Copyright notice

© China Forest Certification Council (CFCC), 2022

This standard is protected by copyright owned by the CFCC. The document is freely available from the CFCC website: www.cfcc.org.cn or upon request.

No part of this standard may be changed or amended, reproduced or copied, in any form or by any means for commercial purposes without the permission of the CFCC.

The official version of the document is in Chinese. English translations of the document can be obtained from the CFCC. When there is doubt in regard to language interpretation, the English version is the reference.

Document name: Forest Management Requirements

Version Number: V1.02

Approved by: CFCC

Approval date: 2023-1-15

Issue date: 2023-1-15

Application date: 2023-1-15

Transitional period: 2023-1-15

Next revision date: 2027-4-20
Contents

Foreword .............................................................................................................................................1
1 Scope...............................................................................................................................................2
2 Normative references ....................................................................................................................2
3 Terms and definitions .....................................................................................................................2
4 Principles and criteria and indicators .............................................................................................4
Appendix A (Informative) National laws and regulations .................................................................17
Appendix B (Informative) International conventions .................................................................18
Foreword
The China Forest Certification Council (CFCC) is responsible for facilitating the development and publication of the forest certification standards used under the CFCS. The CFCS provides for independent assessment of forest management practices and audit of timber product manufacturers or exporters to ascertain that the timber products manufactured or exported are sourced from sustainably managed forests, as well as meet the demand for certified timber products. The CFCC strives to ensure that the national certification scheme endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) remains updated and meets international requirements.

The standard has been developed using an open, transparent, consultative and consensus-based process in accordance with PEFC ST 1001:2017 "Standard-setting -- Requirements" and CFCC-1001-2021 "Standard Development Rule".

The standard replaces the Forest Certification in China-- Forest Management (2012).

The standard is developed based on PEFC ST 1003:2018.
1 Scope

This document specifies the requirements to be met for the certification of sustainable forest management. This document is applicable for the auditing and assessment of the forest management performance for all forest management units by the forest certification bodies.

2 Normative references

ISO/IEC 17021-1, Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: 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

The following terms and definitions are applicable to the Standard.

3.1 Forest management unit
A forest management entity with legal personality, which has forests with a certain area and clear boundaries and can carry out forest management operation according to a forest management plan and management targets.

3.2 Local community
A social group composed by residents that inhabit the forest or surrounding areas, whose interests are impacted by the forest.

3.3 Forest tenure
The owner or user of the forest, trees and forest land has the legal rights to possess, use, benefit from and dispose of them.
Note: It covers the ownership and the use right of forests, trees, and forest land.

3.4 Stakeholder
A group or individual who has direct or indirect interests related to or impacted by forest management, e.g. government organizations, local communities, forest workers, investors, environmental protection organizations, consumers and the general public etc.

3.5 Trees outside forests; TOF
Trees growing in areas outside forest land (agricultural land, urban or construction land,
etc.).

Note 1: trees outside the forest generally include trees along railways and highways; farmland forest network; Urban trees; trees in farmers' private plots; trees beside villages, roads, water and houses.

Note 2: trees outside the forest can be divided into two types according to the management scale: intensive management and extensive management.

Note 3: trees outside the forest under intensive management refer to trees with a contiguous area of more than 10 hm² or trees with a distribution line length of more than 50 km and growing outside the forest land; trees outside the forest that do not belong to intensive management belong to extensive management.

3.6 Chemicals
Chemical products such as chemical fertilizer, pesticide, germicide, herbicide and hormone etc which are used for forest management.

3.7 Environmental impact analysis
A process of analyzing the actual or potential impacts of forest management on the environment so as to identify means to reduce or avoid negative impacts and expand on positive ones.

3.8 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).

3.9 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).

3.10 Forest conversion
Direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest land or forest plantation. Note: Regeneration by planting or direct seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, to the same dominant species as was harvested or other species that were present in the historical species mix is not considered a conversion.

3.11 Integrated Pest Management; IPM
The careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimise risks to human health and the environment (source: FAO 2018).
3.12 Management system
Set of interrelated or interacting elements of an organisation to establish policies and objectives and processes to achieve those objectives.

