PEFC FMS:2022

Latvian National PEFC Forest Management Standard

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Introduction

PEFC, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, is a worldwide independent, international non-governmental non-profit organisation promoting sustainable **forest management** through forest certification and labelling of forest-based products. Products with a PEFC claim and/or label offer assurance that the source of raw materials used in their manufacture originate from sustainably managed **forests, plantation forest**, recycled materials, materials from controlled sources. PEFC certification is based on an independent third-party assessment.

The PEFC forest certification system was founded in 1999, when European small and family forest owners came together, with the aim of creating a certification system that would be available to all forest owners. It is currently the largest forest certification system in the world, covering more than 330 million hectares (as of 1 September 2021) of certified forests, including relatively small forest estates, family forests, etc. The PEFC system operates in the entire forest supply chain to promote responsible **forest management** and ensure that timber and **non-wood forest products** are obtained applying the highest ecological, social and ethical standards, thus supporting sustainable development worldwide.

The PEFC International is an umbrella organisation endorsing regional and national forest certification systems around the world, thus ensuring that each country's requirements for sustainable **forest management** are adapted to specific forest **ecosystems**, regulatory framework, national context, and International PEFC requirements. Since 1999, PEFC International has been represented in Latvia by the Association "PEFC Latvijas Padome" (PEFC Latvian Council, hereinafter – PEFC Latvia), which, engaging various **stakeholders**, is developing and maintaining the documentation of the national forest certification system that is adapted to local conditions and regulatory framework. To ensure compliance with the sustainability criteria and requirements of the PEFC International, an independent third-party system assessment is carried out before the documentation of the national system is approved. The PEFC International endorses national and regional forest certification systems worldwide. Documentation concerning all endorsed systems, including a full independent third-party assessment report, is publicly available on the PEFC International website www.pefc.org.

This document had been developed in an open, transparent, consultative and consensus -based process covering a broad range of **stakeholders**. This document cancels and replaces the PEFC Forest Management Certification Standard for Latvia PEFC FMS:2015, issued on 18 August 2015.

International PEFC sustainability criteria

Activities of the PEFC International is based on the development of international standards and guidelines, which are called the PEFC sustainability criteria that are reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least once every five years. When a standard is developed or revised, **stakeholders** are invited to take part in this process. This means that there is a representation of diverse **stakeholders**, so no single interest can dominate, and that the process is consensus-driven, open and transparent. These standards form the basis for nearly all other activities of the PEFC International: from providing certification solutions to assessing compliance with standard requirements and endorsing national systems.

International PEFC standards and guidelines are available on the PEFC International website at www.pefc.org/resources/technical-documentation.

Development of national forest management standards

International PEFC requirements for national certification systems define rules, procedures and criteria, such as requirements for sustainable **forest management**, group certification, development of standards, etc. which must be taken into account when developing national documentation. National standards may also include requirements that are relevant at the local level but are not included in the guidelines of the International PEFC sustainable forest management standard. Various **stakeholders** are involved in the development or revision of a national standard. This approach makes PEFC system stronger, as **forest managers** can manage their forests in compliance with the standards that they themselves have participated in developing.

Like international standards, national standards are also developed by working groups with a balanced representation of various **stakeholders**. These processes are consensus-driven, open and transparent, with no single interest dominating, and they provide ample opportunity for involvement. The Latvian national PEFC forest management standard has been developed in line with the standard PEFC LV 05:2020 Requirements for PEFC Latvia Documentation Development and Revision.

Certification process

Certification is an assessment that verifies compliance with requirements of a standard.

This means that standard setting, certification and accreditation are completely separate in order to eliminate the risk of conflicts of interest and ensure the highest level of competency. PEFC International develops international standards, while at the national level it is a task of a national **standardisation body**, namely PEFC national representative. The standardisation body of the PEFC system in Latvia is the Association "PEFC Latvijas Padome" (or PEFC Latvia), which, in partnership with stakeholders, adapts the standards to local laws and regulations, conditions, practices and other aspects.

Certification bodies evaluate the compliance of **a management system** with the standard, and their decision on awarding the **certificate** must be objective, independent and justified. Accreditation, the process of assessing the work of **certification bodies**, is carried out by **accreditation bodies** with membership within the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) or an IAF regional accreditation group. Complaints submitted against certified companies are examined by **certification bodies**, while the activities of **certification bodies** are supervised by **accreditation bodies**.

As a result of a successful certification process, the **certification body** issues a **certificate** to the **forest manager** for five years, and once a year it carries out a surveillance audit to ensure ongoing compliance with the requirements of the Latvian national PEFC forest management standard (hereinafter - the **Standard**). **Certificate holders** have the right to use the claim “100% PEFC certified” and use the PEFC label. The requirements of the **Standard** are binding and shall be followed by all **workers** who carry out works in the **certified area**. The **certificate** may be suspended or terminated if the requirements of the **Standard** are not met.

The PEFC forest management **certificate** confirms that the **forest manager** performs forest management responsibly and sustainably, e.g. by preserving and/or enhancing **ecosystem services** and environmental values, by following health and safety requirements at work, by respecting **workers** rights and other economic, social and environmental aspects. Pursuant to the **Standard** requirements, for the management to be sustainable, the **forest manager** shall identify **ecosystem services**, as well as evaluate the impact of management activities and plan activities to mitigate this impact.

For example, the **Standard** includes requirements for the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and CO_2 accumulation caused by economic activity, conservation of **biological diversity**, conservation of water and soil resources, opportunities for recreation, promotion of local economy and employment, optimal use of timber resources, etc.

Assessment of conformity

The criteria and guidelines of the International PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standard (PEFC ST 1003:2018) (hereinafter – the Guidelines) are included in Chapter 8 of the Latvian National Forest Management **Standard**. The Guidelines define general goals and principles of management of **forests** and **plantation forests** to achieve sustainable management. The indicators provide measurable criteria for an independent third-party evaluation against the requirements of the guidelines to determine compliance with the **Standard**. The requirements in the **Standard** are clearly described, action-oriented and auditable. The indicators set out the minimum requirements the **forest manager** shall meet for the management to be sustainable, however, the **forest manager** can perform additional actions aimed at ensuring sustainable development, including mitigation of climate change, enhancement of **biological diversity**, social responsibility, etc. Specific minimum numerical values are not included in the indicators, as in most cases they are determined by laws and regulations.

Availability of the Standard

This **Standard** is a public document that is freely available on the PEFC Latvia website www.pefc.lv and which can be freely distributed to all **stakeholders**. 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 PEFC Latvia. The current version of the **Standard** is available on the website www.pefc.lv.

All **stakeholders** can submit their comments and proposals for improving the **Standard** electronically or in writing by sending them to the e-mail address info@pefc.lv or by post to the Association "PEFC Latvijas Padome" Republikas laukums 2, Rīga, LV-1010. Based on the **stakeholder** comments and proposals, PEFC Latvia can introduce changes to the **Standard** in accordance with the established procedure for revision of the Standard.

The **Standard** was developed in year 2022. The Standard PEFC FMS:2022 has been approved by the Association "PEFC Latvia" on 21.07.2022. The **Standard** is reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least once every five years. The **Standard** has been re-endorsed by the PEFC International on xx month 20xx.

1. The scope of the Standard

The Latvian national PEFC forest management standard is applicable in the entire territory of Latvia, to all types of forest, to all forest holdings, regardless of their type and size.

Certification against the **Standard** can be done only upon a voluntary initiative of the **forest manager**. The subject of certification is a **forest management unit or units** that are included in the scope of certification. Accredited, independent **certification bodies** perform **forest management** certification based on the requirements of the **Standard** in accordance with PEFC normative documents. A **forest manager** can establish separate forest management units and certify them all or only same of them. **Forest management units** shall be identifiable both on the map and in nature. The requirements of the **Standard** are binding to **forest manager** and **workers** who performs in the **certified area**.

When certifying **plantation forests**, the requirements of this **Standard** are applied, with the exception of certain requirements specified in Appendix 1 of this **Standard**.

Forest managers can apply for certification individually or by joining one of the groups of forest owners or forming a new group.

Individual certification is more suitable for large **forest managers**. The size of a **forest management unit** is not a determining factor when choosing individual certification, however, this type of certification may be more expensive for one **forest manager** in terms of costs. The **forest manager** submits an application for certification to the **certification body**, which carries out the assessment of the **management system** and issues a PEFC forest management **certificate** as a result of a successful assessment.

Group certification is more suitable for smallholders. In group certification, several **forest managers** join together and appoint the group entity. The group shall have defined and separate responsibilities for ensuring compliance with the certification requirements. The group entity is responsible for the compliance of all group members with the requirements of the **Standard**, maintaining the list of the certified managed forest areas and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the **Standard** in the certified **forest management units** of the group members. In group certification, all members of the group undertake to achieve and ensure compliance with the requirements of the **Standard**. In order to join one of the certification groups, the **forest manager** shall contact the group entity, agree on the certification process and conclude a written contract. The binding requirements for group certification that differs from the individual certification are specified in the Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements LV 06:2022.

Appendix 1 of this document describes how to apply certain requirements of the **Standard** to **plantation forests**. All requirements in this **Standard** referring to "**fores**t" are also applicable to **plantation forests** unless otherwise indicated in Appendix 1.

2. Normative references

International legal acts

ILO No. 87, Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention; 1948
ILO No. 29, Abolition of 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
PEFC ST 1001, Standard Setting – Requirements
PEFC ST 1002, Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements
PEFC GD 1007, Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of Certification Systems and their Revision
PEFC ST 2002, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements
ISO/IEC Guide 2, Standardization and related activities – General vocabulary.

