed social functions in terms of type of social functions</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Area of forests with exceptionally emphasized social functions in terms of type of social functions	ha	SFS
Share of forests with exceptionally emphasized social functions in terms of type of social functions	%	SFS

<b>Indicator 6.5.c Number and length of developed forest educational trails</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Number of developed forest educational trails	number	SFS
Length of developed forest educational trails	km	SFS

<b>6.6.</b>	<b>Research, education and work</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Forest management shall be done with cooperation with research activities and data collection. Forest managers, forest owners and forest workers must constantly improve their knowledge on sustainable forest management. The know-how on good practices and innovations is taken advantage of; this shall include knowledge obtained by forest owners and non-governmental organisations as well as the existing traditional know-how present in local communities. Forest work must be carried out in compliance with fundamental international conventions by the International Labour Organisation.

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 6.6.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the area of vocational education and forestry research is regulated. The inclusion of international conventions by the ILO into the regulatory framework is ensured.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop and maintain institutional instruments for carrying out and developing research activities and vocational education in forestry.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments by way of which funds for research, educational and advisory purposes are provided for.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information by way of which vocational education and research activities are improved, both in terms of technical means and in terms of human resources.

### Quantitative indicators

<b>Indicator 6.6.b Annual number and type of courses on sustainable forest management for forest workers, forest owners and forest managers</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Number of annual courses by type of course	number	SFS, SFWIS, CAFS, CCIS
Annual number of participants by type of course	number	SFS, SFWIS, CAFS, CCIS

<b>6.7.</b>	<b>Occupational health and safety</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Forest workers and forest owners must work in safe working conditions; for this purpose, training for safe forestry work must be ensured. Providers of services in forests must observe requirements of occupational health and safety. Requirements referred to in the Rules on Minimum Conditions for Providers of Services in Forests must be taken into account.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Kazalnik 6.7.a Splošni pogoji</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which health protection and safety at work for forestry-related activities are regulated.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop and maintain institutional instruments for health protection and safety at work in forestry.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments by way of which health protection and safety at work in forestry are ensured and regular monitoring and research activities concerning health protection and safety at work in forestry are enabled.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to enable regular monitoring, research activities and the development of health protection and safety at work for forestry-related activities.

**Quantitative indicators**

Indicator 6.7.b Number and share of forest owners with safety declaration and risk assessment		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Number of forest owners with safety declaration and risk assessment	number	CAFS, MKO
Share of forest owners with safety declaration and risk assessment in terms of total forest owners	%	CAFS, MKO

Indicator 6.7.c Annual number of occupational accidents at work in forest		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Annual number of occupational accidents of professional workers in forests per 100,000 m3 trees felled	number	LIRS, SFI
Annual number of lethal occupational accidents at work in forests per 100,000 m3 trees felled	number	LIRS, SFI
Comments:	Separately presented for the private and government sector and for both sectors	

Indicator 6.7.d Annual number and type of courses on safe work in forest for owners and managers of forests		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Number of annual courses by type of course	number	SFS, SFWIS, CAFS
Annual number of participants by type of course	number	SFS, SFWIS, CAFS

<b>6.8.</b>	<b>Raising public awareness on the significance of forests and forest based industry</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Information, achievements and findings as well as problems concerning forests and forestry must be presented to the public, awareness on the significance of forests and wood from the aspect of ecology and national economy must be raised.

### Descriptive indicator

<b>Indicator 6.8.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the public access is provided to information related to forests and forestry.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop and maintain institutional instruments for informing the public on forests and forestry.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of economic policy and financial instruments by way of which it is ensured that a proportion of income from forests or budgetary funds are allocated to informing the public and raising its awareness on forests and forestry.
4. Informational means: The existence and capacity of means of information to support the informing of the public and the raising of its awareness on environmental issues and on other issues related to forests and forestry.

### Quantitative indicators

Indicator 6.8.b Annual number of educational events related to forests		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Annual number of educational events by type of activity	number	SFS, ASFS, BF, CAFS, MKO, etc.
Number of participants by type of activity	number	SFS, ASFS, BF, CAFS, MKO, etc.
Note: Refers to organised visits of educational trails, natural science days, lectures and presentations.		