4 Principles and criteria and indicators

4.1 Legal obligations

4.1.1 National Laws and Regulations as well as International Conventions
4.1.1.1 Forest management units shall take corresponding measures to ensure that applicable national laws and regulations (see Appendix A) and international conventions (see Appendix B) are effectively identified, obtained and updated in a timely manner.
4.1.1.2 Forest management units shall comply with applicable national laws and regulations and international conventions on forest management.
4.1.1.3 Forest management units that have violated laws have taken timely corrective measures according to the laws, which are kept on file.

4.1.2 Protecting forest land
4.1.2.1 The forest management unit has taken effective and tangible measures to protect the forest area from illegal logging, illegal settlement, deforestation and other unauthorized activities.
4.1.2.2 Measures have been taken according to law to correct violations in a timely manner and recorded.

4.1.3 Complying with standards
4.1.3.1 Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to comply with the requirement of this standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system.
4.1.3.2 Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.
4.1.3.3 The commitment shall be publicly available.

4.2 Forest tenure

4.2.1 Ownership documents
4.2.1.1 The ownership and use right of forest land and forests and trees on the forest land of the forest management unit shall have the certificate issued by the real estate registration authority or other legal certificates, such as contract or lease contract.
4.2.1.2 The forest management unit has clear boundaries and marks it on a map.

4.2.2 Ownership disputes
4.2.2.1 Forest management units shall take measures to deal with disputes related to forest ownership.
4.2.2.2 Existing disputes and interest conflicts have not caused significant negative impacts on forest management. The forest management unit significantly impacted by disputes and conflicts shall not pass forest certification.
4.3 Local community and workers’ rights

4.3.1 Local communities
4.3.1.1 Forest management units shall provide employment, training and other social services for residents in and around the forest area (especially for the minor nationalities).
4.3.1.2 Forest management units shall provide support for infrastructure construction in forest areas and surrounding areas (especially in the areas of minor nationalities).

4.3.2 Workers’ health and safety
4.3.2.1 Forest management units shall ensure workers’ health and safety.
4.3.2.2 Pay workers’ wages on time and purchase accident insurance for workers.
4.3.2.3 Legal social welfare shall be provided for workers.
4.3.2.4 Operational safety of workers engaging in forest management shall be guaranteed, necessary uniforms and safety facilities shall be provided, and emergency medical treatment and necessary security training shall be provided.
4.3.2.5 Requirements of all ILO conventions to which China is a signatory shall be complied with.

4.3.3 Employee rights and interests
4.3.3.1 The forest management unit shall regularly hold workers congress or congress of workers representatives to protect the legitimate rights and interests of employees.
4.3.3.2 Forest workers shall be provided with opportunities to participate in decision-making process of forest operations through various channels.

4.3.4 Legal rights of local people
4.3.4.1 The forest management unit shall recognize the legal right of local community to use and manage the land and resources.
4.3.4.2 When local residents voluntarily entrust the resource management right to the forest management unit, both parties shall sign a clear agreement or contract.
4.3.4.3 Under the condition of not impacting on the integrity of the forest ecosystem and the fulfillment of forest management targets, the traditional and authorized right of local residents, especially minority nationalities, shall be guaranteed to enter into or use forest, such as picking non timber forest products, forest recreation, passing, environmental education etc.
4.3.4.4 Regulations shall be clearly defined and informed to local residents, if there are forests that can only be entered into or used in certain circumstances or at a certain time.
4.3.4.5 Forest management units should provide opportunities for local residents (especially for the minor nationalities) to participate in the discussion of forest management planning.

4.3.5 Forest land with specific significance
4.3.5.1 Local residents, especially minority nationalities, shall be consulted with and consensus shall be reached when it is necessary to zone and protect forest land with special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to them.
4.3.5.2 Appropriate measures shall be taken to protect the zoned and protected forest land.
4.3.6 Loss and compensation
4.3.6.1 Appropriate measures shall be taken to avoid the loss of or damage to the legal right, property, resources, or livelihood of local residents, especially minority nationalities.  
4.3.6.2 Local residents, especially minority nationalities, shall be consulted with and fairly compensated if the above-mentioned damages take place.