Laws and Regulations of the Republic of Latvia:

24 February 2000, Forest Law
14 October 1998, Law on the Environmental Impact Assessment
2 November 2006, Law on Environmental Protection
2 March 1993, Law on Specially Protected Nature Territories
16 March 2000, Law on the Conservation of Species and Biotopes
5 February 1997, Protection Zone Law
17 December 1998, Plant Protection Law
20 June 2001, Labour Law
8 July 2003, Hunting Law
11 December 1997, Law on North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve
30 April 2009, Law on Gauja National Park
22 January 2015, Law on Slītere National Park
2 November 2006, Law on Rāzna National Park
30 May 2001, Law on Ķemeri National Park
26 January 2006, Law on Circulation of Fertilisers
2 May 2012, Cabinet Regulation No. 308 on Forest Regeneration, Afforestation and Plantations
18 December 2012, Cabinet Regulation No. 935 on the Felling of Trees in the Forest
18 December 2012, Cabinet Regulation No. 936 on Nature Protection Regulations in Forest Management
7 February 2012, Cabinet Regulation No. 98 on Forest Management in an Enclosed Forest Area Which Has Been Established for Keeping of Animals in Captivity
18 December 2012, Cabinet Regulation No. 889 on Criteria for Determining Compensation for Deforestation, Its Calculation and Compensation Procedure
18 December 2012, Cabinet Regulation No. 889 on Criteria for Determining Compensation for Deforestation, Its Calculation and Compensation Procedure
18 December 2012. Cabinet Regulation No. 947 on Forest Protection Measures and Declaring a State of Emergency in the Forest
21 June 2016, Cabinet Regulation No. 348 Regulations on Forest Inventory and Circulation of the State Forest

Register Information
2 April 2013, Cabinet Regulation No. 177 Procedures for the Establishment and Management of Forest Stands of Genetic Resources
26 March 2013, Cabinet Regulation No. 159 on Forest Reproductive Material
4 February 2014, Cabinet Regulation No. 67 on the Forest Management Plan
16 March 2010, Cabinet Regulation No. 264 General Regulations on Protection and Use of Specially Protected Nature Territories
20 June 2017 Cabinet Regulation No. 350 Regarding the List of Specially Protected Habitat Types
18 December 2012, Cabinet Regulation No. 940 Regarding the Establishment and Management of Micro-reserves, Their Conservation, as well as Determination of Micro-reserves and Their Buffer Zones
22 July 2014, Cabinet Regulation No. 421 Hunting Regulations
2 May 2012, Cabinet Regulation No. 310 Health and Safety Requirements in Forestry
4 August 1998, Cabinet Regulation No. 284 Methodology for Determining Protective Zones of Water Bodies and Watercourses

3. Terms and definitions

Appropriate definitions have been provided for the implementation of the **Standard** and fulfilment of certification requirements:

3.1 Abiotic risks/factors. Risks of non-living nature, e.g. flood, storms, snow-breaks, etc.

3.2 Protect/conserve. Management activities aimed at long-term conservation and conservation of **ecologically important forest and non-forest territories** and cultural heritage objects. Management activities may differ: ranging from non-intervention to specific measures and activities aimed at **conservation** or enhancement of the values identified in these areas.

3.3 Accreditation body. A body that assesses, accredits and supervises **certification bodies**.

Note. **Certification body** that wants to carry out PEFC forest management certification in Latvia shall be accredited by the Latvian National Accreditation Bureau (*LATAK*) or by one of the member organisations of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) or the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

3.4 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).

3.5 Afforestation. Planting, seeding or facilitation of natural regeneration of forest in lands where land use was changed from non-forest land to **forest** or **plantation forest**.

3.6 Management system. A set of interrelated activities performed by a **forest manager** in order to set goals, develop procedures and other documents for the achievement of those goals.

3.7 Soil erosion. Movement of topsoil caused by water or wind as a result of which an bedrock appears.
Note. Erosion occurring homogeneously in an area of no more than 20 square meters or soil preparation for **forest regeneration** are not considered to be **soil erosion**.

3.8 Plant protection agent. A product containing or consisting of active ingredients, protective substances or synergists for any of the following uses:

- **a)** for protection of plants or plant products against harmful organisms or for prevention of the effects of such organisms, unless the main purpose of the product is protection of plants or plant products and not sanitation and hygiene;
- **b)** for influencing the life processes of plants, e.g. with substances promoting growth which are not nutrients;
- **c)** for the conservation of plant products (except conservants);
- **d)** for the destruction of unwanted plants or plant parts (except algae), provided that the product is not applied on soil or water to protect plants;
- **e)** for stopping or preventing the growth of unwanted plants (except algae), provided that the product is not applied on soil or water to protect plants.

3.9 Biological diversity. The diversity of forms of living organisms in all environments. **Biological diversity** is viewed at genetic, species and ecosystem levels.

3.10 Biotic risks/factors. Risks associated with wildlife, e.g. pests, diseases and damage caused by wild animals, etc.

3.11 Employee. An employee is a natural person who performs certain work on the basis of an employment contract under the supervision of an employer for an agreed payment for work.

3.12 Degraded (affected) forest ecosystems. Forest lands that are subject for re-cultivation to ensure their normal exploitation after the completion of certain operations, as well as revitalization, i.e. further use of historical extraction sites of mineral resources and/or abandoned industrial and/or military areas/sites and/or illegal waste disposal/burial sites, e.g. cleaning, demarcation, placement of informative signs, etc., preventing threats to people's health and life and the surrounding environment, as well as promoting the integration of the territory into the landscape.

3.13 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).

3.14 Ecologically important forest and non-forest areas. National parks, strict nature reserves, nature reserves, nature parks, protected landscape areas, nature monuments, microreserves, as well as forests in protective belts along watercourses and swamps.

3.15Ecosystem. A functionally related set of plants, animals and microorganisms and their non-living environment being in close interaction and influencing one another.

3.16 Ecosystem services. Benefits obtained from **ecosystems** and their full functioning. These include provisioning functions such as food, water, timber, herbs, fibre, etc.; regulating functions that are related to environmental quality and climate, e.g. by protecting against floods, **soil erosion**, spread of diseases, regulating water and air quality, environmental pollution, etc. or mitigating these risks; recreational functions providing recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits, e.g. by travelling or being in nature, learning about natural, environmental and cultural values; and supporting functions, e.g. soil formation, photosynthesis, nutrient cycle, carbon sequestration, conservation of **biological diversity**, etc.

3.17 Genetically modified trees, including genetically modified reproductive material.

Trees 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 the insertion of nucleic acid molecules produced by whatever means outside an organism, into any virus, bacterial plasmid or other vector system and their incorporation into a host organism in which they do not naturally occur, but in which they are capable of continued propagation; techniques involving the direct introduction into an organism of heritable material prepared outside the organism including micro-injection, macro-injection, and micro-encapsulation;
2) 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 2: 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.

3.18 Forest stands of genetic resources. Highly valuable forest stands of natural origin determined by competent organisations and registered in the State Forest Register for the conservation of genetic diversity and gene pool of tree species.

3.19 Forest establishment. Tree seeding and planting, naturally or artifically in non-forested areas.

3.20 Stakeholder. A person, a group of persons or an organisation interested in the scope of the **Standard** (e.g. NGOs, scientists or members of the public, etc.).

3.21 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 chemical **plant protection agent** and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimise risks to human health and the environment (source: FAO 2018).

3.22 Introduced species. Species that are outside their natural range and that, as a result of human activity, have overcome previously insurmountable biogeographical barriers.

3.23 Specially protected, endangered species and habitats. Specially protected, endangered species and habitats are endangered, threatened or rare species and types of habitats that are under special state protection and for which microreserves can be established in accordance with the laws and regulations. *Note.* Cabinet Regulation No. 940 Regarding the Establishment and Management of Micro-reserves, Their Conservation, as well as Determination of Micro-reserves and Their Buffer Zones and Cabinet Regulation No. 350 Regarding the List of Specially Protected Habitat Types.

3.24 Trees outside forests (TOF). Trees growing outside designated forest land. For example, lands classified as agricultural lands or land under infrastructure objects.

3.25 Cultural heritage object. Cultural and historical landscapes and objects (ancient burial sites, cemeteries, parks, places of historical events and the activities of famous persons), as well as individual graves, groups of buildings and individual buildings, works of art, facilities and articles with historical, scientific, artistic or other cultural value and the conservation of which for future generations is in conformity with the interests of the State and Latvian nation, as well as international interests.

3.26 Forest management. The management and use of **forest lands** for timber production and use of **non-timber resources** in an economically, socially and ecologically justified manner.

3.27 Forest management plan. A set of documents, tools, information systems, which sets out the goals for managing **ecosystem** resources and services present in the managed territory, planned activities and control measures for a specific period of time according to the scale and intensity of the operations.

3.28 Forest management unit. An area with clearly defined boundaries, which is managed in accordance with clearly defined long-term management objectives set out in a management plan.

3.29 Forest manager. Any natural person, legal person or a group of forest owners who apply for certification and/or are certified individually or as a group of forest owners who is bound by the requirements of this **Standard**.

Note 1. **A forest manager** submits an application to the **certification body** for obtaining a PEFC forest management **certificate** and is responsible for meeting the requirements of **Standard**, and **forest manager** may manage several **forest management units**.

Note 2. **A forest manager** can also be a forest owner, whose ownership of forest land is recorded in the Land Register, or a lawful forest possessor into whose ownership, under a decision by a specific institution, in the course of the land reform, land has been transferred (granted) for payment or whose ownership rights to the land have been restored and the land has been determined (surveyed) on site in accordance with laws and regulations; or a person who has acquired possession of the land according to the right of inheritance or on another lawful basis.

Note 3. The requirements set for the **forest manager** apply equally to the manager of **plantation forest** unless specified otherwise.

Note 4. **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 standardisation body of the PEFC system in Latvia is the Association "PEFC Latvijas Padome" (or PEFC Latvia).

3.30 Forest regeneration/reforestation. A set of measures for the re-establishment of a forest stand in a forest area where, as a result of a felling or other factors, the basal area of the forest stand has become smaller than the critical basal area.

3.31 Forest conversion. Direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest land.

Note. Regeneration (by planting or direct seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, etc.,) to the same dominant species as was harvested or other species that were present in the historical species mix is not considered a conversion.

3.32 Forest land. Land covered by a forest, land under forest infrastructure objects, as well as overflowing clearings, marshes, and glades that are part of the forest and adjacent marshes.

3.33 Forest. An ecosystem in all stages of its development where the major producer of organic mass is trees the height of which at the particular location may reach at least five metres and the present or potential projection of the crown of which is at least 20% of the area covered by the forest stand.

3.34 Non-wood forest products. Products of biological origin, other than timber, obtained from **forest lands**, excluding mineral resources.

3.35 Unproductive forest stand. A forest stand which is not efficient to grow due to insufficient increment of growing stock, composition of tree species, or quality of trees.