Indicator 6.8.c Number and annual costs of publications, brochures and other activities for the promotion of forests and forestry		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Number of issued publications, brochures and other activities	number	SFS, ASFS, BF, CAFS, MKO, etc.
Annual costs of publications, brochures and other activities	EUR	SFS, ASFS, BF, CAFS, MKO, etc.

<b>6.9.</b>	<b>Participation of the public</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	Forest owners, local communities, non-governmental organisations, local population and other interested public groups must be mobilised to participate in planning and directing forest management, their opinions must be reasonably taken into account.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 6.9.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the cooperation of the public is enabled with their participation in the procedures in which decisions concerning forests and forest management are formulated and adopted.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to establish institutional mechanisms for the cooperation of the interested public (local population, non-governmental organizations) groups and their participation in the procedures in which decisions concerning forests and forest management are formulated and adopted.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and the type of the economic policy and financial instruments by way of which funds are provided for the cooperation of the public and its participation in the procedures in which decisions concerning forests and forest management are formulated and adopted, particularly during the preparation and adoption of various forest management plans.
4. Informational means: The existence and the capacity of means of information to increase the cooperation of the public with their participation in the procedures in which decisions concerning forests and forest management are formulated and adopted.

Indicator 6.9.b Extent of co-operation and inclusion of the public in the discussion of forestry issues		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Annual number of participants in public discussions of forest management plans	number	SFS
Average number of participants in public discussions of forest management plans	number	SFS

<b>6.10.</b>	<b>Cultural, historical and spiritual values of forests</b>
<b>Sub-criterion</b>	In areas of recognized cultural, historical or other spiritual significance, forests must be managed to protect and maintain them as suitable to their significance.

**Descriptive indicator**

<b>Indicator 6.10.a General conditions</b>
1. Legal or regulatory framework: The existence and the type of legal or regulatory framework by way of which the forest management of cultural and historical heritage and other spiritual values of forests is regulated.
2. Institutional frameworks: The existence and the capacity of institutional framework to develop and maintain programmes for preserving cultural heritage and other spiritual values of forests.
3. Economic policy and financial instruments: The existence and type of economic policy and financial instrument by way of which the maintenance

and the preservation of cultural heritage and other spiritual values of forests are provided for and ensured.

4. Information and Communication:

The existence and the capacity of means of information to carry out studies and make assessments on cultural heritage and other spiritual values of forests.

**Quantitative indicators**

<b>Indicator 6.10.b Number and area of culturally, historically or spiritually valuable forest zones</b>		
Contents	Unit	Source of data
Number of important cultural, historical or spiritual sites in forest	number	SFS
Area of forests with emphasized function of protecting cultural heritage and other spiritual values of forests in terms of the prominence of function	ha	SFS

## 9. Performance evaluation

### 9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation

9.1.1 The standard requires that monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.

9.1.2 The standard requires that health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.

9.1.3 The standard requires that where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.

9.1.4 The standard requires that working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.

### 9.2 Internal Audit

#### 9.2.1 Objectives

The standard requires that an internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system

- a) conforms to
  - the organisation's requirements for its management system;
  - the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard
- b) is effectively implemented and maintained

#### 9.2.2 Organisation

The standard requires that the organisation shall:

- a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;
- b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;
- c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;
- d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;
- e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.

### 9.3 Management review

9.3.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include

- a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;
- b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system; Internal audit reviews are taken into consideration which have reviewed a significant part of the area of operation.
- c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in:
  - nonconformities and corrective actions;
  - monitoring and measurement results;
  - audit results;
- c) opportunities for continual improvement.

9.3.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.

9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.



## 10. Improvement

### 10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action

10.1.1 The standard requires that when a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:

- a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:
  - take action to control and correct it;
  - deal with the consequences
- b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by:
  - reviewing the nonconformity;
  - determining the causes of the nonconformity;
  - determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;
- c) implement any action needed;
- d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;
- e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.

10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.

10.1.3 The standard requires that the organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:

- a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;
- b) the results of any corrective action.

### 10.2 Continual improvement

The objective of the certification system is continual improvement of forest management. The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.