4.3.7 Traditional knowledge
4.3.7.1 Traditional knowledge of local residents, especially minority nationalities, shall be respected and rationally used in the forest management.  
4.3.7.2 Rights of participation in forest management planning by local residents, especially minority nationalities, shall be appropriately ensured.

4.3.7.3 Shall equitably share the benefits arising from the utilization of such traditional knowledge.

4.3.8 Social impact
4.3.8.1 Social impact of forest management shall be assessed according to its means and scale.  
4.3.8.2 Results of the social impact assessment shall be considered in the forest management plan and operation plan.  
4.3.8.3 A communication and consultation mechanism shall be built with relevant agencies through involvement of local communities, especially minority nationalities.  
4.3.8.4 FMU shall have appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.

4.4 Forest management plan

4.4.1 Planning
4.4.1.1 The forest management unit has a timely, effective and scientific forest management plan.  
4.4.1.2 The preparation of forest management plan shall be based on the applicable local, national and international legislation, local land spatial planning, long-term forestry planning, the size and use of the forest area and accurate forest resources information.  
4.4.1.3 Opinions of administrators, management units, local communities and other stakeholders are extensively solicited in the process of developing the forest management plan.  
4.4.1.4 The contents of the forest management plan should include the following contents:

—Forest management objectives;  
—Forest management organization;  
—Planning and design of forest cultivation and ecological restoration;  
—Planning and design of forest harvesting and regeneration;  
—Production of forest products;  
—Forest health and forest protection;  
—Biodiversity conservation;  
—Infrastructure construction and maintenance;
—Investment estimation and benefit analysis;
—Necessary charts and maps related to forest management.

4.4.1.5 On the premise of information permission, the forest management unit shall disclose the main contents of the forest management plan, including the scope and scale of forest management, main forest management measures and other information.

4.4.1.6 The forest management plan shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.

4.4.2 Implementation

4.4.2.1 The organizational structure and division of responsibilities of the forest management unit shall cover all contents of the forest management scheme.

4.4.2.2 The annual operation plan shall be developed based on the forest management plan.

4.4.2.3 The forest management shall contribute to research activities needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organizations.

4.4.3 Revision

4.4.3.1 The forest management unit shall learn the latest developments in forestry science and technology and policy information related to forest management in a timely manner.

4.4.3.2 The forest management plan shall be periodically revised (less than 10 years) according to forest resources monitoring results, latest science and technology and policy information, including latest market and economic activities related to timber, non timber forest products and forest services, as well as the change of environmental, social and economic circumstances.

4.4.4 Training

4.4.4.1 The forest management unit establishes a system for providing forest workers with training and guidance.

4.4.4.2 Employees shall be well trained, understand and master the operation requirements, and have the ability to correctly implement forest management operations.

4.5 Cultivation and utilization of forest resources

4.5.1 Operation design

4.5.1.1 The forest management unit shall formulate operational design in accordance with forest management plan and annual operational plan, and carry out operation activities according to approved operational design.

4.5.1.2 Appropriate adjustments are properly undertaken based on the precondition that the management activities are guaranteed to be more conducive to realizing management targets and safeguarding the integrity of the forest ecosystem.

4.5.2 Investment for forest

4.5.2.1 The forest management unit shall take into full consideration economic viability of its management and operational costs.

4.5.2.2 Reasonable investment scale and structure shall be guaranteed for sustainable
Diversified management

4.5.3.1 A diversified economy based on sustainable use of various timber and non-timber forest products, such as forest fruit, oil plants, food, beverages, herbs and materials for chemical industry etc. shall be implemented.

4.5.3.2 Measures for breeding, protection and use of main non timber forest products shall be formulated.

4.5.3.3 Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, on appropriate sites shall be supported when economically feasible.

Seeds and seedlings

4.5.4.1 The introduction, production and management of forest seeds and seedlings shall align with the requirements of national laws and regulations or local regulations.

4.5.4.2 Import permits and quarantine documents shall be applied from forestry authorities prior to the introduction of forest seeds, seedlings and other propagating materials.