3.36 PEFC forest management certificate (also – **certificate**). A document issued by an independent third party, which certifies that the activities in a particular **forest management unit** meet the requirements of the Latvian National PEFC Forest Management Standard.

3.37 Indigenous peoples. Communities living in or associated with a geographically distinct traditional settlement or ancestral territories and who identify themselves as part of a distinct cultural group descended from the groups that had occupied the area prior to the formation of modern states and establishment of current borders. These communities typically maintain a cultural and social identity and social, economic, cultural and political institutions separate from the mainstream or dominant society or culture (source: adapted from United Nations; Factsheet 'Who are Indigenous Peoples').

Note. According to the United Nations definition, there are no **indigenous peoples** in Latvia.

3.38 Plantation forests. Forest stands **established** or naturally regenerated in non-forest lands, the primary purpose of which is the production of timber or **non-timber products** and provision of services.

Note. **Plantation forests** shall be registered in the State Forest Register.

3.39 Region of provenance. An area or group of areas with relatively homogeneous ecological conditions and containing individual trees and stands with similar phenotypic or genetic traits.

3.40 Reproductive material. A seed unit (cones and fruits from which seeds are obtained for the production of planting material), parts of plants, or planting stock (on seed units, parts of plants, or plants on natural regeneration) of the tree species and their hybrids which are important for forestry purposes and intended for **forest regeneration** or **afforestation**.

3.41 Certified area. An area of a **forest** and/or a **plantation forest** which is certified according to the Latvian National PEFC Forest Management **Standard**.

3.42 Certification body. An institution independent of the producer and consumer, which offers certification services under accredited certification programmes, and evaluates, certifies and supervises **certificate** holders.

3.43 Standardisation body. A recognised body operating in the field of standardisation. The **standardisation body** of the PEFC system in Latvia is the Association "PEFC Latvijas Padome" (or PEFC Latvia).

3.44 Standard. In the context of this document, it is the Latvian National PEFC Forest Management Standard.

3.45 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: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Note. In Latvia, the requirements of the fundamental ILO conventions have been incorporated during the elaboration of laws and regulations.

3.46 Worker. A worker is any natural person who, on the basis of a contract, performs certain work for an employer, incl. under the guidance of a service provider, guest workers, as well as self-employed persons.

3.47 Territorial development plan. A set of documents consisting of a territorial development programme and a territorial plan, and which, in line with the principles and preconditions for territorial development planning, the results and forecasts of the analysis of the development of the territory and sectors of national economy, outlines comprehensive and sustainable development goals of the territory and the strategy for their achievement.

3.48 Directly affected stakeholder. A person or a group of persons who could be directly affected by changes in living and/or working conditions as a result of the implementation of the **Standard**.

Note. **Directly affected stakeholders** include local residents, municipalities, service providers, **employees,** etc. However, for the purpose of the **Standard**, e.g. NGOs, scientists or members of the public who are interested in the subject of the **Standard**, cannot be treated as **directly affected stakeholders**.

3.49 Management system. A set of interrelated measures taken by a **forest manager** to develop policy guidelines, set goals and implement procedures for the achievement of these goals and control of implementation.

3.50 Native tree species. Species occurring naturally in the respective region. In Latvia, local tree species forming a basis of forest stand composition are: Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.), Norway spruce (*Picea abies* L. Karst.), silver birch (*Betula pendula* Roth.), downy birch (*Betula pubescen*s Ehrh .), common aspen (*Populus tremula* L.), black alder (*Alnus glutinosa* L. Gaertn.), common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.), common oak (*Quercus robur* L.), small-leaved linden (*Tilia cordata* Mill.), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides* L.), elm (*Ulmus glabra* Huds.), European white elm (*Ulmus laevis* Pall.), grey alder (Alnus incana (L.) Moench.), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* L.), European beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.), sweet cherry (*Prunus avium* L. L.), willow species (*Salix* spp.), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia* L.), larch species and their hybrids (*Larix* spp.), other aspen and poplar species and their hybrids (*Populus* spp.), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra* L.), alder hybrids (*Alnus spp*.).

4. General requirements to the management system

4.1 **Forest manager** shall identify **stakeholders** and **directly affected stakeholders** and determine their needs and expectations.

4.2 **Forest manager** shall determine the scope and the boundaries of **the management system**.

Note: For example, the management system covers forest management and sale of standing trees, its scope – certain **forest management units**.

4.3 **Forest manager** shall carry out a forest inventory in accordance with national laws and regulations; the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of operations shall be done according to the scale and intensity of operations, and shall also include an assessment of the impact of forest management operations on the social sphere, environment and economy. Such an assessment shall form the basis for continuous improvement of the system.

5. Leadership

5.1 **Forest manager** shall confirm in writing the commitment to comply with the requirements of the **Standard** and other applicable requirements of the certification system, continuously improving the sustainable management system.

5.2 The document referred to in clause 5.1 shall be publicly available.
Note: Publicly available is, for example, published on the organisations website or available in the office etc.

5.3 **Forest manager** shall clearly define the area of responsibility and assign a person(s) responsible for the implementation of sustainable management practices.

6. Planning

6.1 Identifying risks and opportunities

6.1.1 **Forest manager** shall consider risks and opportunities to ensure compliance with the requirements of the **Standard**, taking into account the scale and intensity of management operations.

6.1.2 **Forest manager** shall maintain information about forest resources, including conducting and maintaining a forest inventory pursuant to the laws and regulation, as well as mapping according to the requirements of the **Standard**.

6.1.3 **Forest manager,** where possible, shall support traditional forest management methods that create valuable **ecosystems**.

6.2 Forest management plan

6.2.1 **Forest manager**, taking into account the scale and intensity of forest management operations and the different uses or functions of the managed forest area, shall develop a **forest management plan** according to the laws and regulations and other binding planning documents, including description of the resources of the managed area. The results of scientific research shall be taken into account when developing a **forest management plan**.

6.2.2 **The forest management plan** shall be reviewed and/or revised at least once every 5 years.

6.2.3 **The forest management plan** shall include long-term management goals: social, economic and environmental.

6.2.4 **The forest management plan** shall include information about resources and ecosystem services in the managed area:

6.2.5 description of the managed area and resources (including the area of managed territory, location, distribution by land categories, types of forest land and their area, forests divided by dominant tree species and site type, by tree species and age groups, sustainable harvesting volume of wood and commercial **non-wood forest products** and its justification);

a) information about **ecologically important forest and non-forest areas**;

b) information about **cultural heritage objects**;

c) information about the availability of the managed territory to the public for recreation (e.g. sightseeing, berry picking);

d) information about **forest stands of genetic resources,** if applicable;

e) information about measures for mitigation of/ adaptation to climate change (i.1.3.1).

6.2.5. Forest manager has information about the annually planned and actually performed amount of forest management activities regarding:

a) harvesting volumes divided by felling types;

b) **forest regeneration;**

c) agrotechnical tending and pre-commercial thinning;

d) **forest establishment** and **plantation forests**;

e) forest protection against fire, damage caused by wild animals, insects, etc.;

f) sale of **non-wood forest products** (e.g. berries, mushrooms, herbs);

g) maintenance and/or restoration measures of **habitats and biotopes of specially protected, endangered species;**

h) maintenance and construction/development of forest drainage systems and forest roads.

Note 1: The State Forest Service performs the inventory of game hunted in Latvia, therefore this data may not be reflected in the volume of the sold **non-wood forest products**.

Note 2: This requirement does not apply to **non-wood forest products** obtained for self-consumption in line with the procedure laid down in the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia.

Note 3: **Forest manager** who does not collect **non-wood forest products** for commercial purposes, including the sale of fishing licenses, does not need to keep the records and information collected by other competent authorities.

6.2.6 **The forest management plan** includes measures for the mitigation of the risk of degradation and damage of forest ecosystems.

6.2.7 **Forest manager** shall prepare a publicly available summary of the **forest management plan,** which corresponds to the scale and intensity of the forest management operations, and include in it the information mentioned in clauses 6.2.3, 6.2.4 and 9.1.1.
Note. The publicly available summary of the **forest management plan** may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable normative documents or for the protection of **cultural heritage objects** or natural resources.

6.2.8. **Forest manager** shall evaluate proposals and comments received regarding to the public summary of the **forest management plan** and provide answers to them.

6.2.9. The public summary of the **forest management plan** shall be publicly available, or if it is not possible to ensure it, then it shall be sent to the interested parties upon request.

6.3 Compliance with local and international legal acts

6.3.1 **Forest manager** shall have access to national and international legal acts and their requirements, and determine how these compliance obligations are binding in forest management.

6.3.2 The operations of **forest manager** shall comply with the national and internationally binding laws and regulations that apply to forest management (including nature and environmental protection, **specially protected, endangered species and habitats**, fire protection, tenure and land use rights, health and safety issues; anti-corruption, fair competition, taxes and other binding payments).

6.3.3 **Forest manager** shall identify the risks of illegal activities (e.g. illegal logging, land use, illegally initiated fires, etc.) and, if necessary, take measures **to protect the forest management unit** against illegal activities to the extent possible.

6.3.4 Upon detecting illegal activities, **forest manager** immediately informs the competent state authorities and, if possible, takes appropriate measures to avert them.

6.3.5 **Forest manager** shall have documents confirming ownership or management rights.

6.3.6 As part of the forest management, **forest manager** shall respect human rights pursuant to the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Note: In Latvia, the requirements of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been incorporated during the elaboration of laws and regulations.

6.3.7 Management practices and operations shall comply with the **fundamental ILO conventions**.
Note: In Latvia, the requirements of the fundamental ILO conventions have been incorporated during the elaboration of laws and regulations.

6.4 Health and safety requirements and working conditions

6.4.1 When performing operations, **forest manager** shall assess the risks present in the working environment, inform the **employees** about them, and plan and take measures to prevent the risks in line with the laws and regulations.

6.4.2 **Forest manager** shall ensure that **workers** have safe working conditions by requiring or providing adequate training and instructions on safe work practices.

6.4.3 **Forest manager** shall conduct regular training of **employees** on health and safety issues, safe work techniques and methods.

6.4.4 **Forest manager** shall keep a register of the accidents that have occurred.

6.4.5 The salary of **workers** who operating in the **certified areas** shall correspond at least to the amount of the minimum salary in the country.