Tree species of afforestation

4.5.5.1 Tree species for afforestation shall be selected based on the management targets and the principle of proper tree species for proper sites.

4.5.5.2 Indigenous tree species shall be selected with priority, while afforestation of pure forests shall be minimized.

4.5.5.3 Introduction of exotic species when appropriate is limited to those that are not invasive, do not affect the growth of local plants, and can provide environmental and economic benefits.

4.5.5.4 Monitoring shall be carefully made on the growth status and ecological implication after exotic tree species are used for afforestation.

4.5.5.5 No GMO trees are allowed.

Afforestation design

4.5.6.1 Afforestation design and operations shall be developed according to relevant national and local technical standards and rules.

4.5.6.2 Afforestation design conforms to management targets, and reasonable afforestation, tending, thinning, final felling and regeneration plans shall be developed.

4.5.6.3 Measures shall be adopted to promote the diversification of the structure of the forest stand and strengthen its stability.

4.5.6.4 Wildlife corridors shall be established based on the scale of forest management and the wildlife migrating habits.

4.5.6.5 The afforestation layout and planning is conducive to maintaining and enhancing the value and features of the natural landscape, and its ecological connectivity shall be maintained.

4.5.6.6 Promoting the conversion of abandoned land and treeless land into forest land shall be taken into consideration.

4.5.6.7 Afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.
4.5.7 Forest harvesting

4.5.7.1 The forest management unit shall develop an annual harvesting amount based on the principle of forest recourse consumption being less than its growth, reasonable management and sustainable use.

4.5.7.2 Forest harvesting can only be conducted with forest harvesting licence and according to its requirements.

4.5.7.3 Records shall be kept of forest harvesting volume and sites.

4.5.7.4 Use of timber and non-timber forest products shall not exceed the allowable level for sustainable development.

4.5.8 Conservation and regeneration of natural forests

4.5.8.1 Effective measures shall be adopted to promote the conservation and regeneration of natural forests.

4.5.8.2 In the process of natural forest management, some mother trees with reasonable spatial distribution should be reserved to ensure the natural regeneration of the forest.

4.5.8.3 The forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:

   a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with affected stakeholders; and

   b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5%) of forest type within the certified area; and

   c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and

   d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and

   e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.

4.5.8.4 The afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:

   a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and

   b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and

   c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) non-forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and

   d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and

   e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and

   f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.

4.5.8.5 If conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such
value are circumstances where the conversion:

a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and

b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and

c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and

d) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and

e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and

f) safeguards socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and

g) has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices; and

h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.

4.5.8.6 A certain area of forest land shall be kept to promote the gradual transfer to natural forests (including natural secondary forests) on the plantations established on the damaged natural forest or secondary natural forests according to its scale and management targets.

4.5.8.7 Plantations established within the neighboring area of natural forests for Eco-functions shall be managed to gradually transfer from the landscape and structure of a plantation to that of natural forests and to be conducive to natural forest protection.

4.5.9 Low impact operation

4.5.9.1 Approaches with the least environmental impacts shall be adopted in forest management operations so as to reduce the damage to the forest resources and the environment, and minimize the risk of degradation of and negative impact to forest ecosystems.

4.5.9.2 Measures shall be taken to avoid the waste and degradation of the timber grades in the processes for forest harvesting and timber bucking.

4.5.10 Trees outside forests

Trees outside forests shall meet all the requirements of this document when conducting forest management certification.

4.5.11 Infrastructure

4.5.11.1 Adequate infrastructures such as roads, skid tracks, bridges and drainage facilities shall be planned and established, and their effectiveness shall be maintained.

4.5.11.2 The design, establishment and maintenance of such infrastructure shall minimize the negative impact on the environment.
4.6 Biodiversity conservation

4.6.1 Protection of rare, threatened and endangered species
4.6.1.1 Rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats or distribution areas within the area shall be identified and marked on a map.
4.6.1.2 According to local conditions, certain areas shall be designated as protection areas for rare, threatened and endangered species.
4.6.1.3 Specific protective measures shall be made and implemented when carrying out forest management activities in order to maintain protected areas, protected species and their habitats.

4.6.2 Hunting, trapping and collecting
4.6.2.1 Hunting, trapping and collecting activities of forest management units shall apply for hunting license or collecting license according to law.
4.6.2.2 Hunting, trapping and collecting activities shall follow the national quota regulations for hunting and collecting allocations.
4.6.2.3 The forest management unit shall clean up the illegally laid hunting traps and tools in time.

4.6.3 Typical, rare, fragile forest ecosystems
4.6.3.1 Typical, rare, fragile forest ecosystems shall be identified through inventory within the forest management unit.
4.6.3.2 Identification of typical, rare, fragile forest ecosystems shall take into account globally, regionally and nationally significant landscape areas with natural distribution area and landscape area of species.
4.6.3.3 Measures for typical, rare, fragile forest ecosystem protection shall be developed.
4.6.3.4 Protective measures shall be implemented to maintain the natural status of the typical, rare, fragile forest ecosystems.

4.6.4 Forest management and forest biodiversity
4.6.4.1 The following measures can be considered for the forest management unit in order to maintain and improve forest biodiversity:
   a) select operational methods that can reduce the negative impacts;
   b) forest management system is favorable to maintain and improve the structure, functions and diversity of local forest ecosystem;
   c) maintain and improve the natural features of the forest.
4.6.4.2 Standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and special rare tree species shall be left as much as possible in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biodiversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of the forest and on surrounding ecosystems.
4.6.4.3 Degraded forests ecosystems shall be restored through management approach.

4.7 Environmental impact

4.7.1 Environmental impact analysis
4.7.1.1 The forest management unit shall analyze the potential impact of forest
management activities on the environment based on the scale and intensity of its forest management and forest resource features.

4.7.1.2 According to the results of analysis, forest operational means shall be adjusted or improved by adopting specified ways and means, so as to minimize the impact of forest management performance (including the usage of chemical fertilizers) on the environment and to avoid the degradation of and damages to forest ecosystems.

4.7.2 Soil and water resources

4.7.2.1 Effective measures shall be taken to minimize the damage to forest lands caused by such human activities as land preparation, afforestation, tending, forest harvesting, regeneration, road construction etc. so as to maintain the natural features of the soil and its long-time productivity in the forest.

4.7.2.2 Negative impacts on the quality and quantity of water resources shall be reduced, soil and water erosion shall be controlled, and severe damage to catchments within the forest shall be avoided.

4.7.2.3 Adequate buffer zones shall be established to conserve water and soil at the banks of rivers and streams or around water bodies, and these buffer zones shall be marked in the forest map or the forest operational design.

4.7.2.4 Use organic fertilizer and biological fertilizer to increase soil fertility and reduce the use of chemical fertilizer.

4.7.3 Chemical

4.7.3.1 The forest management unit shall show the updated list of all chemicals and relevant documents including name, potent ingredient and application methods.

4.7.3.2 Highly toxic pesticides prohibited by the World Health Organization and relevant national laws and regulations shall not be used.

4.7.3.3 Chlorinated hydrocarbons and other pesticides that remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain shall be prohibited.

4.7.3.4 Records of chemicals use shall be kept.

4.7.3.5 The forest management unit shall develop emergency procedures for transportation, storage, use and accidental leaking of chemicals.

4.7.3.6 Proper equipment and technical training shall be provided to minimize the pollution to the environment and damage to people’s health by use of chemicals.

4.7.4 Introduction of exotic species

4.7.4.1 Exotic species can only be introduced with the precondition that they have passed strict quarantine and ecological environment assessment and are guaranteed to do no harm to the environment and biodiversity.

4.7.4.2 Records shall be kept on the use of exotic species and their ecological impacts shall be monitored.

4.7.4.3 Measures for controlling the harmful invasive species shall be developed and implemented.

4.7.5 Forest environmental services

4.7.5.1 The forest management unit shall understand and identify the environmental
service functions of forests.

4.7.5.2 Measures shall be adopted to maintain and improve the environmental service functions of forests.

4.7.5.3 The forest management unit shall ensure the inorganic rubbish and non-recyclable waste to be disposed in a way that will not endanger the environment.