Note: The requirement does not apply to self-employed persons, as the amount of their income directly depends on the amount of the economic activity performed, what is beyond the influence of **forest manager**.

6.4.6 The length of working hours and vacations shall comply with the requirements of the laws and regulations.

6.4.7 **Forest manager** does not infringe **employees**' rights to establish and join trade unions and other organisations of their choice.

6.4.8 **Forest manager** supports social dialogue, the involvement of **employees** in decision-making, and does not prevent them from conclusion of a collective agreement in order to agree on the terms and conditions adapted to the company together with the trade union or **employees**.

6.4.9 **Forest manager** shall promote gender equality in the workplace, ensuring equal opportunities, eradicating discrimination and unwelcome behaviour of a sexual harassment and disrespectful nature.

Note: Unwelcome behaviour of a sexual harassment and disrespectful nature – any kind of unwelcome verbal, non-verbal or physical sexual and/or disrespectful behaviour in the workplace, if the purpose or result of such behaviour is disrespect of a person's dignity, humiliation or creation of an offensive environment.

7. Resources, competence, communication, complaints, documented information and use of certification claims

7.1 Resources

Forest manager shall determine and provide resources (e.g. the number of **workers**, technical means) necessary for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continuous improvement of the sustainable **forest management system**.

7.2 Competence

7.2.1 **Forest manager** shall ensure that **workers** receive sufficient relevant information and are kept up-to-date through continuous trainings relevant to their job on sustainable forest management (including training on the enhancement of forest **biodiversity** and/or **specially protected, endangered species and habitats**, **forest regeneration**, tending, etc.).

7.2.2 **Forest manager** shall receive sufficient relevant information and keep up-to-date through continuous trainings on sustainable forest management (including training on the enhancement of forest **biodiversity** and/or **specially protected, endangered species and habitats**, **forest regeneration**, tending, etc.).

7.2.3 **Forest manager** considers possibilities of participating in informative or educational campaigns about the multi-purpose use of timber resources, including renewable energy.

7.3 Communication

7.3.1 **Forest manager** shall maintain communication with **stakeholders** and **directly affected stakeholders** about sustainable forest management, respond to their questions and keep documented information.
Note: Documented information includes minutes of meetings, if such are taken, as well as mutual correspondence.

7.3.2 Written information exchange shall be kept for at least 5 years.

7.4 Complaints

Written complaints about forest management shall be reviewed and responded to. Appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions and it complies with the requirements of the laws and regulations.

7.5 Documented information

7.5.1 **Management system** shall include documented information required by the **Standard** and determined by the **forest manager** as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable **forest management**. The documentation shall include at least the following documented procedures according to the scale and intensity of operations:

a) use of **plant protection agents** and/or fertilizers, record keeping (areas where **plant protection agents** and/or fertilizers have been used, name of products, name of active ingredient and the amount used);
b) preventive actions to avoid spills of oil, fuel and other chemical substances, as well as emergency actions in case of spills, ensuring the collection of these substances;
c) health and safety requirements and control according to the type of work to be performed;
d) monitoring programme, including the frequency/periodicity of monitoring and indicators.

7.5.2. **Forest manager** shall implement, periodically review and/or update the documented information referred to in clause 7.5.1.

7.6 Use of certification claims

7.6.1 The claim "100% PEFC certified" can be included in sales documents to inform clients who have a valid PEFC chain of custody certificate that the products come from certified forests and/or other sources

approved by the PEFC International as suitable for PEFC certification, e.g. raw material originating from plantation forests to which the requirements of the Standard apply. Sales invoices or similar documentation that refers to PEFC certified forests/ plantation forests/ products/materials, shall contain at a minimum the following information: name and address of seller and purchaser, the date of sale, product name or description (e.g. "coniferous", "broadleaves", "firewood"), the volume (or quantity) sold, certificate code and the claim "100% PEFC certified".

Note 1: Translations into Latvian of all claims used in the PEFC system are available on the PEFC website: ww.pefc.org.

Note 2: Certification claims regarding to the origin of products from certified **forest management units** shall be used only by **forest managers** who have a PEFC-acknowledged **certificate** issued in accordance with this **Standard**.

7.6.2 **Forest manager** can sell with the claim "100% PEFC certified" or with another claim of the system only those products that are obtained in certified areas. In cases where the **forest manager** sells other products that are outside the scope of certification, they shall be sold as non-certified.

7.6.3 **Forest manager** shall collect and keep records about all products sold.

7.6.4 **Forest manager** shall keep all relevant sales documents for at least five years for all products sold as PEFC certified, including at least the following information: the name and address of the buyer; date of sale; product name; volume (or quantity) sold, the **certificate** code and the claim "100% PEFC certified".

7.6.5 **Forest manager** includes information about the certification status of the products sold as certified in communication with clients who have a PEFC chain of custody certificate.

8. Management operations

Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle

V1.1 Management shall aim to maintain or increase forests and their ecosystem services and maintain or enhance the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources. [8.1.1].

Indicators:

i 1.1.1 **Forest manager** shall identify the most significant **ecosystem services in the certified area** and determine management goals for maintaining or enhancing these services, balancing the social, environmental and economic functions of the forest.

Note: Appendix 2 "Ecosystem services" summarises some examples that the **forest manager** can use for reference to identify the most significant **ecosystem services** in the **certified area** and the management operations that are aimed at achieving the goals.

i 1.1.2 **Forest manager** shall determine activities, measurable indicators to achieve the management goals.

V1.2 The quantity and quality of the forest resources and the capacity of the forest to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources. [8.1.2, 8.1.4, 8.1.5].

Indicators:

i 1.2.1 F**orest manager** shall not **convert forest**, except in cases where the **forest conversion** is justified and:

a) complies with the laws and regulations, **territorial development plans** and **the forest management plan**, and other **forest manager's** internal documents, provided that consultations with **directly affected stakeholders** have taken place, 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;
d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and
e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits (e.g. by compensating the converted area in another place with **afforestation**, establishment of new nature protection areas, etc.).

i 1.2.2 **Forest manager** shall not **afforest ecologically important non-forest areas**, except in cases where **afforestation** is justified and:

a) complies with the laws and regulations, **territorial development plans** and **the forest management plan**, and other **forest manager's** internal documents, provided that consultations with **directly affected stakeholders** have taken place in transparent and participatory manner , and
b) does not have negative impact on **ecologically important non-forest areas**, culturally and socially significant areas;
c) entails a small proportion of the **ecologically important non-forest area** of **certified area** managed by the **forest manager**;
d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and
e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits.

i 1.2.3 **Forest manager** shall record the **converted** forest areas under indicator i1.2.1 and the **afforested** areas under indicator i1.2.2.

i 1.2.4 **Forest manager** shall evaluate the possibilities of increasing the forest area, for example by **afforesting** abandoned lands, etc.

i 1.2.5 **Forest manager** shall identify damaged, **unproductive forest stands** in order to plan their regeneration, e.g. by identifying homogenous pure spruce stands of high density older than 30 years.

i 1.2.6 **Forest manager** shall determine silvicultural methods and volumes that do not leave a significant negative impact on the forest values and functions.

i 1.2.7 **Forest manager** shall carry out timely **forest regeneration** and use appropriate thinning models to facilitate carbon sequestration.

i 1.2.8 **Forest manager** shall have calculations of CO_2 stock in forest stands.

Note: **Forest manager** can calculate carbon stock in forest stands according to the methodology for calculating greenhouse gas emissions (carbon tons). The form of the calculation methodology is available on the PEFC Latvia's website at www.pefc.lv.

i 1.2.9 **Forest manager** shall determine the long-term allowable cut, which shall be balanced with the estimated long-term increment of growing stock.

i 1.2.10 **Forest manager** shall consider possibilities of providing support for conducting various studies on the extension of the life cycle of wood products and/or their recycling.

V 1.3 Climate positive practices in management operations, such as green-house gas emission reductions and efficient use of resources shall be encouraged [8.1.3].

Indicators:

i 1.3.1 **Forest manager** shall have calculations of CO_2 emissions resulting from forest management activities.

Note: An example of the calculation methodology is available on the PEFC Latvia website www.pefc.lv, it can be used for the calculation of CO_2 emissions by adjusting the values indicated in it, if necessary. **Forest manager** may choose to use a different calculation methodology to calculate CO_2 emissions.

i 1.3.2 **Forest manager** shall optimize forest management according to the scale and intensity of the operation in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality

V2.1 Health and vitality of **forest ecosystems** shall be maintained or enhanced and **degraded forest ecosystems** shall be rehabilitated wherever and as far as economically feasible, by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures. [8.2.1].

Indicators:

i 2.1.1 **Forest manager** shall take into account the results of research and/or monitoring carried out in the country on the health and vitality of the forest.

i 2.1.2 **Forest manager** shall take the necessary measures to limit and/or prevent the risks of forest damage in the managed area.

i 2.1.3 **Forest manager** shall carry out sanitary felling to improve the sanitary condition of forest stands, if necessary and unless it does not conflict with the laws and regulations.

i 2.1.4 **Forest manager** shall identify **degraded forest ecosystems** and plan activities for their restoration if it is economically justified.

V2.2 Adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms [8.2.2].

Indicators:

i 2.2.1 **Forest manager** shall conserve the **forest stands of genetic resources** registered in the State Forest Register and shall ensure their regeneration with the genetic material of the same stand, if the site or other conditions allow it.

i 2.2.2 **Forest manager**, when regenerating the forest stand and selecting tree species, shall consider a possibility of diversifying the distribution of tree species in the managed area according to the growing conditions.

V2.3 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 **indigenous peoples**. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken [8.2.3].

Indicators:

i 2.3.1 **Forest manager** may use controlled burning as a forest management technique for the management and restoration of species' habitats and biotopes and for the enhancement of **biological diversity** or in other justified cases, if it does not contradict the binding laws and regulations. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken.

i 2.3.2 **Forest manager** shall keep the records of the areas referred to in indicator i2.3.1.

V2.4 Appropriate **forest management** practices such as **reforestation** and **afforestation** with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied [8.2.4].

Indicators:

i 2.4.1 In **reforestation** and **afforestation**, **forest manager** shall use tree species suitable for growing conditions and **forest reproductive material** suitable for the site.

i 2.4.2 **Forest manager** shall have documents certifying the origin of **forest reproductive material** for forest stands that have been regenerated by planting or sowing.

i 2.4.3 **Forest manager** shall use such harvesting techniques and methods that mitigate the impact on the soil and remaining trees.

V2.5 The indiscriminate disposal of waste on **forest land** shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during **forest management** operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place. [8.2.5].

Indicators:

i 2.5.1 Non-organic waste shall not be left in the forest as a result of forest management operations.

i 2.5.2 Waste dumped in the forest that is generated by public shall be regularly collected and taken to appropriate waste collection points.

i 2.5.3 **Forest manager** shall take actions to prevent the leakage of oil, fuel and other chemical substances, but in case of leakage, these substances shall be collected according to the documented procedures.

i 2.5.4 Materials absorbing oil products shall be available and used accordingly in the machinery engaged in forest management works and in the places of maintenance of equipment and filling of fuel.

i 2.5.5 When carrying out forest management works, technical liquids, oil products, chemical substances and water shall be stored in suitable, appropriately marked containers or packages.

V2.6 Integrated pest management, appropriate silviculture alternatives and other biological measures shall be preferred to minimise the use of **pesticides** [8.2.6].

Indicators:

i 2.6.1 **Forest manager** shall give priority to **integrated pest management**, minimizing as much as possible the use of chemical method of plant protection (pesticides), facilitating the use of environmentally friendly pest control agents and applying suitable alternative forest management methods.

i 2.6.2 **Forest manager** shall plan and carry out preventive biological measures to maintain the health and vitality of forest stands, as long as it is economically justified.

i 2.6.3 **Forest manager** shall keep records of the use of **plant protection agents** and/or fertilizers (information about the areas treated, the name of the plant protection agents/ fertilizers used, the name of the active ingredients and the amount used).

i 2.6.4 Any use of chemical **plant protection agents** and/or fertilizers shall be justified.

V2.7 Any use of pesticides is documented. The WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard [8.2.7, 8.2.8].

Indicators:

i 2.7.1 **Forest manager** does not use chemical **plant protection agents** classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides, except in cases where their use is justified by a declared state of emergency and the permission of the State Plant Protection Service is received.

i 2.7.2 **Forest manager** shall use only those **plant protection agents** that are registered in Latvia, or those for which a fixed-term import/use permit has been received.

i 2.7.3 **Forest manager** shall keep records of any use of chemical **plant protection agents**.

V2.8 Pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.

Note: “Pesticides banned by international agreements” are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. [8.2.9].

Indicators:

i 2.8.1 **Forest manager** does not use chemical **plant protection agents** such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any chemical **plant protection agents** banned by international agreements.

V2.9 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment by trained personnel [8.2.10].

Indicators:

i 2.9.1 Any kind of chemical **plant protection agents** shall be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

i 2.9.2 **Workers** who work with chemical **plant protection agents** shall be properly trained.

i 2.9.3 **Forest manager** shall control that **workers** handling chemical **plant protection agents** use appropriate personal protective equipment.

V2.10 **W**here fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment. Fertilizer use shall not be an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management. [8.2.11].

Indicators:

i 2.10.1 **Forest manager** shall use fertilizers according to the environmental protection requirements and manufacturer's instructions, if there are any. Fertilisers are only used where they are necessary to secure establishment or to correct subsequent nutrient deficiencies but use of fertilizers does not replace appropriate soil nutrient management.

i 2.10.2 **Workers** who work with fertilizers shall be properly trained.

i 2.10.3 **Forest manager** shall justify the necessity of using fertilizers.

Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)

V3.1 The capability of forests to produce a range of wood and **non-wood forest products** and services on a sustainable basis shall be maintained.

Indicators:

i 3.1.1 Forest management goals that ensure the availability of wood and **non-wood products** in the long term shall be set.

i 3.1.2 **Forest manager** shall maintain and/or facilitate the structural diversity of the **forest ecosystem** (e.g. stands of different tree species and ages at the landscape level) as far as possible in order to ensure the diversity of **non-wood products** in the managed area.

i 3.1.3 F**orest manager** shall evaluate the possibilities of maintaining, renovating the existing forest drainage systems and, if necessary, building new ones in order to improve the ability of forest stands to produce various wood and **non-wood products** and services. In case of new drainage system establishment **forest manager** shall evaluate if that will not threaten capacity of the stands to supply long-term sustainable services."

V3.2 Sound economic performance shall be pursued, taking into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests [8.3.2].

Indicators:

i 3.2.1 The operations of **forest manage**r shall be aimed at achieving stable economic performance, including consideration of possibilities of creating new forest products and services.

i 3.2.2 **Forest manager** shall consider different uses of the managed forest area in order to provide a wider range of products and services.

V3.3 Management, including harvesting and **regeneration** operations shall be carried out at a time, and in a way, that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to soil and retained stands and trees [8.3.3].

Indicators:

i 3.3.1 Forest management, including harvesting and **forest regeneration** shall be carried out according to the conditions and with suitable technologies and machinery in order not to reduce the productivity of the specific site in the long term.

i 3.3.2 When carrying out harvesting with machinery, shall use only the planned skid tracks or technological corridors as far as possible.

i 3.3.3 **Forest manager** shall take measures to mitigate the formation of ruts during the performance of works.

i 3.3.4 **Forest manager** shall identify and even out ruts after the completion of harvesting works in places where it is necessary.

V3.4 Harvesting levels of both wood and **non-wood forest products** shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested products [8.3.4].

Indicators:

i 3.4.1 **Forest manager** shall determine the annual volume of wood products as well as **non-wood forest products** harvested for own-commercial purposes, and those volumes shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term.

i 3.4.2 Harvesting levels in a certain period, ranging from 5 to 10 years, do not exceed the sustainable harvesting volume determined in indicator i 3.4.1, except in cases where harvesting levels are increased due to windfalls, fires and other damage to forest stands.

i 3.4.3 **Forest manager** shall consider the collection of felling residues (e.g. small merchantable wood, branches) in places where it is justified.

i 3.4.4 **Forest manager** shall ensure that the timber products are removed from the forest in time to retain their quality and minimise the risks for the spread of wood damaging pests as far as possible.

i 3.4.5 **Forest manager** shall ensure that timber measuring is carried out in accordance with the timber measurement standard established in the country.

V3.5 Adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment [8.3.5].

Indicators:

i 3.5.1 **Forest manager** shall plan the development and/or maintenance of the forest infrastructure appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations.

i 3.5.2 **Forest manager** shall assess the environmental impacts of forest infrastructure development and maintenance works (if such are planned/performed) and plan site-appropriate actions in order to mitigate the potential negative impact on the environment.

Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems

V4.1 Management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve or enhance biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels [8.4.1].

Indicators:

i 4.1.1 **Forest manager** shall set a measurable goal that ensures conservation, enhancement or increase of **biological diversity**.

i 4.1.2 **Forest manager**, appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations, shall plan measures to **conserve biological diversity** at the landscape, **ecosystem**, species and genetic level.

V4.2 Inventory, mapping and planning of forest resources shall identify, **protect, conserve** or set aside **ecologically important forest areas**. *Note*: This does not prohibit **forest management** activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes [8.4.2.].

Indicators:

i 4.2.1 **Forest manager** shall have information about the **ecologically important forest and non-forest areas** identified in the managed area.

i 4.2.2 When planning **forest management**, **forest manager** shall ensure the **conservation** of **ecologically important forest and non-forest areas**.

i 4.2.3 If in the certified area **ecologically important forest and non-forest areas** are not identified, then **forest manager** shall plan measures to promote in the long term development of such areas that could be deemed to be ecologically important (e.g. by retaining a forest stand which has significantly exceeded the final felling age).

V4.3 Protected, threatened and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.
Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements. [8.4.3].

Indicators:

i 4.3.1 Commercial use of protected, threatened and endangered plant and animal species is prohibited, except when obtaining permission, in accordance with the CITES convention and requirements of the laws and regulations.

i 4.3.2 **Forest manager** shall demonstrate compliance with CITES requirements, as well as have certificates for obtaining and trade of CITES species, if applicable.

V4.4 Successful regeneration shall be ensured through natural regeneration or planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources [8.4.4].

Indicators:

i 4.4.1 The final felling shall be carried out in areas of adequate size in order to ensure successful **forest regeneration**.

i 4.4.2 Natural **forest regeneration** can be used and facilitated in such forest types and sites where it ensures timely and qualitative **forest regeneration**.

i 4.4.3 **Forest manager** shall carry out measures for the successful regeneration of the forest stand, for example, soil preparation, facilitation of natural regeneration, planting, agrotechnical tending, protection against damage.

V4.5 For **reforestation** and **afforestation** origins of **native species** that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred. Only those **introduced species**, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the **ecosystem** and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised. **Afforestation**, **reforestation** and other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted. Genetically-modified trees shall not be used [8.4.5, 8.4.6, 8.4.7].

Indicators:

i 4.5.1 F**orest manager** for **forest regeneration** or **afforestation** by sowing or planting shall use tree species suitable for the growing conditions, giving preference to **native tree species**.

i 4.5.2 Only those **introduced tree species**, provenances or varieties shall be used in **forest regeneration** and **afforestation** whose impacts on the **ecosystem** and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.

i 4.5.3 **Forest manager** shall keep records of the areas of forest stands **regenerated**/**afforested** with **introduced tree species**.

i 4.5.4 **Forest manager** shall not use **genetically modified forest reproductive material**.

V4.6 A diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures and the diversity of species such as mixed stands shall be promoted, where appropriate. The practices shall also aim to maintain or restore landscape diversity [8.4.8].

Indicators:

i 4.6.1 According to the forest type and site conditions, **forest manager** shall promote formation of forest stands of different ages and different tree species at the landscape level.

i 4.6.2 When performing **forest regeneration** and pre-commercial thinning, **forest manager** shall promote an admixture that is appropriate to the forest type, site conditions and the species to be **regenerated**, as long as it does not interfere with the target species.

i 4.6.3 When carrying out commercial thinning, **forest manager** in suitable places shall retain other tree species that are appropriate for the forest type and site conditions, as long as it does not interfere with the target species.

V4.7 Tending and harvesting operations shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to **ecosystems**. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to maintain or improve **biological diversity**. [8.4.10].

Indicators:

i 4.7.1 Watercourses (e.g. ditches, streams) shall be preserved during harvesting, however, if the water flow in the watercourse is disrupted after logging, necessary actions shall be performed in order to restore watercourses as close as possible to their natural state.

i 4.7.2. During the harvesting, **forest manager** shall retain wet patches with their typical vegetation and significantly increased level of humidity.

i 4.7.3. During the harvesting, **forest manager** shall maintain viable trees and shrubs in the undergrowth and understorey, considering technological possibilities of forest management works and health and safety requirements.

V4.8 Infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to **ecosystems**, especially to rare, sensitive or representative **ecosystems** and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration [8.4.11].

Indicators:

i 4.8.1 When planning and constructing forest infrastructure objects, **forest manager** shall evaluate their impact on **specially protected, endangered species and habitats** and **ecologically important forest and non-forest areas** and plan operations to mitigate the potential negative impact on them.

V4.9 With due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to control the pressure of animal populations on **forest regeneration** and growth as well as on biodiversity [8.4.12].

Indicators:

i 4.9.1 **Forest manager** shall consider a possibility of protecting forest stands against animal grazing, e.g. the use of repellents, sheep wool, fencing, spiral tree guards, plastic clips, top protection mesh, etc.

i 4.9.2 **Forest manager** shall consider a possibility to decrease the animal population by hunting or transferring hunting rights to other party in order to reduce damage to forest stands.

V4.10 Standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding **ecosystems** [8.4.13].

Indicators:

i 4.10.1 When performing forest management works, **forest manager** shall preserve structural elements typical of a natural forest, including dead wood, retention trees, trees with large bird nests, hollow trees, vegetation around wet patches, animal burrows, etc., to maintain the site-specific **biodiversity** in the long term, and shall maintain and enhance the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, considering technological possibilities of forest management works and health and safety requirements.

i 4.10.2 While preserving the structural elements characterising of a natural forest, **forest manager** also evaluates their impact on the health, vitality and stability of the forest stand.

Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)

V5.1 Protective functions of forests for society, such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting **ecosystem services** shall be maintained or enhanced [8.5.1].

Indicators:

i 5.1.1 **Forest manager** shall demonstrate a commitment to maintain or enhance the forest's ability to protect water and soil, e.g. by taking into consideration buffer zones along water bodies, planning the harvesting in appropriate time, choosing suitable technologies for forest management activities.

i 5.1.2 **Forest manager** shall demonstrate a commitment to maintain or enhance other **regulating** and **supporting functions** of **ecosystem services**, e.g. by choosing an appropriate type of **forest regeneration** and a thinning regime, preserving the structural elements characterising of a natural forest.

V5.2 Areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be mapped, and **forest management plans** and operations shall ensure the maintenance or enhancement of these functions [8.5.2].

Indicators:

i 5.2.1 **Forest manager** shall have cartographic information about the areas that are important for the protection of water and soil (e.g. protection zones).

i 5.2.2 According to the scale and intensity of the operations, **forest manager** shall plan **forest management** in areas important for the protection of water and soil in such a way as to ensure the conservation or enhancement of protecting functions.

V5.3 Special care shall be given to forestry operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive **erosion of soil** into watercourses. Techniques applied and the machinery used shall be suitable for such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations on these areas [8.5.3].

Indicators:

i 5.3.1 When planning and carrying out **forest management** on soils with poor bearing capacity, **forest manager** shall choose appropriate technologies, methods and weather conditions in order to reduce damage to the topsoil and flowing of suspended particles of the soil into watercourses and water bodies.

i 5.3.2 When crossing watercourses during the management works, such technologies and methods shall be chosen as to reduce the flowing of suspended particles of the soil into watercourses and water bodies.

i 5.3.3 **Forest manager** shall assess risks of **soil erosion**, where it may occur, and plan measures to reduce its impact (e.g. erosion risks in the restricted economic activity zone along the Baltic Sea and the coast of the Gulf of Riga).

V5.4 Special care shall be given to forestry operations in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided. Downstream water balance and water quality shall not be significantly affected by the operations. [8.5.4].

Indicators:

i 5.4.1 **Forest manager** shall ensure that in places where water runoff has been affected as a result of management operations, measures are planned to restore the water flow (e.g. temporary crossings are removed).

i 5.4.2 **Forest manager** does not use silvicultural methods that can negatively affect water quality in areas, which provides protective functions of water resources.

i 5.4.3 When using chemicals, **forest manager** shall comply with the requirements of the laws and regulations in order not to negatively affect water quality.

V5.5 Construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and conserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained [8.5.5.].

Indicators:

i 5.5.1 When planning, maintaining and/or constructing forest infrastructure, **forest manager** shall plan measures to reduce soil flow into watercourses.

i 5.5.2 When maintaining or constructing forest drainage systems and roads, **forest manager** shall plan measures to reduce flow of soil particles into the water (e.g. by creating sediment ponds).

i 5.5.3 **Forest manager** shall assess the need to construct and/or maintain roadside ditches along the forest roads.

i 5.5.4 **Forest manager** shall construct and reconstruct roads, bridges and other infrastructure objects in a manner that the natural level and functions of watercourses are preserved.

Criterion 6: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions

V6.1 **Forest management** planning shall aim to respect all socio-economic functions of forests. Management shall give due regard to the role of forestry in local economies. Special consideration shall be given to new opportunities for training and employment of local people, including **indigenous peoples** [8.6.1., 8.6.6.].

Indicators:

i 6.1.1 When planning and carrying out **forest management**, a possibility shall be considered to provide local people with employment opportunities and to promote socio-economic development.

i 6.1.2 When planning **forest management** works in the urban territories of cities and/or villages or in their immediate vicinity, the possible impact on the directly affected inhabitants shall be assessed and the necessary measures to mitigate the possible negative impact shall be determined appropriate to the extent of the planned operation.

i 6.1.3 Education of general public in forest and environment matters is within possibilities carried out.

V6.2 Adequate public access to **forests** for the purpose of recreation shall be provided, taking into account respect for ownership rights, safety and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and **ecosystems**, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest. Management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the **forest management area**, where appropriate supported by engagement with local communities and **indigenous peoples** [8.6.2., 8.6.4.].

Indicators:

i 6.2.1 In **forest management**, the rights of free access to the forest is respected and there are no restrictions to harvesting of **non-wood forest products** for personal use, while respecting ownership rights. There are no groundless restrictions on free access to the forest.

i 6.2.2 If free access to the forest is reasonably restricted, the public is properly notified of it, e.g. by placing informative signs.

i 6.2.3 When planning and implementing **forest management**, opportunities shall be considered for creating the managed area attractive for tourism and recreation, increasing the diversity of species and **landscapes**, creating and maintaining recreational infrastructure, while at the same time avoiding risks to the stability, health and vitality of the forest **ecosystem**.

i 6.2.4 **Forest manager** shall consider possibilities of designing recreational areas suitable for a large number (more than 30) of people at the same time.

i 6.2.5 **Forest manager** shall consider possibilities of creating recreational areas that can provide accessible environment for people with reduced mobility.

V6.3 Sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the needs of **indigenous peoples** and local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site [8.6.3.].

Indicators:

i 6.3.1 **Forest manager** shall ensure the **conservation** of **cultural heritage objects**, if applicable.

i 6.3.2 In cooperation with local municipalities, places important for local inhabitants are identified and, to the extent possible, these places are improved and maintained.

i 6.3.3 A documented procedure for the management of **cultural heritage objects** is in place.

V6.4 The best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and **indigenous peoples**. Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be encouraged [8.6.5.].

Indicators:

i 6.4.1 The possibility of applying knowledge, innovations and practical methods related to forest management of forest owners, NGOs and others shall be considered and, to the extent possible, rewards shall be provided for the knowledge used, if applicable.

V6.5 Forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate [8.6.7.].

Indicators:

i 6.5.1 **Forest manager** allows scientific research to be carried out in the property, if it does not conflict with the planned economic activity and the requirements of the **Standard**.

9. Assessment of the management operations

9.1 Monitoring and evaluation

9.1.1 **Forest manager** shall regularly conduct monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including assessment of the ecological, social and economic impact, and monitoring results shall be reflected in the planning process.

Note. Monitoring can be carried out by the **forest manager**, or by using the results of monitoring carried out by other competent authorities. For example, if monitoring of forest health is carried out at the national/regional level, and its results are available to **the forest manager**, the objective of the requirement is met without the necessity to carry out the individual monitoring in each **forest management unit**.

9.1.2 **Forest manager** shall carry out regular monitoring of the health and vitality of the forest and/or shall take into account the results of monitoring carried out by other competent authorities, paying particular attention to the key **biotic** (e.g. pests, diseases, damage caused by game animals etc.) and **abiotic factors** (e.g. floods, storms, snowbreaks etc.) and damage caused by internal factors (i.e. forest management operations), which potentially may affect the health and vitality of forest **ecosystems**.

9.1.3 **Forest manager** shall conduct monitoring and control of **non-wood forest products** that are sold for commercial purposes.

9.1.4 **Forest manager** shall carry out regular monitoring of the working conditions (working environment) and, if necessary, plan measures to improve the conditions.

9.2. Internal audit

9.2.1 **Forest manager** shall determine an internal audit programme, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, which shall be carried out at least once a year to ascertain whether the **management system** meets the set requirements and the requirements of the **Standard**, and whether it is effectively implemented and maintained.

9.2.2 **Forest manager** shall, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations:

a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) defining 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 (the internal auditor can also be **forest manager** or an **employee** of the **forest manager** who performs the functions of an auditor and can ensure an impartial and objective audit process, even if the specifics and qualifications of the designated person's work do not correspond to the auditor's profession);

d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management, if applicable;

e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.

9.3. Management system review

9.3.1 The annual **management system** review shall include at least the following up-to-date information:

a) the status of actions described in previous **management system** reviews;

b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the **management system**;

c) performance results, including non-compliances and corrective actions, monitoring and evaluation results

and audit results;

d) opportunities for continual improvement of the system, foreseeing the necessary improvements.

9.3.2 **Forest manager** shall retain documented information about the results of the **management system** reviews, in accordance with the laws and regulations. The outputs of the **management system** review shall include decisions on improvements to be made.

10. Improvement of the management system

10.1 Non-conformity and corrective action

10.1.1 When a non-conformity occurs, **the forest manager** shall:

a) act accordingly:

- to plan actions to control and correct non-conformities;

- to deal with the consequences caused by the non-conformities as far as possible;

b) assess the need for corrective actions in order to eliminate the risks of recurrence of non-conformities elsewhere by:

- reviewing the non-conformity;

- determining the causes of the non-conformity;

- determining if a similar non-conformity could reoccur or occur anywhere else;

c) plan and implement the necessary actions;

d) review the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken;

e) make changes to the **management system**, if necessary.

10.1.2 Corrective actions shall be appropriate so that to eliminate the effect of the identified non-conformities as far as possible.

10.1.3 **Forest manager** shall retain documented information about the non-conformity and the measures taken to eliminate the non-conformity, as well as the results of any corrective actions.

10.2 Continual improvement of the management system

10.2.1 **Forest manager** shall continuously improve the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest **management system** and the sustainable forest management practice.

1. Appendix

Guidance for the interpretation of requirements in the case of plantation forests

In Latvia, **plantation forests** may be established only on **non-forest lands** if **afforestation** does not contradict the requirements set out in the laws and regulations and territorial development planning documents. **Plantation forests** are mostly established on lands that are not used for agricultural production, providing additional benefits for increasing CO_2 sequestration.

The requirements of this **Standard** are applicable to **plantation forests**, except the conditions specified in Appendix 1 which differ in the case of **plantation forests**. The requirements are different because management objectives may differ.

Requirements of the Standard which do not apply to plantation forests	**Requirements applicable only to plantation forests**
4.3 Forest manager shall carry out a forest inventory in accordance with national laws and regulations; the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of operations shall be done according to the scale and intensity of operations, and shall also include an assessment of the impact of forest management operations on the social sphere, environment and economy. Such an assessment shall form the basis for continuous improvement of the system.	**4.3(p) Forest manager** shall carry out forest inventory in accordance with the national laws and regulations, as well as planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation management operations in **plantation forests** to ensure continuous improvement of the system. .
6.1.2 Forest manager shall maintain information about forest resources, including conducting and maintaining a forest inventory pursuant to the laws and regulation, as well as mapping according to the requirements of the **Standard**.	**6.1.2(p) Forest manager** shall maintain information about **plantation forest** resources, including conducting and maintaining a forest inventory pursuant to the laws and regulation, as well as mapping in line with the requirements of the **Standard**.
6.1.3 Forest manager, where possible, shall support traditional forest management methods that create valuable **ecosystems**.	**6.1.3 (p) Forest manager** shall use management methods that are suitable to the local conditions.
6.2.1 Forest manager, taking into account the scale and intensity of forest management operations, shall develop a forest management plan according to the laws and regulations and other binding planning documents, including description of the resources of the managed area.	**6.2.1(p)** The forest management plan of a **plantation forest**, which includes a set of documents, tools, information systems, shall include at least information about resources, planned operations and monitoring results. Note: **The forest manager** who has a **forest management plan** does not need to develop a separate management plan for the **plantation forest**,

	but this information shall be integrated into the existing plan.
6.2.3 **The forest management plan** shall include long-term management goals: social, economic and environmental.	**6.2.3(p)** F**orest manager** shall prepare a publicly available summary of the management plan referred to in clause 6.2.1(p). *Note*. The publicly available summary may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of **cultural heritage objects** or natural resources.
6.2.4 **The forest management plan** shall include information about resources and ecosystem services in the managed area: a) description of the managed area and resources (including the area of managed territory, location, distribution by land categories, types of **forest land** and their area, forests divided by dominant tree species and site type, by tree species and age groups, sustainable harvesting volume and its justification); b) information about **ecologically important forest and non-forest areas**; c) information about **cultural heritage objects**; d) information about the availability of the managed territory to the public for recreation (e.g. sightseeing, berry picking); e) information about **forest stands of genetic resources,** if applicable; f) information about measures for mitigation of/ adaptation to climate change (i.1.3.1).	**6.2.4** Not applicable. See clauses 6.2.1(p) and 6.2.3(p).
6.2.7 **Forest manager** shall prepare a publicly available summary of the **forest management plan,** which corresponds to the scale and intensity of the forest management operations, and include in it the information mentioned in clauses 6.2.3, 6.2.4 and 9.1.1. *Note.* The publicly available summary of the **forest management plan** may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made	**6.2.7** Not applicable.

confidential by applicable normative documents or for the protection of **cultural heritage objects** or natural resources.	
6.2.8 Forest manager shall evaluate proposals and comments received regarding to the public summary of the **forest management plan** and provide answers to them.	**6.2.8 (p) Forest manager** shall review the proposals and comments received from the **directly affected stakeholders**, other **stakeholders** and local people on the summary of the plantation forest management plan and provide answers to them.
6.2.9 The public summary of the **forest management plan** shall be publicly available, or if it is not possible to ensure it, then it shall be sent to the interested parties upon request.	**6.2.9 (p)** The public summary of the **plantation forest** management plan shall be publicly available, or if it is not possible to ensure it, then it shall be sent to the interested parties upon request.
6.3.1 Forest manager shall have access to national and international legal acts and their requirements, which are binding in forest management.	**6.3.1(p) The forest manager** shall have access to national and international legal acts and their requirements, which are binding on **plantation forests**.
6.3.2 The operations of **forest manager** shall comply with the national and internationally binding laws and regulations that apply to forest management (including nature and environmental protection, **specially protected, endangered species and habitats**, fire protection, tenure and land use rights, health and safety issues; anti-corruption, fair competition, taxes and other binding payments).	**6.3.2(p)** The operations of the **forest manager** shall comply with the national and international binding laws and regulations that apply to **plantation forest** management.
7.2.1 Forest manager shall ensure that **workers** receive training relevant to their job and/or sufficient information on sustainable forest management (including training on the enhancement of forest **biodiversity** and/or **specially protected, endangered species and habitats**, **forest regeneration**, tending, etc.).	**7.2.1(p) Forest manager** shall ensure that workers receive trainings and/or sufficient information relevant to their job.
i1.1.1 Forest manager shall identify the most significant **ecosystem services in the certified area** and determine management goals for maintaining or enhancing these services, balancing the social, environmental and economic functions of the forest.	**i1.1.1(p**) F**orest manager** shall identify the most signifiant **ecosystem services** in **the certified area** and determine the management objectives in the management plan. *Note:* Appendix 2 **"Ecosystem services"** summarises some examples that **forest manager** can use for reference to identify the most significant

Note: Appendix 2 **"Ecosystem services"** summarises some examples that the **forest manager** can use for reference to identify the most significant **ecosystem services** in the certified area and the management operations that are aimed at achieving the goals.	**ecosystem services** in the certified area and the management operations that are aimed at achieving the goals.
Indicator i 1.2.1 of Chapter 8 defines that **forest conversion** shall not be carried out, except in certain cases (...). The condition that "**forest conversion** shall not be carried out" means that it is not allowed to certify **plantation forests** established as a result of **forest conversion** after 31 December 2010 without observing the listed exceptional cases.	In Latvia, according to the requirements of the laws and regulations, **forest conversion** is not allowed with the aim of establishing **a plantation forest**.
Indicator i1.2.2 of Chapter 8 defines that **ecologically important non-forest areas** shall not be afforested, except in certain cases (...). The condition that "**ecologically important non-forest areas** shall not be afforested" means that it is not allowed to certify **ecologically important non-forest areas** that have been **afforested** after 31 December 2010 without observing the listed exceptional cases.	In Latvia, it is not allowed to register **a plantation forests** in **ecologically important non-forest areas**.
i 1.2.9 Forest manager shall determine the long-term allowable cut, which shall be balanced with the estimated long-term increment of growing stock.	**i1.2.9(p) Forest manager** shall have information about the amount of annually planned and actually performed management operations in **plantation forests**.
i1.3.1 Forest manager shall have calculations of CO_2 emissions resulting from forest management activities. *Note*: An example of the calculation methodology is available on the PEFC Latvia website www.pefc.lv, it can be used for the calculation of CO_2 emissions by adjusting the values indicated in it, if necessary. **Forest manager** may choose to use a different calculation methodology to calculate CO_2 emissions.	**i1.3.1(p) Forest manager** shall have calculations of CO_2 emissions resulting from management operations in the **plantation forest**.
i 1.3.2 Forest manager shall optimize forest management according to the scale and	**i 1.3.2(p**) F**orest manager** shall optimize management according to the scale and intensity of

intensity of the operation in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	the operations in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
i 2.2.2 Forest manager, when regenerating the forest stand and selecting tree species, shall consider a possibility of diversifying the distribution of tree species in the managed area according to the growing conditions.	**i2.2.2(p) Forest manager** shall establish/regenerate **plantation forests** in accordance with the laws and regulations.
i 2.5.3 Materials absorbing oil products shall be available and used accordingly in the machinery engaged in forest management works and in the places of maintenance of forest management instruments and filling of fuel.	**i 2.5.3(p)** Materials absorbing oil products shall be available and used accordingly in the machinery engaged in **plantation forest** management works and in the places of maintenance of forest management instruments and filling of fuel.
i 2.5.4 When carrying out forest management works, technical liquids, oil products, chemical substances and water shall be stored in suitable, appropriately marked containers or packages.	**i 2.5.4(p)** When carrying out management works in **plantation forests**, technical liquids, oil products, chemical substances and water shall be stored in suitable, appropriately marked containers or packages.
i 3.1.2 Forest manager shall maintain and/or facilitate the structural diversity of the **forest ecosystem** (e.g. stands of different tree species and ages at the landscape level) as far as possible in order to ensure the diversity of **non-wood products** in the managed area.	**i 3.1.2** Not applicable.
i 3.3.1 Forest management, including harvesting and **forest regeneration** shall be carried out according to the conditions and with suitable technologies and machinery in order not to reduce the productivity of the specific site in the long term.	**i3.3.1(p)** The management, including establishment/regeneration, thinning and harvesting of **plantation forests** shall be carried out according to the conditions and with suitable technologies and machinery in order not to reduce the productive capacity of the specific site in the long term.
i 3.4.1 Forest manager shall determine the annual volume of wood products as well as **non-wood forest products** harvested for own-commercial purposes, which ensures the achievement of long-term management goals.	**i3.4.1(p) Forest manager** shall ensure that harvesting levels do not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long-term. **i3.4.2(p) Forest manager** shall have information about the volume of wood products as well as **non-wood forest products** harvested annually for own-commercial purposes.
i 4.1.1 Forest manager shall set a measurable goal that ensures conservation,	**i4.1.1(p)** When establishing **plantation forests**, **the forest manager** shall conserve separate clumps of naturally grown trees and shrubs, insofar as this does

enhancement or increase of **biological diversity**.	not contradict the purpose of establishing **plantation forests**.
i 4.1.2 Forest manager, appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations, shall plan measures to **conserve biological diversity** at the landscape, **ecosystem**, species and genetic level.	**i4.1.2(p)** When **the forest manager** establishes **a plantation forest** of one species in a continuous forest area larger than 50 ha, at least 5% of **the plantation forest** area shall be left for natural regeneration, if it does not include **forest land** inclusions and clumps of shrubs.
i 4.2.1 Forest manager shall have information about the **ecologically important forest and non-forest areas** identified in the managed area.	**i4.2.1(p)** The establishment of **plantation forests** shall be carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations, ensuring the conservation of **ecologically important forest** and **non-forest areas**.
i 4.2.2 When planning **forest management**, **forest manager** shall ensure the **conservation** of **ecologically important forest and non-forest areas**.	**i 4.2.2(p)** See i 4.2.1(p).
i 4.2.3 If in the certified area **ecologically important forest and non-forest areas** are not identified, then **forest manager** shall plan measures to promote in the long term development of such areas that could be deemed to be ecologically important (e.g. by retaining a forest stand which has significantly exceeded the final felling age).	**i 4.2.3** Not applicable.
i 4.4.1 The final felling shall be carried out in areas of adequate size in order to ensure successful **forest regeneration**.	**i4.4.1(p)** Management of **plantation forests** (including harvesting, regeneration) shall be carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations and the requirements of the **Standard**.
i 4.4.2 Natural forest regeneration can be used and facilitated in such forest types and sites where it ensures timely and qualitative **forest regeneration**.	**i 4.4.2** Not applicable. See i4.4.1(p).
i 4.4.3 Forest manager shall carry out measures for the successful regeneration of the forest stand, for example, soil preparation, facilitation of natural regeneration,	**i 4.4.3** Not applicable. See i4.4.1(p).

planting, agrotechnical tending, protection against damage.	
i 4.5.1 Forest manager for **forest regeneration** or **afforestation** by sowing or planting shall use tree species suitable for the growing conditions, giving preference to **native tree species**.	**i4.5.1(p)** When **regenerating** or establishing **plantation forests**, **forest manager** shall use tree species suitable for the growing conditions, giving preference to **native tree species**.
i 4.5.2 In cases where **introduced tree species** are used in **forest regeneration** and **afforestation**, their impact on the **ecosystem**, the genetic integrity of **native tree species** and provenances shall be scientifically evaluated and the negative impact shall be avoided or minimised.	**i 4.5.2(p)** In cases where **introduced tree species** are used in **regeneration** and **establishment of a plantation forests**, their impact on the **ecosystem**, the genetic integrity of **native tree species** and provenances shall be scientifically evaluated and the negative impact shall be avoided or minimised.
i 4.5.3 Forest manager shall keep records of the areas of forest stands **regenerated**/**afforested** with **introduced tree species**.	**i 4.5.3(p) Forest manager** shall keep records of the areas of **plantation forests regenerated/reforested** with **introduced tree species**.
i 4.6.1 According to the forest type and site conditions, **forest manager** shall promote formation of forest stands of different ages and different tree species at the landscape level.	**i4.6.1(p)** Management of **plantation forests** (including harvesting, regeneration) shall be carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations and the requirements of the **Standard**.
i 4.6.2 When performing **forest regeneration** and pre-commercial thinning, **forest manager** shall promote an admixture that is appropriate to the forest type, site conditions and the species to be **regenerated**, as long as it does not interfere with the target species.	**i4.6.2** Not applicable.
i 4.6.3 When carrying out commercial thinning, **forest manager** in suitable places shall retain other tree species that are appropriate for the forest type and site conditions, as long as it does not interfere with the target species.	**i4.6.3** Not applicable.
i 4.7.2. During the harvesting, **forest manager** shall retain wet patches with their typical	**i4.7.2(p)** When felling trees in **plantation forests**, the existing individual naturally grown trees, clumps of shrubs and growth around wet patches with their

vegetation and significantly increased level of humidity.	typical vegetation and significantly increased level of humidity shall be preserved.
i 4.7.3 During the harvesting, **forest manager** shall maintain viable trees and shrubs in the undergrowth and understorey, considering technological possibilities of forest management works and health and safety requirements.	**i 4.7.3** Not applicable.
i 4.10.1 When performing forest management works, **forest manager** shall preserve structural elements typical of a natural forest, including dead wood, retention trees, trees with large bird nests, hollow trees, vegetation around wet patches, animal burrows, etc., to maintain the site-specific **biodiversity** in the long term, considering technological possibilities of forest management works and health and safety requirements.	**i4.10.1(p)** When managing **plantation forests**, existing individual naturally grown trees, clumps of shrubs and vegetation around wet patches shall be preserved.
i 4.10.2 While preserving the structural elements characterising of a natural forest, **forest manager** also evaluates their impact on the health, vitality and stability of the forest stand.	**i 4.10.2** Not applicable.
i 5.1.1 Forest manager shall demonstrate a commitment to maintain or enhance the forest's ability **to protect** water and soil, e.g. by taking into consideration buffer zones along water bodies, planning the harvesting in appropriate time, choosing suitable technologies for forest management activities.	**i 5.1.1 (p) Forest manager shall** demonstrate a commitment to maintain or increase the capacity of **a plantation forest to protect** water and soil.
i 5.3.2 When crossing watercourses during the management works, such technologies and methods shall be chosen as to reduce the flowing of suspended particles of the soil into watercourses and water bodies.	**i5.3.2(p)** When carrying out management of **plantation forests**, such technologies and methods shall be chosen as to reduce the flowing of suspended particles of the soil into watercourses and water bodies.
i5.4.1 Forest manager shall ensure that in places where water runoff has been affected as a result of management	**i5.4.1(p) Forest manager** shall ensure that where **plantation forest** management has affected water runoff, measures are planned to restore water flow

operations, measures are planned to restore the water flow (e.g. temporary crossings are removed).	(e.g. removal of temporary crossings).
i 6.1.1 When planning and carrying out **forest management**, a possibility shall be considered to provide local people with employment opportunities and to promote socio-economic development.	**i 6.1.1 (p)** When planning and carrying out management activities**,** appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, a possibility to provide local people with employment opportunities and to promote socio-economic development shall be considered.
i 6.1.2 When planning **forest management** works in the urban territories of cities and/or villages or in their immediate vicinity, the possible impact on the directly affected inhabitants shall be assessed and the necessary measures to mitigate the possible negative impact shall be determined appropriate to the extent of the planned operation.	**i6.1.2(p)** When planning management of **plantation forests** in the urban territories of cities and/or villages or in their immediate vicinity, the possible impact on the directly affected inhabitants shall be assessed and the necessary measures to mitigate the possible negative impact shall be determined according to the extent of the planned operation.
i6.1.3 Education of general public in forest and environment matters is within possibilities carried out.	**i6.1.3** Not applicable.
i 6.2.3 When planning and implementing **forest management**, opportunities shall be considered for creating the managed area attractive for tourism and recreation, increasing the diversity of species and **landscapes**, creating and maintaining recreational infrastructure, while at the same time avoiding risks to the stability, health and vitality of the forest **ecosystem**.	**i6.2.3(p)** When planning and carrying out management of **plantation forests**, a possibility of creating tourism and recreation sites shall be considered, if applicable.
i 6.2.4 Forest manager shall consider possibilities of designing recreational areas suitable for a large number (more than 30) of people at the same time.	**i 6.2.4** Not applicable.
i 6.2.5 Forest manager shall consider possibilities of creating recreational areas that can provide accessible environment for people with reduced mobility.	**i 6.2.5** Not applicable.

i 6.4.1 The possibility of applying knowledge, innovations and practical methods related to forest management of forest owners, NGOs and others shall be considered and, to the extent possible, rewards shall be provided for the knowledge used, if applicable.	**i6.4.1(p)** The possibility of applying knowledge, innovations and practical methods related to the management of **plantation forests** of forest owners, NGOs and others shall be considered and, to the extent possible, the rewards shall be provided for the knowledge used, if applicable.
9.1.1 Forest manager shall regularly conduct monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including assessment of the ecological, social and economic impact, and monitoring results shall be reflected in the planning process. *Note.* Monitoring can be carried out by the **forest manager**, or by using the results of monitoring carried out by other competent authorities. For example, if monitoring of forest health is carried out at the national/regional level, and its results are available to **the forest manager**, the objective of the requirement is met without the necessity to carry out the individual monitoring in each **forest management unit**.	**9.1.1(p) Forest manager** shall regularly conduct monitoring and evaluation of **plantation forests** and their management, including assessment of the ecological, social and economic impact, and the monitoring results shall be reflected in the planning process. *Note.* Monitoring can be carried out by **the forest manager,** or by using the results of monitoring carried out by other competent authorities may be used.
9.1.2 Forest manager shall carry out regular monitoring of the health and vitality of the forest and/or shall take into account the results of monitoring carried out by other competent authorities, paying particular attention to the key **biotic** (e.g. pests, diseases, damage caused by game animals etc.) and **abiotic factors** (e.g. floods, storms, snowbreaks etc.) and damage caused by internal factors (i.e. forest management operations), which potentially may affect the health and vitality of forest **ecosystems**.	**9.1.2(p) Forest manager** shall carry out regular monitoring of the health and vitality of the **plantation forest** and/or shall take into account the results of monitoring carried out by other competent authorities, paying particular attention to the key **biotic** (e.g. pests, diseases, damage caused by game animals etc.) and **abiotic factors** (e.g. floods, storms, snowbreaks etc.) and damage caused by internal factors (i.e. forest management operations), which potentially may affect the health and vitality of **plantation forests**.

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