4.7.5.4 Methods consistent with the requirements for environmental protection shall be adopted to dispose of the wastes and containers of chemicals.

4.7.5.5 The pollution of water and soil in forest land caused by the leakage of mechanical equipment or oil storage containers shall be avoided.

4.7.5.6 FMU shall take positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions and efficient use of resources.

4.7.6 Animal populations and grazing

4.7.6.1 The forest management unit shall adopt measures minimizing the impacts of animal populations on forest regeneration, growth and biodiversity.

4.7.6.2 Measures shall be adopted to minimize the impacts of grazing on forest regeneration, growth and biodiversity.

4.8 Forest protection

4.8.1 Forest pest control

4.8.1.1 Forest management units shall carry out forest pest control.

4.8.1.2 The impact of potential forest pests shall be evaluated and corresponding control plans shall be formulated.

4.8.1.3 Integrated pest management measures shall be employed which focus on silviculture measures and incorporate biological, chemical and physical preventions. The use of chemical pesticides in the forest shall be limited to reduce their impacts on the environment.

4.8.1.4 Effective measures shall be employed to protect the various beneficial organisms within the forest and improve the forest’s own pest control capacity.

4.8.2 Forest fire prevention

4.8.2.1 A forest fire prevention system shall be established.

4.8.2.2 Areas with different gradings for forest fire risks shall be zoned, and fire early warning mechanism shall be developed.

4.8.2.3 Measures for forest fire monitoring and control shall be developed and implemented.

4.8.2.4 Forest fire control facilities shall be constructed and forest fire prevention plan shall be developed. The work of forest fire control and fighting in the forest management unit shall be organized.

4.8.2.5 Statistics of forest fires shall be kept and forest fire maps and reports shall be kept on file.

4.8.2.6 Lighting of fires shall be avoided in the forest area except for living purposes.

4.8.2.7 Use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for regeneration, wildfire protection and habitat management or a
recognized practice of local peoples. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken.

4.8.3 **Natural disasters**

4.8.3.1 The forest management unit shall develop contingency plans for natural disasters according to local natural and climatic conditions.

4.8.3.2 Effective measures shall be adopted to minimize the impact on natural disasters.

4.9 **Forest monitoring and documentation**

4.9.1 **Monitoring strategy**

4.9.1.1 The contents and indicators of forest monitoring should be determined according to the scale and intensity of forest management activities, and an appropriate monitoring strategy shall be established.

4.9.1.2 All monitoring activities shall be carried out continuously or regularly in accordance with the monitoring strategy, and the monitoring records shall be kept.

4.9.1.3 Forest monitoring results shall be reflected in developing or revising the forest management plan and operation plan.

4.9.1.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, a summary of monitoring results shall be periodically released to the public.

4.9.2 **Monitoring indicators**

4.9.2.1 Forest monitoring should include:

- Stock volume, yield and resources consumption volume of the main forest products;
- Forest carbon sequestration capacity;
- Structure, growth, regeneration and health condition of the forest;
- Varieties of wild fauna and their changing trends, especially the rare, threatened and endangered species;
- Dynamics and trends of disease, pest and forest fires;
- Environmental and social impacts of forest harvesting and other management activities;
- Costs and benefits of forest management;
- Impact of climatic factors and air pollution on forest growth;
- Human activities such as overgrazing or overstocking;
- Implementation status of the annual operation plan.

4.9.2.2 Monitoring results shall be analyzed and evaluated.

4.9.3 **Documentation Management**

4.9.3.1 Forest resources documentation shall be established.

4.9.3.2 Forest management process records shall be established and kept to prove that they meet the requirements of this document.

4.9.3.3 These records shall be kept for at least 5 years.

4.9.3.4 Shall provide relevant documents to a CFCC chain of custody certified customer to ensure that all forest products leaving the certified area can be identified so that their origin can be determined.
The documentation provided by the forest manager for chain of custody shall:

a) apply “100% CFCC certified” or CFCC mutually recognized forest certification schemes specific claim as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a CFCC chain of custody;

b) indicate that 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% CFCC certified” or CFCC mutually recognized forest certification schemes specific claim;

c) indicate that claims on the origin of products in an area covered by the standard are only made by forest owners/managers covered by a CFCC recognised certificate issued against the standard;

d) include the following information:

- the name of the organization,
- the identification of the product(s),
- the quantity delivered for each product covered by the documentation,
- the date of invoicing (in the case of sale to a third party) or the date of transfer to a processing site (in the case of transfer within the same organization),
- the official declaration on the category of material (100% CFCC certified or 100% PEFC certified) specifically for each product bearing the CFCC or PEFC claim covered by the document,
- the number of the forest management certificate, or other document attesting to the certified status of the organization.

4.10 Improvement

4.10.1 Internal audit

4.10.1.1 The forest management unit shall carry out internal audit at least once a year, and the audit content shall cover all requirements of this document.

4.10.1.2 The internal audit shall provide information on whether the management system:

a) conforms to the organisation’s requirements for its management system and the requirements of the standard;

b) is effectively implemented and maintained.

4.10.1.3 Internal audit plan shall be prepared to form audit findings, audit conclusions and audit reports.

4.10.1.4 The internal audit records of forest management units shall be kept for at least 5 years.

4.10.2 Management review

4.10.2.1 Management review activities shall be implemented at least once a year.

4.10.2.2 The contents of management review shall include:

a) the rectification of the last management review;

b) External or internal changes related to the management system;

c) Information on the management status of forest management units, including:

- Nonconformities and rectification measures;
Monitoring results;
- Internal audit results;
- Opportunities for continuous improvement.

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

4.10.2.4 The decisions and improvement measures of management review shall be organized and implemented by special personnel and completed within the specified time.

4.10.2.5 The management review records of forest management units shall be kept for at least 5 years.

4.10.3 Non-conformities and corrective measures

4.10.3.1 In case of any nonconformity, the forest management unit shall:
   a) Take measures to control and correct the nonconformity, and deal with any negative effects;
   b) Check the nonconformity, figure out the causes, and examine for any other nonconformity or potential risk leading to nonconformity;
   c) Assess the effectiveness of all corrective measures;
   d) Adjust the management system when necessary.

4.10.3.2 Corrective measures shall effectively address the nonconformity.

4.10.3.3 Documents and records shall be kept, including the type of nonconformity, corrective measures and results of correction.

4.10.3.4 Continuously improve the sustainable forest management system to ensure its suitability, completeness and practicality.

4.11 Organisation

4.11.1 The organisation shall plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme 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.

4.11.2 Define the audit criteria and scope for each audit.

4.11.3 Select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process.

4.11.4 Ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management.

4.11.5 Retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.
Appendix A

(Informative)

National laws and regulations

A.1 Laws

Forest Law of the People’s Republic of China
Wildlife Conservation Law of the People’s Republic of China
Environment Protection Law of the People’s Republic of China
Labor Law of People’s Republic of China
Land Management Law of the People’s Republic of China
Soil and Water Conservation Law of the People’s Republic of China
Sandification Prevention and Control Law of the People’s Republic of China
Water Law of the People’s Republic of China
Safe Production Law of the People’s Republic of China
Animal Epidemic Prevention Law of the People’s Republic of China

A.2 Regulations

Regulations for the Implementation of the Forest Law of the People’s Republic of China
Regulations for the Implementation of Terrestrial Wildlife Conservation
Regulations on Wild Flora Conservation of the People’s Republic of China
Regulations on Nature Reserves of the People’s Republic of China
Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Imported and Exported Wild Fauna and Flora of the People’s Republic of China
Regulations on Protecting New Plant Varieties of the People’s Republic of China
Regulations for the Implementation of the Soil and Water Conservation Law of the People’s Republic of China
Regulations for the Implementation of the Land Management Law of the People’s Republic of China
Measures for Forest Harvest and Regeneration
Regulations on Forest Disease and Pest Control of the People’s Republic of China
Regulations on Forest Fire Prevention
Regulations on Converting Cropland to Forests
Appendix B
(Informative)

International conventions

International Labor Organization conventions
Convention on Biological Diversity
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants