

29.05.2025

Republic of Türkiye Sustainable Forest Management PEFC National Standard (PEFC-TR)

Document name: Republic of Türkiye Sustainable Forest Management PEFC National Standard

Document title: PEFC-TR 01:2023

Approved by: The Assembly of the SFM Council of Türkiye

Date of next periodic review : 01.02.2030

Date of entry into force: 01.02.2025

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The official version of this standard is on Turkish language. If there is any inconsistency between versions, the English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference.

Introduction

This national standard complies with PEFC ST 1003:2018, the international standard for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). The content of this document has been formulated with the consensus of a large number of stakeholders involved in the standard setting process.

The basis for the preparation of this Standard is based on the Pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (SFM), which were set out at the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of European Forests held in Lisbon in 1998.

The standard consists of 7 sections, 18 thematic areas, 44 criteria and 163 indicators. The process of determining this standard continued from January 2022 to October 2023 and took its current form as a result of the pilot study carried out in Bolu Regional Directorate of Forestry on 26-28 February 2024 and feedbacks during the study process.

Compliance with the existing legal framework related to forest management, game animals, water, agricultural land, nature and environmental protection, plant protection, safety and health regulations, the Turkish Spatial Plan, international conventions such as Universal Declaration on Human Rights, UNFF, UNCCD, RAMSAR, CBD approved in Türkiye and other requirements for SFM, which are not legally required in Türkiye and are part of the PEFC FM Standard, is mandatory in Türkiye.

The definition of requirements related to sustainable forest management is part of the criteria of this standard. Information about the connection with the legislation helps to link the criteria requirements with the relevant legal framework in force in Türkiye and relates to the content of the criteria, if any. The indicators serve for an objective and measurable estimation of whether the criteria requirements are met by the forest owner/manager. Sources of verification refer to documents and other sources of information confirming whether the requirements of the criteria and indicators have been met.

The criteria and indicators and all other requirements described in this Standard have been determined on a voluntary basis with a participatory approach, with the management of online and/or in-person meetings as parties, stakeholders, members and observers, with a focus on "Participatory Approach" and multi-stakeholder.

The criteria and indicators set out in this standard, as well as the determination of all requirements by following the PEFC standards and rules, taking into account the Türkiye National Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Criteria and Indicator Set, have been carried out as an extremely important and appropriate practice both in terms of responding to national needs and fulfilling international obligations.

The content of this standard is valid in Türkiye and relates only to forests and forest lands in accordance with the definition in the Forest Law, compliance with the national system and/or forest management plans for land use in the Cadastre and their equivalents.

This standard is applicable at the forest management unit level as appropriate. Forest owners are responsible to ensure full compliance to forest management standard including activities that are conducted by contracted forest operators in certified forest area.

This standard together with PEFC ST 1003 Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements outlines the general mandatory requirements to be applied for all the SFM certificate owner[s].

Only products that are generating from certified forest according to requirements of this Standard shall use the claim “100% PEFC certified”. This claim shall be used only by forest owners with valid PEFC certificate issued by accredited Certification Body. When forest owners are selling forest products with PEFC claim “100% PEFC certified”, to secure proper information for input material, following information shall be provided to customers:

- a) supplier identification
- b) product identification
- c) quantity of products
- d) delivery identification based on date of delivery, delivery period, or accounting period
- e) the organisation’s name as the PEFC customer of the delivery
- f) the claim “100% PEFC certified” specifically for each claimed product covered by the documentation
- g) the certificate number of the supplier’s PEFC recognised certificate

During process of setting of this Standard, The Council for SFM in Turkey has recognized, described and communicated with all relevant stakeholders, including these that are key and affected by Standard requirements, as well with disadvantaged stakeholders who are in a position of being non organized.

In this National Standard, the following verbal forms are used:

- “shall” indicates a requirement
- “shall” indicates a recommendation
- “may” indicates a permission
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

Table 1. Section and Thematic Areas

No	Section	Thematic Area	Number of criteria	Number of indicators
1.	The conservation of forest resources and the appropriate development of their contribution to the global carbon cycle	Forest inventory and forest planning	2	11
		Conservation of forest resources in terms of quantity, quality, and structure	2	11
		Establishment, protection, and development of carbon sink forests	1	2
2.	Protection of the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem	Monitoring of forest resources	1	8
		Measures for the protection of the health and vitality of forest ecosystems	1	3
		Restrictions	4	14
3.	Protection and support of forest production functions (wood and non-wood forest products)	Forest products	1	8
		Forestry activities and forest infrastructure	1	5
4.	Protecting, improving, and increasing the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	Forests of high ecological importance	2	11
		Forest practice in harmony with nature	5	15
		Traditional management systems	5	11
5.	Maintenance and development of the conservation functions of forests (especially soil and water)	Forest protective functions	2	13
6.	Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	Socio-economic functions of forests	2	9
		Property and traditional rights	4	11
		Trainings and information development	2	5
		Occupational health and safety	2	8
		Compliance with the legislation	2	5
7.	Issues related to the organization	Internal procedures	5	13
		TOTAL	44	163

Section 1: The conservation of forest resources and the appropriate development of their contribution to the global carbon cycle	
Thematic area: Forest inventory and forest planning	
Criterion No.	1.1.
Criterion definition	<p>Forest Management is based on the approach of planning, management and monitoring of forest resources in the light of inventory data, taking into account their economic, ecological and social impacts.</p> <p>The results obtained from the monitoring and evaluation of management and practices during the current planning period are applied over a 10-year period and used in the planning process to determine the goals of future management. These results will form the basis for the assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management and will be used for the new planning cycle.</p> <p>The forest inventory and forest maps determine the current forest structure and forestry practices to be applied in this forest, and these operations are carried out in accordance with the legal regulations. The boundaries of sustainably managed forest areas have been clearly defined and mapped.</p> <p>The amount of certified forest area is equal to the forest dub-district directorate area determined by the Forest Management Plan and Silviculture Plan.</p> <p>Owned areas of 3 hectares and above are considered private forests, and a forest management plan is formed for private forests.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831, • Forest Management Plans (FMP), • Regulation on Forest Management dated 05.02.2008 and No. 26778 • Legislation on the content of annual implementation plans, • Legislation on the content of Management Plans and the annual program for the protection of nature, • Legislation regulated for the form and structure of management criteria of privately owned forests that have not been developed by FMP or program, as well as procedures and principles for private forests,
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The purpose of forest management is in line with the criteria requirements. It will contain the FMP and its equivalents. 2. The quantity and quality of the data obtained through regular forest inventory provides information and data that meet the criteria and shall be used for forest management planning according to the FMP. 3. The data contained in the stand data maps will provide the information and document in accordance with the FMP and criteria. 4. The 10-year monitoring and evaluation results of the management shall be evaluated at the beginning of each planning period. 5. The assessment report on the social, environmental and economic impacts of the previous forest management will be provided at the beginning of the new planning cycle. 6. Interviews and survey studies shall be conducted with forest users, private forest owners and stakeholders

Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Management Plans (FMP), Forest Management Program or procedures and principles for private forests • National Forest Inventory Data • Forestry Statistics • Forest Information System (ORBIS) • Records kept about activities carried out in private forests
Minimum requirements	

Section 1: The conservation of forest resources and the appropriate development of their contribution to the global carbon cycle	
Thematic area: Forest inventory and forest planning	
Criterion No.	1.2.
Criterion definition	<p>Management plans are prepared on the basis of existing forest legislation, taking into account existing spatial plans, existing land use and other relevant documents relating to a specific area, and taking into account the volume and value of forest resources and the ownership structure and the purpose and intensity of their use.</p> <p>In forest management, the applicable findings of scientific research are taken into account.</p> <p>The forest management plan, silviculture plan or a summary of their equivalents containing information on the general objectives and principles of forest management, forest management measures and the place where they will be applied shall be publicly available, but only to a limited extent. The forest user /forest owner decides which confidential information or information about sensitive characteristics of natural resources will not be part of the summary in accordance with national legislation.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831, • National Parks Law No. 2873, • Law on Pasture No. 4342, • Law on Soil Preservation and Land Utilization No. 5403 • National Parks Regulation • Regulation on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), • Regulation on Forest Management dated 05.02.2008 and No. 26778, • Forest Management Plans (FMP), • Silviculture Plans(SP), • Current legislation on the content of annual implementation plans • The Forest Management Regulation (FMR) or the management criteria of privately owned forests that have not been developed a program, as well as the form and structure of procedures and principles for private forests, as well as the legislation in force separately for each cadastral parcel
Indicators	1. The content of the FMP and SP and the annual implementation plans shall include all matters subject to the criterion requirement.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The implementations made within the scope of these plans will be published annually in summary form on the web page in a way that will be open to the public. 3. Cadastral documents shall be taken into account for the capacity and volume of forest resources and the ownership structure. 4. In addition to the applicable local, national and international legislation, forest resources shall be managed in accordance with the existing land use and official plans in coordination. 5. The results of scientific research shall be taken into account in the preparation of plans.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Management Plans (FMP), Annual Program or procedures and principles for private forests, • Silviculture Plans (SP), • Field control carried out by independent organizations (FSC, PEFC, Universities), • Forestry Statistics, • Forest Information System (ORBIS), • Interviews and survey studies with forest users, private forest owners and stakeholders
Minimum requirements	

Section 1: The conservation of forest resources and the appropriate development of their contribution to the global carbon cycle	
Thematic area: Conservation of forest resources in terms of quantity, quality and structure	
Criterion No.	1.3.
Criterion definition	<p>Forest management plans, silviculture plans or projects carried out on a local basis are aimed at improving the economic, ecological and socio-cultural values of forests, including soil and water conservation, as well as the protection of forests and forest lands. The objectives shall be achieved by using appropriate tools and the focus is on the protection of nature.</p> <p>Increasing forest areas by converting abandoned agricultural lands and other vacant lands into forest land, cases where it enriches economic, long-term conservation and socio-cultural values shall also always be taken into account.</p> <p>Forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with affected stakeholders; and b. entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and c. does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and d. does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and

	<p>e. makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.</p> <p>Afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and b. stakeholders affected by the transformation have the opportunity to contribute to the decision-making process on a decision-making basis through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and c. does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) non-forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and d. entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and e. does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and f. makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits. <p>If conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it shall add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and b. stakeholders affected by the transformation have the opportunity to contribute to the decision-making process on a decision-making basis through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and c. has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and d. does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and e. safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and f. safeguards socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and
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	<p>g. has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices; and</p> <p>h. is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831, • National Parks Law No. 2873, • Law on Pasture No. 4342, • Law on Soil Preservation and Land Utilization No. 5403 • National Parks Regulation • Regulation on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), • Regulation on Forest Management dated 05.02.2008 and No. 26778, • Forest Management Plans, • Silviculture Plans, • Annual Programs, • Forestry Statistics, • Forest Information System (ORBIS), • Conservation Plans, • Field control carried out by an independent organization, • Regulation on Afforestation and Erosion Control Services
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management objectives and measurements and criteria requirements for their realization will be followed. 2. It will be required that the planned and implemented silvicultural and regeneration activities will be successful by at least 70% depending on the area. Otherwise, the reasons shall be reported 3. The stability of forests and woodlands, periodic increase, area and volume cannot be inferior to the previous plan period. Otherwise, the reasons shall be reported. 4. The spatial ratios of natural and artificial stands will be followed. 5. It will be checked that the forest land has not been converted into agricultural or non-agricultural areas. 6. The existence of afforestation criteria in ecologically important non-forest lands and the compliance of the studies with these criteria will be checked. 7. Monitoring and evaluation of the latest status of the relevant site in the Management and Silviculture Plans will be controlled. 8. Annual programmes implemented in erosion, avalanche and flood control areas will be followed. 9. Participatory approach methodology will be followed in the projects to be carried out in the relevant areas.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data included in Forest Management Plans, • Data included in Silviculture Plans, • The existence of a government decision for the conversion of forest or forest land, • Project design studies and records of afforestation studies carried out for the afforestation of non-forest lands suitable for the establishment of forests ecologically

Minimum Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fact that the species and function conversion rate is below 5% of the forest area in areas that are in the forest regime will not be considered a decrease.

Section 1: Maintenance and proper development of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle	
Thematic area: Conservation of forest resources in terms of quantity, quality and structure	
Criterion No.	1.4.
Criterion definition	<p>In the medium and long term, forest management techniques and practices shall protect the quantity and quality of forest resources at an economically, ecologically and socially desirable level.</p> <p>The protection of the ecological balance of forest resources shall be ensured by the implementation of silvicultural measures and techniques that minimize the indirect or direct damage to water resources, soil and forest during forestry implementation.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Law No. 6831, National Parks Law No. 2873, National Parks Regulation Regulation on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Regulation on Forest Management dated 05.02.2008 and No. 26778, Forest Management Plans, Silviculture Plans,
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> According to the forest classification: composition, management and applied silviculture methods (ha., map definition) will be available. The ratio between the annual increment and the allowable cut (yield) will be included in the forest management plan for forest sustainability in terms of quality and quantity.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Management Plans data, Silviculture Plans data, Annual Implementation Plans and Programs, Forestry Statistics, Forest Information System (ORBIS), Field control carried out by an independent organization, Amendments to be made to forest management plans and their equivalents in case of the need for unplanned logging due to forest damage caused by biotic and abiotic factors and approvals related to these amendments, Qualifications of employees in forest management institutions.
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The threshold values of the National Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicator (SFM C&I) set will be followed.

Section 1: Maintenance and proper development of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle	
Establishment, protection and development of carbon sink forests	
Criterion No.	1.5.
Criterion definition	<p>In order for the forests of our country to reach the targets to adapt to climate change, it is necessary to establish and develop new sink forests, protect the existing ones and have sustainable management. In this context, it shall be aimed to protect, develop and sustainably manage the forest carbon sink capacity of state forests, forests belonging to public utility institutions with artificial personality, areas under the control and disposal of the state and private forests, and to create new forest carbon sink areas. Silvicultural practices in forests shall be carried out with works and operations aimed at protecting and developing the forest ecosystem within the framework of afforestation studies and other activities.</p> <p>The principles of determining the analysis methods for sequestration of carbon and other greenhouse gases to be performed, determining the evaluation criteria and implementing the certification stages shall be determined.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change • The Paris Agreement • Presidential Decree No. 1 on the Organization of the Presidency • Forest Law No. 6831; • Presidential Decree No. 4 (Presidential Decree on the Organization of the Institutions and Organizations Associated, Related and Affiliated to the Ministry and other Institutions and Organizations • Regulation on Management and Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plans • General Directorate of Forestry Regulation on Revolving Fund Operation • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Regulation of Energy Performance in Buildings
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The carbon calculation method in Forest Management Plans. 2. The areas included in the sink area function in Forest Management Plans.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The climate law to be issued by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanism and Climate Change will become legalized. • A regulation on sink areas based on the Climate Law to be issued by the General Directorate of Forestry will be established.
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to change the regulations and existing communiqués on the readjustment of forestry activities after Climate Change.

Protection of the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem	
Thematic area: Monitoring of forest resources	
Criterion No.	2.1.
Criteria definition	<p>The criterion of health, viability and integrity of forests is complementary to the criterion of Forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle (criterion No. 1). It provides information about the state of forest resources and the factors that threaten these resources. 7 Indicators have been determined for this criterion in the Türkiye SFM C&I national set. In addition, the indicators under this criterion will be monitored and reported through a total of 25 sub-determined indicators. Thereby, it shall be ensured that the criterion is reported through an inclusive set of indicators.</p> <p>The health and vitality of the forest shall be monitored by continuous monitoring of the main biotic and abiotic factors and their effects on the forests. Monitoring is carried out by the relevant institution on an annual basis in accordance with national legislation.</p> <p>Monitoring shall also be carried out annually by forest managers and forest owners. In the analysis of monitoring results and in determining measures for the protection of the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, the natural and regular occurrence of forest fires, forest pests and other factors that disrupt the balance of forest ecosystems are taken into account. Monitoring results shall be also taken into account in forest management plans.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 169 of the Turkish Constitution • Article 170 of the Turkish Constitution • United Nations Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution • Forest Law No. 6831, • Law No. 3234 on the Amendment and Adoption of the Decree Law on the Organisation and Duties of the General Directorate of Forestry, • Public Finance Management and Control Law No. 5018, • Presidential Decree No. 4 (Presidential Decree on the Organization of the Institutions and Organizations Associated, Related and Affiliated to the Ministry and other Institutions and Organizations) • International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forest) • Regulation on Forest Management dated 05.02.2008 and No. 26778 • Regulation on the Implementation of the Third Paragraph of Article 17 of the Forest Law • Regulation on the Implementation of Article 18 of the Forest Law • Regulation on Private Forests and Forests Belonging to Public Utility Institutions with Artificial Personality • Implementation Regulation of Article 16 of the Forest Law • Procedures and Principles Related to Animal Grazing in Summer Pastures and Winter Pastures • General Directorate of Forestry Provincial Organization Establishment and Duty Regulation • Regulation on Private Forests and Forests Belonging to Public Utility Institutions with Artificial Personality • Regulation on the Utilization of Trees and Treelets on Title-Deed

	<p>Immovables that are Not Considered Forests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on the implementation of Articles 112, 113 and 114 of the Forest Law • Regulation on the Duties and Working Principles of Forest Conservation Officers • Regulation on the Work to be Performed by the Officers in the Prevention and Extinguishing of Forest Fires • Communiqué No. 295 on Procedures and Principles for the Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plans • Communiqué No. 299 on Procedures and Principles for the Regulation of Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plans • Communiqué No. 301 on the Principles and Procedures for the Supervision of the Regulation of Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plans • Communiqué No. 309 on the Procedures and Principles Regarding the Preparation of Implementation Reports on Interim Inspection and Expired Plans • Communiqué No. 305 on the Procedures and Principles of Combating Harmful Organisms that Occur in Forest Plants and Herbal Products • Communiqué No. 292 on the Planning, Construction and Maintenance of Forest Roads • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Communiqué No. 293 on the Principles of Protection of Forests from Illegal Intrusions • Communiqué No. 285 on the Principles of Practice in the Prevention and Extinguishing of Forest Fires • Circular No. 7064 on the Response to Forest Crimes
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The impact of biotic and abiotic factors, excluding human-caused ones, on forests owned by the state, private and legal entities will be monitored and reported. 2. Damages caused by humans in forests will also be measured, monitored and evaluated. The total sum, number, area and wood loss resulting from illegal cutting and opening, settlement and occupation in forest areas will be recorded, monitored and reported. In addition, the criminal records of those who committed these acts will be prepared and the necessary judicial proceedings will be initiated. 3. Legal permits and easements granted pursuant to Articles 16, 17/3 and 18 of the Forest Law and the losses arising therefrom will be measured, monitored and the production made for these reasons will be taken into consideration in yield calculations. 4. The effects of air pollution and climate change on forests and forest soil shall be monitored, evaluated and reported. Annual reports prepared as a result of measurements and evaluations made in the Level 1 and Level 2 observation areas established to monitor the effects of climate change and air pollution on forests will be available. 5. The length of roads and lanes made for transportation and/or fire prevention purposes, the amount of lost area and lost volume shall be measured and reported. 6. Grazing-related damages shall be measured, monitored and reported. 7. There shall be a system for monitoring the health, vitality and functions of forest ecosystems.

	<p>8. Monitoring activities will be carried out and documented by forest managers and forest owners.</p>
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring data included in the annual reports for Bio-indicator points (Level I and Level II observation areas) according to ICP Forest, • General Directorate of Forestry Annual Administrative Activity Report • Health State of Forests in Türkiye Report (2008-2012) • Annual Reports on the Health State of Forests in Türkiye (2013 and after) • Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicators Türkiye Report (2018) • National Forestry Program of Türkiye (2004-2023) • 11th Development Plan, Forestry and Forest Products Working Group Report (2019-2023) • 12th Development Plan, Protection of Forest Assets and Combating Erosion Report of the Specialization Commission (2024-2028) • Strategic Plan of the General Directorate of Forestry (2024-2028) • Forestry Statistics • Presidential Information System of Regulations • Forest Information System (ORBIS) • Rehabilitation of Burning Forest Areas and Fire Resistant Forests Facility Project (2018) • Screening Reports, Pest Announcement Report, Combat Projects, End-of-Fight Reports
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular monitoring of forest health and vitality will be carried out in accordance with national legislation.

Protection of the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem	
Thematic area: Measures for the protection of the health and vitality of forest ecosystem	
Criterion No.	2.2.
Criteria definition	<p>The protection of the health and vitality of forest ecosystems is of primary importance for forestry. Forest management has been defined in silviculture and conservation plans as measures to be taken to protect health and vitality, minimize the risk of forest degradation or damage, as well as to ultimately revitalization of damaged forest ecosystems.</p> <p>Rehabilitation of degraded forests (discontinuous forest) through afforestation shall be implemented only with native forest tree species or forest vegetation that are well adapted to field conditions.</p> <p>In the case of conversion of degraded forests (discontinuous forests) into forests through afforestation or seeding, it must add economic, ecological, socio-cultural value. The prerequisite for adding such a value are the cases where the conversion is in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Land use and forest management based on national or regional planning managed by official institutions shall be in accordance with applicable policies and legislation, b) Affected stakeholders shall have opportunities to contribute to the conservation-related decision-making process through transparent and participatory consultation processes, c) There shall be a positive impact on the long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation, d) shall not have negative effects on important areas in terms of ecological, socio-cultural, other protected areas and 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), e) Preserve the protective functions of forests for society and other regulatory or supportive ecosystem services, f) Protect the socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function of forests, landscape values and other cultural services, g) Must have a land history that provides evidence that the degradation is not the result of deliberate poor forest management practices, h) Must based on reliable evidence showing that the area has not been recovered or is in the process of recovery. <p>Forest management shall be based on natural processes, and in determining measures to protect the health of forests, care is taken to use preventive biological measures when it is feasible and economically justified.</p> <p>One of the main objectives of forest management shall be to protect genetic, species and structural diversity, and at the same time contribute to the protection of the health and vitality of forest ecosystems.</p> <p>Sites with recognised specific historical, cultural, or spiritual significance, as well as areas essential to meeting the needs of local communities (e.g.</p>

	health, subsistence), shall be protected or managed with due consideration of their significance, in accordance with Türkiye's Law No. 2863 on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831; • Operation and Management of Honey Forests • Procedures and Principles of the Administration of Ecotourism Functional Areas • Legislation on the content of Forest Management, Silviculture and Conservation Plans and Annual Management Plans; • Circular No. 7325 on the Seed and Tree Breeding and Seed Production • Circular No. 6912 and its Annexes on the Special Afforestation • Circular No. 2012-2 on Geographical Information System Studies • Implementing Instruction on the Recording of Immovables in the Ownership, Management or Use of GDF • Instructions for Implementing the Annual Budget • Instructions for the Preparation of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) Examination and Evaluation Form • Türkiye's Law No. 2863 on The Protection Of Cultural And Natural Assets
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The selection of conservation measures will serve to support the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, with priority given to the implementation of biological measures. 2. Adequate and nature-appropriate production methods will be applied in natural forests (silviculture measures focusing on natural regeneration, long regeneration periods). 3. Conversion of damaged forests (discontinuous forest) will be in accordance with the criterion condition.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Stands Mobilization Action Plan (2022-2026) • Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of Cedar Forests (2015-2019) • Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of Juniper Forests • Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of Oak Forests • The Acorn Action Plan • Action Plan for the Transformation of Coppice Forests into a Grove Forests • Ecotourism Action Plan (2021-2025) • Industrial Afforestation Action Plan (2013- 2023) • Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of Mining Sites (2014-2018) • Presidential Information System of Public Investments (KaYa) • Presidential Information System of Budget Management (e-Budget) • Presidential Program Planning Monitoring Evaluation System • Honey Forest Action Plan (2018-2023) • Ecotourism Action Plan (2021-2025) • Resin Action Plan (2017-2021) • Forest Management Plans. • Silviculture Plans. • Annual Programs. • Conservation Plans. • Field control carried out by an independent organization.

Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures and legislative arrangements related to the protection of the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem shall be comprehensive and adequate.
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Protection of the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem	
Thematic area: Restrictions	
Criterion No.	2.3.
Criteria definition	During the production of forest products, ploughing and transport in forests, the risk of oil spills is strictly avoided and waste is disposed of in a planned manner. Non-organic waste shall be collected, temporarily stored in places designated for this purpose, and then disposed of in places designated for this purpose.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Law No. 6831; Environmental Law No. 2872; National Parks Law No. 2873 Mining Law No. 3213 Waste Management Regulation (Official Gazette Dated 2015 and Numbered 29314) Petroleum Law No. 6326
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Indiscriminate disposal of wastes on forest land is strictly avoided, and non-organic wastes and garbage are collected and stored in designated areas to be removed in an environmentally friendly manner. Measures for minimizing the risk of oil spillage and waste disposal by forest operators are implemented, including preventing oil or fuel spills during forest management operations. Emergency procedures are in place to minimize the environmental damage caused by accidental spills. Designated places will be available for temporary disposal of non-organic waste. Absorbent materials for petroleum shall be kept in the vehicles and machines used in the cutting area and forestry.
Verification sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Internal Rulebook of the Forest Owner or Forest Employee for Mandatory Measures and Behavioral Measures During the Conduct of Forestry Activities (For Regular Employees And Service Providers). Internal Audit Directive of the General Directorate of Forestry Risk Directive of General Directorate of Forestry Ethical Regulation of the General Directorate of Forestry Field control carried out by an independent organization. Supervising, monitoring and informing the public about legal implementations in connection with the legislation
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Requirements for Restrictions will be provided.

Protection of the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem	
Thematic area: Restrictions	
Criterion No.	2.4.
Criteria definition	In accordance with the plan, unless permitted by the forest owner and manager, grazing of cattle and small animals in forest areas, to utilise for feeding and seed collection, uncontrolled fire lighting in the forest, resin extraction, tree bark stripping, collecting dry leaves, humus and other activities that weaken the production capacity or threaten the sustainability and reproduction functions of the forest shall not be actualized.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831; • Regulation on the Duties and Working Principles of Forest Conservation Officers • Procedures and Principles Related to Animal Grazing in Summer Pastures and Winter Pastures • Regulation on the Conduct of Legal Services of the General Directorate of Forestry • Regulation on the Determination and Management of Upland Areas in State Forests • Regulation of the Inspection Board of the General Directorate of Forestry • Regulation on Disciplinary Supervisors of the General Directorate of Forestry • Regulation on the implementation of Articles 112, 113 and 114 of the Forest Law • Regulation on the Utilization of Trees and Treelets on Title-Deed Immovables that are Not Considered Forests • Communiqué No. 292 on the Planning, Construction and Maintenance of Forest Roads • Communiqué No. 293 on the Principles of Protection of Forests from Illegal Intrusions • Circular No. 7064 on the Response to Forest Crimes
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In case of violation of the legal framework, appropriate implementation, monitoring and inspections will be carried out by the forest manager / owner. 2. Monitoring and inspections will be carried out for the implementation of Grazing Plans and compliance of herd owners with grazing plans.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan of the General Directorate of Forestry (2024-2028) • Forestry Statistics • General Directorate of Forestry Administrative Activity Report • Records of the General Directorate of Forestry (criminal records, accrued compensation v.b) • Reporting Diagnostic Forecasts (RDF) Service and explanations in ICPF reports. • Archived Reports of Registered Criminals. • Archived Reports from the Conducted Audit Controls. • Field Control Carried Out by an Independent Organization.
Minimum Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uttermost compliance with the provisions of the grazing plan

Protection of the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem	
Thematic area: Restrictions	
Criterion No.	2.5.
Criteria definition	<p>The use of pesticides in the forest is minimized and used in cases where silvicultural and biological measures are insufficient. Pesticide practise is recommended by a specialist or relevant institution. The use of WHO (World Health Organization) Type 1A and 1B pesticides is prohibited and the applicable pesticides has been listed in List of nationally approved products and active ingredients under the Environmental Law No. 2872 and shall be documented according to related law requirements. In cases where there are no other suitable alternatives, types 1A and 1B can be applied upon request only with the prior written approval of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change.</p> <p>The use of pesticides such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, insecticides, herbicides, as well as pesticides prohibited by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is prohibited. The use of pesticides shall be carried out according to the instructions given by the manufacturer and only by authorized persons with appropriate equipment.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Law No. 2872 • Communiqué No. 292 on the Planning, Construction and Maintenance of Forest Roads • List of nationally approved products and active ingredients. • World Health Organization list of pesticide types. • The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. • Circular No. 28 on the Standard Pharmaceutical and Biotechnical (Pheromone) Trial Method Against Forest Pests • Communiqué No. 305 on the Procedures and Principles of Combating Harmful Organisms that Occur in Forest Plants and Herbal Products
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. World Health Organization Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides are banned. 2. The use of pesticides such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, which accumulate in the food chain, is prohibited. 3. Where fertilizers are used, their implementation shall be ensured in a controlled manner and with care for the environment, the use of fertilizers shall not be considered as an alternative to proper soil nutrient management. (The use of fertilizers outside nurseries is extremely limited. It is used for trial purposes in R&D studies or in special implementations such as industrial plantations.) Chemical fertilizers are rarely used on 1 or 2-year-old seedlings, which are also used in nurseries to establish forests. 4. In the use of pesticides, the instructions given by the pesticide manufacturer are followed and it shall be ensured that they are applied by trained personnel with appropriate equipment. 5. In order to minimize the use of pesticides, integrated pest management, appropriate silviculture techniques and other biological measures shall be preferred. 6. Authorization certificate will be required from the people who apply

	pesticides. 7. Registered use of pesticides by type, quantity, areas treated, remaining quantities and storage of chemicals will be ensured.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official institution reports for the maintenance performed. • Recommendation for the use of pesticides by the appropriate institution. • Approval from the above-mentioned institutions for the use of type 1A and 1B pesticides. • In the import of logs, it is required that the shells be peeled or fumigated.
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minimum Requirements are provided in the regulations.

Part 2: Protection (maintenance) of the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem	
Thematic area: Restrictions	
Criterion No.	2.6.
Criteria definition	The use of chemical fertilizers in the forest is avoided. Chemical fertilizers can only be applied on a controlled and prescription basis with the recommendation of the relevant institution, taking into account their impact on the environment.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Law on the Quality and Safety of Fertilizers, bio-stimulants and materials for the improvement of soil conditions.
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Records of the type and quantity of fertilizers used 2. The use of fertilizer by the relevant institution
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations on the use of fertilizers by specialized institutions.
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of fertilizers in forestry activities other than nurseries is not widespread.

Section 3: Protection and support of forest production functions (wood and non-wood forest products)	
Thematic area: Forest products	
Criterion No.	3.1.
Criteria definition	<p>Maintaining the resource capacity of forest assets for the production of wood and non-wood forest products and services is one of the main goals of forest management planning. Forest Management Plans, which are renewed with ten-year (10-year) periods on the scale of forest enterprises, shall be monitored in terms of standing volume and management functions with field observations made every year.</p> <p>Forest management plans are plan unit management plans with technical, social, economic and biological dimensions. These plans cover the creation of lower limits (thresholds) and their monitoring/evaluation in order to properly assess whether the biophysical and economic performance of the forest manager/owner is being implemented.</p> <p>The structure and production capacity of the forest, the current need for different forest products and services and market conditions are the basic basis for determining economic objectives in forest management. In addition, forest management planning technique and management capacity shall determine the multidimensional functions and services of the forest area and ensures that all these functions shall be maintained through the foreseen management activities.</p> <p>Forest management practices shall support the capacities of forest resources for the production of diversified wood and non-wood products and services. The level use of products (wood and non-wood) contributes to their long-term sustainability and is detailed in management plans.</p> <p>It is ensured that non-wood forest products are inspected and kept under control within the framework of the legislation.</p> <p>In order to ensure the sustainability of non-wood products, forest resource planning shall be determined by taking into account revenue plans and market demand, and the sustainability of non-wood species collected from nature in terms of biodiversity is guaranteed.</p> <p>Certified production is encouraged for non-wood forest products to ensure sustainability and prevent loss of value. The determination of the quantities to be produced shall be determined by appropriate methodologies in accordance with the Set of National Indicators and Criteria for Sustainable Forest Management.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831, • Game Law No. 4915, • National Parks Law No. 2873, • National Parks Regulation • Regulation on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), • Regulation on the Principles and Procedures for the Protection of Gaming

	<p>and Wild Animals and their Habitats, Combating Pests,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on Forest Management dated 05.02.2008 and No. 26778, • Forest Management Plans, • Silviculture Plans, • Communiqué No. 310 on the Production of Forest Products Based on Wood, • Communiqué No. 302 on Inventory and Planning of Non-Wood Forest Products and Production and Sales Principles, • Non-wood Products Action Plans, • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Communiqué No. 292 on the Planning, Construction and Maintenance of Forest Roads
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In order to protect and support forest production functions, considering the ratio between the annual increase in wood biomass and the annual wood production planned according to sustainability principles, wood production shall not exceed 80% of the total increase. Otherwise, it shall be reported with justification. 2. After production, materials under 3 cm diameter are not collected in the forest. 3. Forest Management Plans (FMP), Silviculture Plans (SP), regional game country and game management plans, inventory and harvesting plans shall prepare a list of product types (from wood products, mushrooms, forest fruits, herbs, game meat and others) and their annual/periodic quantities for scheduled use. 4. Targets for ecosystem services and functions (recreation, sports, landscape, tourism, culture, water retention, soil conservation, carbon storage) expected from forest areas shall be determined in FMP, SP and other plans. 5. Records of permits issued for the collection of non-wood forest products (where they are issued or In the ORBIS system) shall be recorded. 6. Records shall be kept on the transportation and sales systems of non-wood forest products in the forest. 7. There shall be economic targets of forest enterprises and performance data on an annual basis. 8. Monitoring of irregular logging and interventions from forests shall be carried out.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquired data from Forest Management Plans, Silviculture Plans, • Data from Forest Management Plans (FMP), Silviculture Plans (SP) and budget studies, annual increase and planned annual production amounts, • The amount of wood to be obtained from the trees that have been programmed and marked for logging, and the records kept for the amount of wood produced (Production File, Monthly Reports, Records in the FMP), • Production plans for the collection of non-wood forest products in the forest, permits issued, sales, • Forestry Statistics, • Forest Information System (ORBIS) records,
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no decrease in the forest area in terms of quantity and quality in the forest structure. • After the production activity, wood residues thinner than 3 cm will be left in

	<p>the production area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collection of non-wood forest products will be carried out within the scope of the permits issued. • Dead trees and at least 1 old tree per hectare are left in the regeneration areas.
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Section 3: Protection and support of forest production functions (wood and non-wood forest products)	
Thematic area: Forestry activities and forest infrastructure	
Criterion No.	3.2.
Criteria definition	<p>Forest silviculture and regeneration studies shall be carried out by using adequate techniques and technologies in a timely and correct manner, which support the preservation of the productive capabilities of the forest habitat, preventing unnecessary damage to the forest layer as well as the remaining forest trees in the forest.</p> <p>With the transition to mechanization in cutting, skidding and transportation activities and the use of correct forestry techniques, care shall be taken not to damage the remaining trees, soil and water resources and stream beds in the forest.</p> <p>While the activities shall be carried out according to the principles of the operating plans, the works to be carried out shall be depending on the size of the forest presence.</p> <p>The construction of forest infrastructure facilities (transport roads, bridges and other facilities) shall be carried out in accordance with Forest Management Plans and road network plans, including plans and regulations for forest infrastructure.</p> <p>In order to prevent unnecessary moving of the soil layer and spilling into water channels, actions shall be taken in accordance with the land shape. During the construction of the forest infrastructure, measures shall be taken to protect the natural level and function of water resources.</p> <p>The maintenance of the infrastructure shall be sufficient according to the conditions and needs, with minimal negative impact on the environment. All maintenance and construction of forest roads and art structures shall be carried out according to the plans and according to the forest road category.</p> <p>More emphasis shall be being placed on rare, sensitive and representative ecosystems or genetic reserve stands and migration routes of key or endangered animal species.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831, • National Parks Law No. 2873, • National Parks Regulation • Regulation on the Implementation of the he Convention on International

	<p>Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on Forest Management dated 05.02.2008 and No. 26778, • Forest Management Plans, • Silviculture Plans, • Annual Budget Studies Legislation, • Communiqué No. 310 on the Production of Forest Products Based on Wood, • Communiqué No. 302 on Inventory and Planning of Non-Wood Forest Products and Production and Sales Principles, • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Protocol between the GDF and the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (DKMP) on Implementation in Protected Areas • Communiqué No. 292 on the Planning, Construction and Maintenance of Forest Roads
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The selection of silviculture and regeneration measures shall be made in order to prevent damage to the trees remaining in the stand. 2. Protocols will be made with the parties regarding the use of appropriate technology during production in order to prevent damage to the remaining trees in the stand. 3. The skidding technique, which minimizes the damage to the soil layer, will be used. 4. The skidding will be carried out from the network of skidding paths shown in the production file. 5. Appropriate planning shall be carried out, focusing on the possible effects of the construction and maintenance of forest roads and other infrastructures on the ecosystem and local community migration routes.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Management Plans (FMP) for the selection of silviculture and regeneration measures, provisions in Silviculture Plans (SP), • The provisions contained in the Forest Management Plans (FMP), Silviculture Plans (SP) for the selection of techniques for cutting and skidding, • Principles of the annual program and implementation plans, • Field assessment reports of possible damage to the remaining trees, soil and water currents caused by the negative effects of forestry activities, • Protocols and agreements made for the execution of forestry works in the field, • Road network plans made for forest infrastructure, • Site control conducted for the construction of new roads within the scope of road network plans, • Forestry Statistics, • Forest Information System (ORBIS) records,
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skidding techniques are applied throughout the field in such a way that they do not create gully erosion (25-30 cm depth) except for skidding paths.

Section 4: Protecting, improving and increasing the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Forests of high ecological importance	
Criterion No.	4.1.
Criteria definition	<p>Biodiversity loss is one of the most important environmental concerns at the global level. This criterion is devoted to monitoring the state of biological diversity in forests and forest areas.</p> <p>11 Indicators have been determined for this criterion in the national SFM C&I set. In addition, the indicators under this criterion are monitored and reported through a total of 36 sub-determined indicators. Thereby, it is ensured that the criterion is reported through an inclusive set of indicators.</p> <p>Forest management objectives shall aim to maintain, protect and develop biodiversity in order to achieve diversity at the landscape level, when the ecosystem, species and genetic level are appropriate.</p> <p>Areas containing a significant concentration of forest areas with the characteristics listed below shall be identified, protected and/or preserved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Protected, rare, sensitive, primary or representative forest ecosystems; (b) Threatened or protected endemic species identified and recognized in reference lists and habitats of threatened species; (c) Protected genetic resources in which endangered species and natural genetic varieties are protected, (d) Large areas of nationally important forests and protected natural old-growth forests with a natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species <p>During forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forests, ecologically important and/or high ecological value forest areas shall be taken into account.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831 • National Parks Law No. 2873, • Environmental Law No. 2872 • Game Law No. 4915, • Animal Protection Law No. 5199 • Coastal Law No. 3621 • Berne Convention (Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) • United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change • Bucharest Convention • CITES Convention • European Landscape Convention • Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat) • The Paris Agreement • National Parks Regulation • Regulation on the Protection of Wetlands • Regulation on the Separation and Management of Protected Forests

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on the Selection, Training, Working Procedures and Principles of Field Guides • Regulation of Forest Parks • Planned Areas Zoning Regulation • Regulation on the Implementation of the Coastal Law • Circular No. 2012-9- Determination of Protection Zones in Protected Areas • Licensing of Structures in Areas Subject to Article 90 of the National Parks Law No. 2873 and Law No. 6552 • Procedures and Principles Related to the Protection and Development Services of National Parks • Regulation on Works and Transactions to be Carried Out Related to Other Items whose Ownership has been Confiscated and Transferred to the Public in Accordance with the Game Hunting Law No. 4915 • Regulation on National Afforestation and Erosion Control Mobilization • Communiqué No. 304 on Technical Principles Related to Industrial Afforestation Implementation • Communiqué No. 306 on the Procedures and Principles of Authorization, Supervision and Implementation of Forest Plant Passport in the Forest Plant Seedlings Market • Communiqué No. 295 on Procedures and Principles for the Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plans • Communiqué No. 299 on Procedures and Principles for the Regulation of Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plans • Communiqué No. 301 on the Principles and Procedures for the Supervision of the Regulation of Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plans • Communiqué No. 302 on Inventory and Planning of Non-Wood Forest Products and Production and Sales Principles • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Circular No. 7246 CITES Implementations in Forest Products Trade • The decision on the determination of rare (endemic) tree species in the forest; • Circular on the Activities That are Prohibited to Be Carried Out in Wetland Protection Zones • Protocol of Cooperation between the GDF and the DKMP General Directorate on the Establishment of State Game Country • Regulation on Forest Management dated 05.02.2008 and No. 26778
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest classification has been started in accordance with the criterion request and studies shall be continued. 2. The number and areas of gene conservation areas and seed resources (in-situ and ex-situ) shall be monitored and reported. 3. The forest fragmentation status will be monitored periodically (for 10 years) through Geographical Information Systems. 4. The number of threatened forest ecosystem species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List shall be categorically monitored. 5. Protected areas in forests for biological diversity, landscape and other reasons shall be monitored and developed. 6. The number of common bird species in the forest ecosystem and their population status shall be monitored based on bird observation stations and

	<p>other ground measurement methods.</p> <p>7. The number of common mammalian animal species in the forest ecosystem and their population status shall be monitored and developed.</p> <p>8. The selection of silvicultural interventions and regeneration measures will be implemented on the condition that biodiversity is taken into account. (Through prescriptions)</p> <p>9. According to the criteria requests, forests with high ecological (conservation) value will be determined and mapped.</p>
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry Statistics • Protected Areas Statistics • Forest Management Plans or equivalents. • Forest Silviculture and Conservation Plan. • National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan • Guide to the Integration of Biological Diversity into Forest Management Plans (2020) • Integration of Biodiversity into Forestry- Planners Guide (2020) • Integration of Biodiversity into Forestry- Practitioner's Guide (2020) • Seed Resources Action Plan (2020-2022) • Forest and Biodiversity Poster (2020) • Action Plan for the Establishment of Seed Gardens Belonging to Broad-Leaved and Fruity Species (2014-2018) • Recognition and Identification Manual of Turkish Oaks (2013) • Recognition and Identification Manual of Maples of Turkey (2019) • Trees and Shrubs of Turkey (2019) • Edible Mushroom Species Widespread in Türkiye and the Mediterranean Basin (2023) • The Noah's Ark Project (Database) • Rehabilitation of Burning Forest Areas and Fire Resistant Forests Facility Project (2018) • Climate Resilient Forests Project (2023)
Minimum requirements	<p>The legislative infrastructure for the protection and development of biological diversity is sufficient, and it is recommended to conduct information and awareness-raising activities together with implementation training. Furthermore, by strengthening inter-agency cooperation and coordination, the effectiveness of conservation of biological diversity of our country, which is an important gene centre and located on bird migration routes, can be increased.</p>

Section 4: Protecting, improving and increasing the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Forests of high ecological importance	
Criterion No.	4.2.
Criterion definition	Protected and endangered species of forest plants, fungi and wild animals cannot be used for commercial or other purposes. When necessary, measures shall be taken to protect, maintain and increase their populations. Forestry activities shall be continuing provided that they do not threaten and damage the biodiversity values of these habitats.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831 • The Decision on the Identification of Rare Tree Species in the Forest • National Parks Law No. 2873 • Environmental Law No. 2872 • Land Hunting Law No. 4915 • The Berne Convention • United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change • Bucharest Convention • CITES Convention • European Landscape Convention • Ramsar Convention • Regulation on Trade in Forest Growing Materials • Forest Week and Tree Festival Regulations • Decision on the identification of beneficial wild bird species; • National and International reference lists; • List of strictly protected wild species in the Republic of Türkiye
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The universal principle of the rule of law is accepted. 2. Protection measures that shall be taken according to the definition of criteria will be taken.
Verification Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan • Türkiye SFM C&I Report (2019) • Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (2019-2023) • Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Administrative Activity Report • Protected Areas Statistics • Action Plan for the Establishment of Seed Gardens Belonging to Broad-Leaved and Fruity Species (2014-2018) • Wild Fruit Species Action Plan (2014-2018) • Archived reports from the conducted audit controls. • Field control carried out by an independent organization. • Meeting with relevant stakeholders. • Integration of Biological Diversity into Forest Management Plans • Forest Management Plans • ORBIS BIYOT Database • Wildlife Development Plans

Minimum requirements	<p>Sufficient requirements are provided in the legislative arrangements for the conservation of protected areas and endangered species and increasing their populations, and it is important to tighten the controls even further. However, there is a need to strengthen the regulatory infrastructure and institutional capacity, especially in the field of bioaccumulation.</p> <p>The police and the gendarme have duties and responsibilities.</p>
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Section 4: Protecting, improving and increasing the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Forest practice in harmony with nature	
Criterion No.	4.3.
Criterion definition	<p>Considering the landscape diversity of the stands where diversity is provided according to species and age structure, forest management measures shall be applied in order to support the presence as in the stands whose value is recognised.</p> <p>In stands where diversity cannot be achieved according to the type and age structure, silvicultural measures are taken to encourage them.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity • Land Hunting Law No. 4915 • Forest Law No. 6831 • Communiqué No. 295 on Procedures and Principles for the Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plans • Communiqué No. 299 on Procedures and Principles for the Regulation of Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plans • Communiqué No. 301 on the Principles and Procedures for the Supervision of the Regulation of Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plans • Communiqué No. 309 on the Procedures and Principles Regarding the Preparation of Implementation Reports on Interim Inspection and Expired Plans • Circular on Species Monitoring and Protection
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The land studies carried out will not disrupt the landscape diversity. 2. Silvicultural activities to be carried out in the forest shall aim at improving the structural forest diversity. 3. Silvicultural procedures performed in forests, in the same and different old-growth stands, as well as maintenance and rehabilitation studies shall be monitored and reported.

Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan • Forest management maps reflecting the distribution of forests according to stand types and functions. • Field inspections carried out by independent organizations. • Nature Conservation Centre Reports (Gölnar, Köyceğiz, Andırın, Gazipaşa and Pos Forest District Directorates and the Forest Regional Directorates to which these directorates are affiliated, Evaluation Report 2020 according to SFM Criteria and Indicators) • The Noah's Ark Project (Database) • Integrated Basin Rehabilitation Projects • Action Plan for the Transformation of Coppice Forests into a Grove Forests (2005)
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The areas of different aged and mixed stands or their areal proportions within forest areas shall be preserved.

Section 4: Protecting, improving and increasing the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Forest practice in harmony with nature	
Criterion No.	4.4.
Criterion definition	<p>Forestry management has the objective of successful natural forest regeneration. In cases where this is not possible, afforestation measures, forest resources of sufficient quantity and quality shall be secured in accordance with habitat conditions.</p> <p>In the selection of tree species for afforestation work, priority shall be given to tree species of local origin and varieties that adapt well to habitat conditions. If the effects on the ecosystem and the genetic integrity of native species are evaluated by independent specialized organizations, and there are no negative effects, only the origin and varieties of introduced species shall be used. In the planning of afforestation and reforestation activities, ecological connectivity aspects shall be analysed within the scope of REDD+ practices by targeting the carbon sink objective, among other objectives. Afforestation and reforestation, which contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity, shall be encouraged and implemented.</p> <p>Forests created with genetically modified trees are not eligible for certification. The use of genetically modified trees is not allowed.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831 • Law on National Afforestation and Erosion Control Mobilization • National Parks Law No. 2873 • UN Convention on Biological Diversity • Regulation on Afforestation • Forest Week and Tree Festival Regulations • Regulation on National Afforestation and Erosion Control Mobilization • Regulation on Afforestation and Erosion Control Services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Communiqué No. 304 on Technical Principles Related to Industrial Afforestation Implementation • Circular No. 7327, Production of Seedlings and Covered Saplings • Circular No. 7326 on Sapling Production and Maintenance Activities • Circular No. 7325 on the Seed and Tree Breeding and Seed Production • Procedures and Principles No. 2015/1 for the Inclusion of Immovable Properties Under the Private Property of the Treasury or Under the Dominion and Saving of the State into the Forest Regime
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The selection of measures to be taken for silvicultural interventions and regeneration of forests will be in accordance with the criterion requirement. 2. The preparation of the land for planting activities and the selection of species will be in accordance with the criteria requirements, including the assessment of the impact of the identified species. 3. After the implementation of silvicultural activities in the forest, the data on the successful natural or artificial regeneration of forests will be proven. 4. Fast-developing and rehabilitated native species will be used in industrial plantations. 5. Genetically modified species shall not be applied in afforestation or reforestation activities.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan of the General Directorate of Forestry (2024-2028) • Forestry Statistics • General Directorate of Forestry Administrative Activity Report • Protected Areas Statistics • Türkiye SFM C&I Report (2019) • Industrial Afforestation Action Plan (2013- 2023) • Professional assessment of the impact of introduced species carried out by an independent expert organization (e.g.Department of afforestation, silviculture of Forestry Faculties). • Field control carried out by an independent organization. • Integrated Basin Rehabilitation Projects (Murat, Çoruh, TULIP v.b) • ORBIS Records
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry activities will be carried out in accordance with the basic principle of forestry practices compatible with nature.

Section 4: Protecting, improving and increasing the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Forest practice in harmony with nature	
Criterion No.	4.5.
Criterion definition	<p>Silvicultural interventions and production activities carried out in the forest shall be performed in a way that does not cause permanent damage to ecosystems in accordance with the provisions of the forest management plan and silviculture plan. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to improve or maintain biodiversity. Forest managers and owners provide instructions and training for the implementation of forest silviculture studies, shall be taking into account preventive measures for the protection of the forest ecosystem.</p> <p>During the implementation of forestry activities on land or in facilities belonging to forest managers or owners, including administrative buildings, it is mandatory to analyze and implement forestry practices that are resistant to climate change and parallel to the reduction of greenhouse gases, where possible.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change • The Paris Agreement • Presidential Decree No. 1 on the Organization of the Presidency • Forest Law No. 6831; • Environmental Law No. 2872; • Law on Soil Preservation and Land Utilization No. 5403 • Presidential Decree No. 4 (Presidential Decree on the Organization of the Institutions and Organizations Associated, Related and Affiliated to the Ministry and other Institutions and Organizations • Regulation of the Inspection Board of the General Directorate of Forestry • Regulation on the Principles of Professional Ethical Behavior to be Followed by Auditors • General Directorate of Forestry Regulation on Revolving Fund Operation • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Internal Audit Directive of the General Directorate of Forestry • Protocol on the Training of Forest Production Workers Decoupled between the General Directorate of Forestry and the General Directorate of Lifelong Learning • Regulation of Energy Performance in Buildings
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During the implementation of silvicultural activities in forested areas, there will be instructions prepared for employees and service providers for the implementation of preventive measures. 2. Organized training records will be available for employees and existing service providers. 3. The assessment of the condition of the stand after the execution of silviculture activities shall be carried out by the responsible site manager. 4. A book of studies, regulations and communiqués will be available for the implementation of climate-friendly activities at the organizational and/or forest management unit level.

Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational materials according to the criterion request. • Reports for the conducted training. • Archived reports from regular audit checks. • Archived reports from the internal audit controls. • Archived reports for field evaluation carried out after the execution of field activities. • Document on the analysis and implementation of climate-friendly practises. • Field control carried out by an independent organization. • General Forest Tenure In-Service Training Program • General Directorate of Forestry Strategic Plan (2019-2023) • General Directorate of Forestry Administrative Activity Report • Climate Resilient Forests Project • Investment Program of the General Directorate of Forestry • General Directorate of Forestry Business Program
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no additional requirement due to legislation in the implementation of forestry activities compatible with nature. Forestry activities will be carried out on the basis of the basic principles of sustainability.

Section 4: Protecting, improving and increasing the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Forest practice in harmony with nature	
Criterion No.	4.6.
Criterion definition	Forest management activities shall be implemented to establish a balance between the restoration of wildlife populations and forest development and biodiversity conservation measures.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831 • Land Hunting Law No. 4915 • Animal Protection Law No. 5199 • National Forestry Program of Türkiye (2004-2023) • Regulation on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora • Game Protection Officers Dress Code • Regulation on the Procedures and Principles Related to Game within the Scope of Game Tourism • Regulation on the Establishment, Management and Supervision of Game and Wild Animal Breeding Places and Stations and Rescue Centers • Regulation on the Possession, Production and Trade of Game and Wild Animals and Products Obtained from Them • Regulation on the Protection of Game and Wild Animals and their Habitats, Procedures and Principles for Combating Pests • Regulation on the Procedures and Principles of Hunter Training and Issuance of Hunting Certificate • Regulation on the Principles and Procedures of the Establishment, Management and Supervision of Game Country • Regulation on the Selection, Training, Duties and Powers of Honorary Game Inspectors, as well as Working Principles and Procedures

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on the Duties, Working Procedures and Principles of the Central Game Commission, Provincial and Central Game Commissions • Regulation on Wildlife Protection and Wildlife Development Sites • Implementing Regulation on the protection of Animals • List of Wild Animals 2022 Official Gazette • Circular on the Protection of Sea Turtles • Circular on the Sale of Poultry Game Animals 2021-1 • Shipping Regulations and Usage Circular 2009-23 • Directive on Fixed Weapons to be Given to Game Protection Officers and Field Guards • Directive on the Procedures and Principles of Operation of the National Ringing Commission and Ringing Stations with the Issuance of an Ringing License • Directive on Participation Share in Game Tourism • Inventory Techniques and Inventory Approximate Cost Calculation • Instruction on the Selection, Training, Work and Tasks of Game Guides • Approval of Determination of Game Tourism Hunting Quotas • Instruction on Determination of Game Tourism Quotas • Cooperation Protocol on the Organization of Hunter Training • Hunter Training Course Program • Approval of Produce-Release-Forage Model in Sample Game Country Tenders • Approval of Tender Fees in Sample Game Countries • Approval of Participation Share Distribution in Sample Game Countries • Approval of Partridge, Pheasant and Rabbit Game Plan in Sample Game Countries • Approval for Wild Boar Game Plan in Sample Game Countries • Principles of Cooperation between the Legal Entity of the Village and the Municipality of the Town and the Conservation Service in the Areas of Wildlife Conservation and Development
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence will be available for monitoring the existence of wild animal populations and their effects on the forest ecosystem, as well as detailing preventive measures and other measures by which risks to the forest ecosystem are determined. 2. Protection measures shall be taken at the regeneration sites.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting Management Plan. • Determination of wild animal species and populations • Field control carried out by an independent organization. • Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (2019-2023) • Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Administrative Activity Report • Türkiye SFM C&I Report (2019) • Long-Term Development Plans • Ecosystem-Based Multi-Purpose Forest Management Plan • General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks Inventory for Wild Animal Species

Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to be taken for the regeneration of wild animal populations and the development of biodiversity will be available in Forest Management Plans.
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Section 4: Protecting, improving and increasing the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Forest practice in harmony with nature	
Criterion No.	4.7.
Criterion definition	Dead trees, memorial trees, hollow trees, old trees and IUCN-status trees in a planted or overturned state are left in the composition of the forest and neighboring ecosystems (buffer zone), which is necessary for the protection of biodiversity, shall be taking into account the potential effects on the sustainability of the forest.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation on Forest Management dated 05.02.2008 and No. 26778 Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There are written instructions for leaving memorial, old, dead, deposited and IUCN status trees in the forest, and implementation will be carried out within the framework of these instructions. It shall be ensured that at least 1 planted or toppled dead tree per hectare is left in the areas deemed appropriate in the management plans.
Verification Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystem-Based Functional Forest Management Plan Türkiye SFM C&I Report (2019) The number and volume of old trees in the forest are calculated. The number and quantity of dead trees planted or toppled in the forest are monitored, reported and subject to related audits. Field control carried out by an independent organization
Minimum Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 2-3 trees per hectare will be left in the stand according to the criteria definition. With regard to forest sustainability, wood residues thinner than 3 cm shall be left in the forest at the end of production activities.

Section 4: Maintaining, protecting and improving the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Traditional management systems	
Criterion No.	4.8.
Criterion definition	Revitalisation cutting for charcoal production in oak (white oak) areas with low performance, which have been transformed from grove to coppice, thus protecting biodiversity and contributing to socio-economic development.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831; • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Communiqué No. 302 on Inventory and Planning of Non-Wood Forest Products and Production and Sales Principles
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas converted from grove to coppice and areas with low biodiversity performance in terms of factors such as closure and volume will be taken into account. 2. In coppice enterprises with economic function, the cutting area shall not exceed 20 hectares.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from Forest Management Plan or equivalent for stand types and comparison with previous management period. • Field control carried out by an independent organization.
Minimum requirements	

Section 4: Maintaining, protecting and improving the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Traditional management systems	
Criterion No.	4.9.
Criterion definition	Tatar management of some tree species (Linden, Laurel, Ash and Maple) shall be carried out according to the biological and technical requirements of the ecosystem.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831 • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Communiqué No. 302 on Inventory and Planning of Non-Wood Forest Products and Production and Sales Principles
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biological diversity will be ensured by being preserved individually or in groups. 2. The side branches are subjected to tatar cutting so that the peak is left in the ratio of 1/3 in the treelets. Other shoots will be clear-cutting.

Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction of the Utilization and Maintenance Plan in the Lime Fields, which are Allocated to the Business Class of Herbal Products in the GDF Forest Management Plans dated 07.04.2021 and numbered 808739 • Instruction on Leaf and Fruit Utilisation in Laurel Areas Allocated to Vegetable Products Management Class in GDF Forest Management Plans dated 24.01.2020 and numbered 134850 • Data from Forest Management Plan or equivalent for stand types and comparison with previous management period. • Field control carried out by an independent organization.
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic rehabilitation is reviewed every 5 years in accordance with the purpose of the operation. • The requirements by the Silviculture Principles No. 317 are applied.

Section 4: Maintaining, protecting and improving the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Traditional management systems	
Criterion No.	4.10.
Criterion definition	Aspen stands, which are the most important of the fast-developing species and show natural spread, shall be managed by the classical method in suitable habitats and when it is ecologically, socially and economically suitable.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831 • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Communiqué No. 302 on inventory and planning of non-wood forest products and production and sales principles
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In accordance with national legislation, the provisions of Forest Management Plans and Forest Silviculture and Conservation Plans will be applied in the establishment and management of infrastructure and flora. 2. Suitable areas for industrial plantations will be selected.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from Forest Management Plan or equivalent for stand types and comparison with previous management period. • Field control carried out by an independent organization. • Implementation of advance plans
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological diversity will be ensured by being preserved individually or in groups.

Section 4: Maintaining, protecting and improving the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Traditional management systems	
Criterion No.	4.11.
Criterion definition	<p>In addition to hemlock and resin production, the cones of young cedar and larch trees, which are used in the production of cone syrup and vinegar produced locally for herbal treatment, shall be collected according to sustainability principles and subjected to extraction processes with traditional methods and put to the market, contributing to rural development.</p> <p>For the purpose of making decorative ornaments, parts such as branches, leaves, cones, roots shall be used.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831 • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Communiqué No. 302 on Inventory and Planning of Non-Wood Forest Products and Production and Sales Principles
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In order to ensure the continuity of the products obtained by traditional methods, the supply of the product / raw material from GDF will be continued with the tariff price depending on the revenue (utilisation) plans. 2. Cedar cone ripening time is September-October, cone ripening period is 26 months and rich seed year will occur once in 2-3 years. 3. Larch cone ripening time is September-October, cone ripening period is 22 months and rich seed year will be seen once in 2-3 years.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from Forest Management Plan or equivalent for stand types and comparison with previous management period. • Field control carried out by an independent organization.
Minimum requirements	

Section 4: Maintaining, protecting and improving the biodiversity of forest ecosystems	
Thematic area: Traditional management systems	
Criterion No.	4.12.
Criterion definition	The forest owner shall be allowed to produce schrubwood and kindling to meet the fuel needs of the forest villagers.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Law No. 6831 • Communiqué No. 317 on the Technical Principles of Silvicultural Practices • Communiqué No. 302 on Inventory and Planning of Non-Wood Forest Products and Production and Sales Principles
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The production of shrub wood shall be provided from trees with a thickness of 3-5 cm or from trees 26 cm and above. 2. Especially the roots of the trees will not be used out of plan for the purpose of kindling production.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from Forest Management Plan or equivalent for stand types and comparison with previous management period. • Field control carried out by an independent organization. • Determination of personal fuel needs according to Article 31 of the Forest Law
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fagot wood will be obtained from trees with a diameter of 3-5 cm and 18 stere of shrub wood will be given per household.

Section 5: Maintenance and development of the conservation functions of forests (especially soil and water)	
Thematic area: Forest protection functions	
Criterion No.	5.1.
Criterion definition	<p>This criterion concerns forests that shall be reserved or managed for this purpose to protect other resources, especially soil and water. 3 Indicators have been determined for this criterion in the Türkiye SFM C&I national set. In addition, the indicators under this criterion are monitored and reported through a total of 7 sub-determined indicators. Thereby, it is ensured that the criterion is reported through an inclusive set of indicators.</p> <p>Forest management plans shall aim to maintain and develop protective forest functions, such as combating erosion; protection against wind erosion; protection of water resources; protection from the harmful effects of water (floods, avalanches); and infrastructure protection.</p> <p>Forests for conservation purposes shall be indicated and mapped in Forest Management Plans or equivalents. Silviculture and conservation activities shall be organized in order to maintain or improve the protective functions of forests.</p>

Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change • Article Article 44 of the Constitution • Forest Law No. 6831; • Law on Soil Preservation and Land Utilization No. 5403 • Cadastral Law No. 3402, • National Parks Law No. 2873, • Law on National Afforestation and Erosion Control Mobilization • Regulation on Forest Cadastre and 2/B Practises, • Law No. 6292 on Supporting the Development of Forest Villagers and Sale of Lands Excluded from Forest Boundaries on behalf of the Treasury, • Law No. 831 on Waters • United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification • Forestry Regulation dated 23.10.2019 and numbered 30927 • Regulation on Afforestation and Erosion Control Services dated 11.01.2017 and numbered 29945 • Regulation on the Separation and Management of Protected Forests dated 13.08.1984 and numbered 18492
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The available technical, economic, biological and social data are monitored and reported. 2. For the purpose of water harvesting; data on gully reclamation in normally closed and hollow closed forests, gallery afforestation (including river and streamside afforestation), forests separated or managed for this purpose in water collection basins such as dams and ponds will be monitored and reported. 3. Providing general protection against natural disasters and covering roads, factories, residential areas, etc. forest areas allocated for the protection of infrastructure facilities or managed for this purpose will be measured, monitored and reported. Since there is a risk of overlap in the data to be included under this indicator, protected forests whose purpose is clearly stated shall be taken into account. In forests that are reserved or managed for more than one conservation purpose, the first purpose will be taken into account. 4. Silviculture and regeneration activities will be carried out in accordance with the stand type and business class. 5. Maps of forest areas for conservation purposes will be available. 6. Forests shall be classified according to their main purposes in forest management plans. 7. Ecosystem-based functional forest management plans will be available.
Verification Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Management Maps. • Forest Management Plans and/or equivalents. • Field control carried out by an independent organization. • Integrated Basin Management Plans and Integrated Basin Rehabilitation Projects • Upper Basin Flood Control Action Plan

Minimum requirements	Mechanisms shall be established, or the existing mechanism shall be strengthened to ensure that the protective functions of forests are evaluated economically and that these ecosystem value assessments are evaluated in forest development investments.
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Section 5: Maintenance and development of the conservation functions of forests (especially soil and water)	
Thematic area: Forest protection functions	
Criterion No.	5.2.
Criterion definition	<p>In forests exposed to the risk of soil erosion, the selection and implementation of forest conservation and silviculture activities shall be aimed at protecting the soil. In forests with a water conservation function, special attention is paid to the detection and implementation of forestry activities in order not to have a negative impact on the amount and quality of water. This shall include measures prohibiting grazing for animals in forests or passing through corridors.</p> <p>It is forbidden to use inappropriate chemicals and harmful substances that negatively affect water quality in forestry activities.</p> <p>In principle, forest management shall aim to maintain and improve as much as possible at least the defined forest ecosystem services related to the forest area.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change • Article Article 44 of the Constitution • Forest Law No. 6831. • Law on Soil Preservation and Land Utilization No. 5403 • Regulation on Afforestation • Regulation on Afforestation and the Erosion Control Services • Regulation on the Separation and Management of Protected Forests • Procedures and Principles Related to Animal Grazing in Summer Pastures and Winter Pastures • Circular No. 7337 on Memorial Forests and Afforestation with Donations
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The selection of silviculture and regeneration activities in forests for conservation purposes shall be in accordance with the criterion requirement. 2. It shall be ensured that adequate technology is used. 3. Extraordinary events (fire, disasters, etc.) due to clear-cutting will not be performed to preserve forest functions except in cases of forest rehabilitation. 4. In forests that are at risk of soil erosion or have a protection function, destructive techniques or heavy machinery that break down and damage the soil layer will not be used. 5. Forest ecosystem services shall be recognized and maintained for the

	<p>determined area.</p> <p>6. For the purpose of water harvesting; data on gully reclamation in normally closed and hollow closed forests, gallery afforestation (including river and streamside afforestation), forests separated or managed for this purpose in water collection basins such as dams and ponds will be monitored and reported.</p>
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Desertification (2019-2030) • Upper Basin Flood Control Action Plan (2013-2018) • Action Plan to Combat Erosion (2013-2018) • Dam Basins Green Belt Afforestation Action Plan (2013-2018) • Roadside Afforestation Action Plan • River and Streamside Afforestation Action Plan (2015-2019) • Integrated Basin Rehabilitation Projects (Murat and Çoruh River Basins, Anatolian and Eastern Anatolian Water Basins, such as the TULIP Project) • General Directorate of Forestry Administrative Activity Report • Highlands and Transhumance Panel 2016 • Provisions in the FMP (Forest Management Plan) for the selection of silviculture and conservation measures. • Provisions in the annual implementation plans for the selection of production techniques. • Map of forest ecosystem services for the designated area (if previously prepared). • Field control carried out by an independent organization. • Risk Directive of General Directorate of Forestry
Minimum requirements	<p>Although the protection and efficient use of soil is a constitutional regulation and there is no need in terms of legislation, it is important to ensure the continuation of the measures to be taken by further strengthening due to Türkiye's geographical structure and the fact that it is among the countries that are expected to be more affected by climate change.</p>

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Socio-economic functions of forests	
Criterion No.	6.1.
Criterion description	<p>All kinds of contributions that forests provide to society and the national economy are socio-economic functions. Forest resources, on the one hand, directly address the material and spiritual needs of people in a concrete way and make a positive contribution to socio-economic life, on the other hand, it secures the protection and development of the balances of all natural systems.</p> <p>The forestry administration shall continue its socio-economic activities that prioritize the use of the community's forest resources related to wood, non-wood product needs, health, recreation, eco-tourism and aesthetic values based on sustainability, and the on-site development of forest villagers, part of the forest ecosystem, by processing and working towards employment.</p> <p>In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms the right of all individuals to participate in decisions affecting their lives and to benefit from economic, social, and cultural rights, necessary regulations are in place to ensure that local communities living in close connection with forests can access forest products and services. Forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Communication and consultations with stakeholders shall be conducted through a participatory approach that respects and promotes these fundamental human rights.</p> <p>Forests shall be managed according to functional planning according to their functions.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - T.R. 1982 Constitution, Articles 169-170, - Forest Law No. 6831, - Law No. 6292 on Supporting the Development of Forest Villagers and Sale of Lands Excluded from Forest Boundaries on behalf of the Treasury, - Regulation on Forest Management dated 05.02.2008 and No. 26778 - Regulation on the Implementation of Articles 31-32 and 33 of the Forest Law No. 6831, - Regulation of Forest Parks, - Communiqué on Forest Parks No. 313, - Communiqué No. 302 on Inventory and Planning of Non-Wood Forest Products and Production and Sales Principles - Communiqué No. 307 on the Operation and Management of Honey Forests, - Communiqué on Forest Parks No. 313 - Universal Declaration on Human Rights
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional planning shall be carried out in such a way as to fulfill the socio-economic functions of forests. 2. Areas with recreational and aesthetic values shall be managed in such a way as to ensure a balance of conservation use. 3. It shall be ensured that the needs of the villagers in and around the forest for forest products (construction, fuel, non-wood products) are met. 4. Administrative mechanisms related to disputes that may arise are taken into account.

	<p>5. Support is provided for local people who are employed in forest villages and participate in employment.</p> <p>6. On-site development of forest villagers is ensured through ORKÖY supports.</p>
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Türkiye SFM C&I Report (2019), - Strategic Plan of the General Directorate of Forestry (2024-2028), - Forest Management Plans, - Plans for Non-Wood Forest Products, - General Directorate of Forestry Annual Forestry Statistics, - General Directorate of Forestry Administrative Activity Report, - Annual Performance Evaluation Reports, - Archived reports from the audits performed, - Field control carried out by an independent organization
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable forest management is essential for the fulfillment of socio-economic functions.

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Socio-economic functions of forests	
Criterion No.	6.2.
Criterion description	<p>In order to meet the expectations of society from forests, it is essential to use them in accordance with the (legal, technical and administrative) regulations made according to forest functions within the framework of the principles of sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Restrictions and prohibitions shall be imposed on entry into forests in protected parts of forests, in places where human safety is at risk, in forest protection, afforestation, production areas, in places and times where there is a risk of forest fire. In these cases, all necessary information shall be provided with all communication tools and equipment.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Law No. 6831, - Provincial Administration Law No. 5442, - Regulation on the Work to be Performed by the Officers in the Prevention and Extinguishing of Forest Fires
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The decisions taken by the local authorities regarding the entry and exit to the forests shall be followed. 2. Restrictions imposed on areas determined according to forestry studies 3. Forest fires social awareness trainings shall be carried out.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Management Plans, - GDF Annual Forestry Statistics, - Archived documents for restrictions and prohibitions announced according to locations and duration, - Field and other type of controls carried out by the independent organisation for the information tools.
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In places where restrictions and prohibitions are imposed, prior notification and necessary warning signs must be made.

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Property and Traditional Rights	
Criterion No.	6.3.
Criterion description	<p>Forests whose cadastre has been completed shall be associated with the Land Registry Cadastre and forest parcels are processed into the land registry records.</p> <p>Objections and compliants arising in land use rights, work conditions, forest management operation and property disputes shall be resolved as a result of examination or by acting in accordance with judicial decisions.</p> <p>Legal, traditional rights related to forest land and forest products shall be defined in accordance with national regulations.</p> <p>Forest management activities shall be implemented and monitored on the basis of legal and customary rights.</p> <p>Social security, working conditions, occupational health and safety, development of human resources, organisation and unionisation rights shall be implemented, monitored and adapted based on the UN ILO Conventions to which Türkiye is a party.</p> <p>NOTE: The UN declaration on the rights of indigenous people does not apply to Türkiye.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - T.R. Constitution, Articles 169-170, - Cadastral Law No. 3402, - Forest Law No. 6831, - Law No. 3234 on the Amendment and Adoption of the Decree Law on the Organisation and Duties of the GDF, - Presidential Decree No. 4 (On the Organization of Related, Related Institutions and Organizations Affiliated to Ministries and Other Institutions and Organizations) - Law No. 6292 on Supporting the Development of Forest Villagers and Sale of Lands Excluded from Forest Boundaries on behalf of the Treasury, - Law No. 5831 on Amendments to Certain Laws with the Land Registry Law, - Regulation on the Implementation of Article 17 of the Forest Law, - Regulation on the Implementation of Article 18 of the Forest Law, - Regulation on Forest Cadastre and 2/B Practises, - Regulation on the Utilization of Trees and Treelets on Title-Deed Immovables that are Not Considered Forests - Regulation on the Implementation of Articles 31-32 and 33 of the Forest Law No. 6831, - Communiqué on the Implementation of Articles 31-32 and 33 of the Forest Law No. 280, - ILO Conventions to which it is a Party (87th and 98th)
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objection review and judicial land implementations in property disputes 2. Regular implementation of legal and traditional rights granted to forest villagers and cooperatives. 3. The principles of meeting the personal needs of forest villagers in and around the forest and the rates of ownership of rights 4. The universal principle of the rule of law is accepted.

	5. Practices on unionization and collective bargaining rights shall be maintained in accordance with the legal regulations related to working life and the international agreements to which we are a party.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Information System (ORBIS) - GDF Annual Forestry Statistics - Year-end implementation results - Annual Performance Evaluation Reports - Meetings with forest villagers and cooperatives - Field control carried out by an independent organization - Collective Agreements - Reports of annual meetings with trade unions
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compliance with the above-mentioned requirements must be ensured.

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Property and Traditional Rights	
Criterion No.	6.4.
Criterion description	<p>Various types of public and private sectors in forest areas (mining, tourism, education, etc.) the field permits granted for their activities shall be based on the necessity and public interest in such a way as not to cause any negative consequences for the ecological, economic and social functions of forests.</p> <p>At the end of the permit periods, it shall be ensured that the sites rejoin the forest ecosystem by rehabilitation.</p> <p>It shall be essential to comply with the priorities that will not cause social problems in the region in the areas subject to the permit.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Law No. 6831, - Environmental Law No. 2872, - Law No. 3234 on the Amendment and Adoption of the Decree Law on the Organisation and Duties of the GDF, - Article 334 of the Presidential Decree on the Organization of Related, Related Institutions and Organizations Affiliated to Ministries and Other Institutions and Organizations, - Regulation on the Implementation of Article 16 of the Forestry Code, - Regulation on the Implementation of Article 17 of the Forest Law, - Regulation on the Implementation of Article 18 of the Forest Law, - Regulation on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The implementation of procedures related to permits, the state of public interest highlighted in higher judicial decisions. 2. Compliance with the issues specified in the permit agreements in forest areas
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ORBIS - Field inspections carried out periodically - Annual implementation results
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Granting of permission if there is a superior public interest in the permits to be granted.

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Property and Traditional Rights	
Criterion No.	6.5.
Criterion description	<p>Priority is given to the employment of villagers and cooperatives working in production-transportation works in forestry, and additional rights in kind (Villager Market Sale) and in cash (Ration Surplus) shall be given in line with their work in order to encourage and contribute to their employment.</p> <p>Non-wood forest products shall be provided to forest villagers under the market price in accordance with the benefit plans.</p> <p>The forest product needs of forest villagers to process and burn shall be met at a low price below the market price.</p> <p>Forest manager/owner and service providers shall also provide employees and assigned forest workers with fair wages at a minimum level in accordance with national legislation.</p>
Connection with Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - T.R. Constitution, Articles 169-170, - Forest Law No. 6831, - Law No. 3234 on the Amendment and Adoption of the Decree Law on the Organisation and Duties of the GDF, - Article 334 of the Presidential Decree on the Organization of Related, Related Institutions and Organizations Affiliated to Ministries and Other Institutions and Organizations - Regulation on the Implementation of Articles 31-32 and 33 of the Forest Law No. 6831, - Communiqué on the Implementation of Articles 31-32 and 33 of the Forest Law No. 315, - Communiqué No. 289 on Permits to be Granted to Those Who Want to Benefit from Forest Products, - Communiqué No. 316 on the implementation of the amended Article 34 of the Forest Law No. 6831, - Communiqué No. 302 on Inventory and planning of Non-Wood Forest Products and Production and Sales Principles
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay Sundays for Villager Market Sale (KPS) wood and surplus rations according to the amended Article 34 of the Forest Law No. 6831. 2. Determination of the common needs of the forest villagers with personal construction and fuel.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal and joint need identification lists - Accrued determinations related to legal rights - Annual implementation results
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest villagers and cooperatives can benefit from priority, incentives and contributions in forestry.

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Property and Traditional Rights	
Criterion No.	6.6.
Criterion description	<p>Forest villagers and cooperatives shall be supported with loans and grants, contributing to their development with on-site employment.</p> <p>Watershed-based projects shall be being implemented by OR-KÖY for forest villagers, and they are being implemented in the form of individual and cooperative supports.</p> <p>Individual supports shall be provided to improve the welfare level of forest villagers, to reduce the use of wood as fuel, to generate income for employment (animal husbandry, greenhouse cultivation, medicinal aromatic plant cultivation, carpet making, tools and equipment for forest production mechanisation, etc.).</p> <p>Cooperative supports shall be project-based supports to agricultural development cooperatives in forest villages.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - T.R. Constitution, Articles 169-170, - Forest Law No. 6831, - Law No. 3234 on the Amendment and Adoption of the Decree Law on the Organisation and Duties of the GDF, - Article 334 of the Presidential Decree on the Organization of Related, Related Institutions and Organizations Affiliated to Ministries and Other Institutions and Organizations - Law No. 6292 on Supporting the Development of Forest Villagers and Sale of Lands Excluded from Forest Boundaries on behalf of the Treasury, - Regulation on Activities to Support the Development of Forest Villagers.
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of OR-KÖY projects for the employment of forest villagers (social and economic projects) 2. The number of supports given to forest villages, villagers and agricultural development cooperatives on an annual basis
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OR-KÖY Project Implementation Results - Evaluation and Monitoring Reports - Meetings with interested parties - The rate of realization of Annual Budget programs
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest villagers and forest village cooperatives who meet the necessary conditions can benefit from project implementation loans and supports.

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Trainings and Knowledge Development	
Criterion No.	6.7.
Criterion description	<p>According to the requirements of sustainable forest management, General Directorate of Forestry (GDF) has the opportunity to develop and train technical and administrative personnel employed in the institution for the planning and management of forest resources in accordance with the goals and objectives of the strategic plan (in-service training seminars, technical workshops) on forestry techniques and implementations.</p> <p>Professional knowledge development, research and training programs shall be implemented jointly with universities, research institutions and professional organizations.</p> <p>Studies and projects related to international forestry are carried out.</p> <p>Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be considered by the organization.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law No. 3234 on the Amendment and Adoption of the Decree Law on the Organisation and Duties of the GDF - Article 334 of the Presidential Decree on the Organization of Related, Related Institutions and Organizations Affiliated to Ministries and Other Institutions and Organizations, - GDF 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, - Regulation on Promotion and Title Change of GDF personnel
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual in-service training programs according to their fields of activity 2. Number of joint programmes with universities, professional organisations, non-governmental organisations, etc. and the number of participants in these programmes 3. International and national projects and cooperation programs
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational participation documents and certificates, - Annual implementation results, - Monitoring, evaluation reports. - Publications.
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and knowledge improvement shall be carried out periodically.

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Trainings and Knowledge Development	
Criterion No.	6.8.
Criterion description	Practical training, exercises and information on technical issues such as production, afforestation, silviculture, etc. shall be regularly provided to forest villagers and service providers working in forestry activities.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law No. 3234 on the Amendment and Adoption of the Decree Law on the Organisation and Duties of the GDF - Article 334 of the Presidential Decree on the Organization of Related, Related Institutions and Organizations Affiliated to Ministries and Other Institutions and Organizations, - Vocational Qualification Institution Law No. 5544 - Annual training programs according to their fields of activity
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production, standardisation, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) training and exercise programmes for forest villagers and cooperatives, 2. OHS training and exercise programmes for afforestation, silviculture, nursery etc.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual training, exercise evaluation reports - Educational participation documents and certificates
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the field of activity, there is a mandatory vocational training or professional qualification document requirement in hazardous occupations.

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Occupational Health and Safety	
Criterion No.	6.9.
Criterion description	<p>Since taking the necessary measures regarding the health, occupational safety and risks of those involved in forestry work is required by the Labor Law and the Occupational Health and Safety Law, the measures to be taken in practice in this regard shall be planned, organized and carried out.</p> <p>Objections and complaints arising in working conditions shall be resolved as a result of examination or by acting in accordance with judicial decisions.</p> <p>Taking the necessary measures for the employees of the institution, conducting trainings and monitoring shall be carried out regularly.</p> <p>With the procurement of services in forestry studies, it is requested to fulfill the measures and practices that shall be taken for those who work on its own behalf based on a contract.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Law No. 4857 • Occupational Health and Safety Law No. 6331 • Law No. 3234 on the Amendment and Adoption of the Decree Law on the Organisation and Duties of the GDF, • Article 334 of the Presidential Decree on the Organization of Related, Related Institutions and Organizations Affiliated to Ministries and Other Institutions and Organizations • Vocational Qualification Institution Law No. 5544 • UN International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions (56 of them) • GDF Risk Directive • Introduction of OSH measures and practices into Contracts for Service Purchases • Documents prepared for Occupational Health and Safety. • Occupational Health and Safety Services Regulation • Personal Protective Equipment Regulation • Regulation on the Use of Personal Protective Equipment in Workplaces • Regulation of the "CE" Mark
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The risks associated with the workplace shall be identified. 2. Emergency Plans shall be prepared. 3. Certificates related to OHS Trainings shall be given. 4. Appropriate Work Equipment and Personal Protective Equipment shall be Used. 5. Work accidents that occur in forest operations shall be recorded.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certificate of Professional Competence and OHS Training Certificates - Contracts for service purchases and minutes of job completion delivery - Field inspection reports made by an independent organization
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring a Professional Qualification Certificate from employees working in dangerous jobs

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Occupational Health and Safety	
Criterion No.	6.10.
Criterion description	<p>In accordance with the Labor Law and the Occupational Health and Safety Law, the forestry administration, as an employer, shall takes the necessary measures and practices regarding health, occupational safety and risks, and in this context, risk measures have been determined at the source, in the work environment and for the individual.</p> <p>Procurement of services in forestry (per unit price, tender, etc.) occupational health and safety issues shall be included and monitored in the contracts concluded with the relevant parties in order to fulfill the measures and practices that need to be taken in the works performed with the service provider and fire volunteers.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labor Law No. 4857 - Occupational Health and Safety Law No. 6331 - Vocational Qualification Institution Law No. 5544 - UN International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions (56 of them) - OGM Occupational Health and Safety Internal Directive - GDF Risk Directive - Communiqué No. 310 on the Production of Forest Products Based on Wood
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Periodic OSH training programs and the number of participants, 2. Service purchase agreements 3. The number and nature of disputes between the parties on OHS
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational certificates - Evaluation and monitoring reports - Field control carried out by an independent organization
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an OHS training and Professional Qualification Document requirement for employees working in hazardous occupation.

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Compliance with Legislation	
Criterion No.	6.11.
Criterion description	<p>The General Directorate of Forestry is the organization responsible for the management, operation and protection of forests, almost all of which belong to the state, in accordance with the Forest Law No. 6831.</p> <p>GDF shall work in accordance with the capacity of both central and provincial organizations and forest management techniques with its well-established and institutional organizational structure.</p> <p>GDF shall implement, monitor and supervise the provisions of the Forest Law No. 6831 dated 1956, especially the mandatory provisions related to forestry in the 1982 Constitution, the articles in the Forest Law No. 6831 dated 1956, and the laws related to property, environmental protection, trade, bribery and corruption, occupational health and safety, etc. and the provisions of secondary legislation such as by-laws, regulations, communiqués, circulars, orders, directives and instructions etc. related to their implementation.</p>
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It covers all legal regulations and secondary legislation in different areas specified in the criteria related to the thematic areas in the socio-economic functions section. - Law No: 3628 Law on Declarations of Property and the Fight Against Bribery and Corruption
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of transactions carried out within the scope of the Regulation on the Principles of Ethical Conduct of Public Servants and Implementation Procedures and Principles 2. Internal and external audit documents shall be readily available and presented upon request.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports of organisations auditing the forestry organisation in terms of administrative, technical and financial (Court of Accounts, etc.) - Surveys, interviews, etc. conducted with stakeholders and users involved in forestry activities - Audits conducted by an independent organization - Forest Law No. 6831 - ORBIS Records
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The above-mentioned requirements must be followed.

Section 6: Maintaining socio-economic functions and conditions	
Thematic area: Compliance with Legislation	
Criterion No.	6.12.
Criterion description	In addition to preventing illegal activities in forests and systematically protecting them, preventive measures related to forest pests and fires, as well as studies contained in the legislation to combat biotic and abiotic pests are shall be carried out regularly.
Connection with legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article Articles 169-170 of the Constitution, - Forest Law No. 6831, - Law No. 3234 on the Amendment and Adoption of the Decree Law on the Organisation and Duties of the GDF, - Article 334 of the Presidential Decree on the Organization of Related, Related Institutions and Organizations Affiliated to Ministries and Other Institutions and Organizations - Regulation on the Work to be Performed by the Officers in the Prevention and Extinguishing of Forest Fires, - Circular No. 7064 on the Response to Forest Crimes
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mass Protection Activities shall be carried out according to their monthly schedule. 2. Regional Fire Management Plans shall be prepared. 3. The number, amount and level of biotic and abiotic damages in a year shall be reported.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Periodic Reports on Mass Protection of Forest - Fire Statistics - Year-end monitoring and evaluation reports - ORBIS - Screening Reports
Minimum requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The above-mentioned requirements must be followed.

Section 7: Organizational issues	
Thematic area: Internal procedures	
Criterion No.	7.1. Declaration
Criterion description	<p>The organisation (Forest District Directorate and forest owners) shall demonstrate its readiness to implement the requirements of the SFM through the establishment of management system procedures, management of adequate human resources, procedures for conducting field activities, regular monitoring and improvement where possible.</p> <p>The organization's management demonstrates its full understanding of the requirements of the entire forest certification system and SFM and its commitment to comply with SFM requirements.</p> <p>Objections and complaints arising in forest management operations shall be resolved as a result of examination or by acting in accordance with judicial decisions.</p> <p>The Organization shall identify and have access to legislation applicable to its forest management and determine how these compliance and obligations apply to the organisation.</p> <p>For this purpose, it is mandatory for the organization to prepare a statement containing the following issues as part of its internal procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organization declares its commitment to fulfill the requirements for SFM and other applicable requirements of the certification system; - The organization undertakes and declares that it will implement regular monitoring activities regarding the implementation and improvement of SFM requirements where possible; - Supports gender equality where possible (within the framework of physical conditions); <p>The organization shall publicly declare this statement to employees and the public in order to increase their awareness of the content of the statement.</p> <p>The organization shall be committed to equality of opportunity, prevention of discrimination and harassment at work, and support for gender equality wherever possible.</p> <p>The organization, as forest owners, shall determine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to sustainable forest management; b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders; c) determine the boundaries and applicability of the management system to establish its scope¹. <p>The organization shall establish, and manage the general mandatory requirements to be applied for all the SFM requirements.</p> <p>The organization shall secure record-keeping procedures that provide evidence of compliance with the requirements of this Standard. The</p>

¹ SOYDER has implemented internationally recognised mechanisms to ensure unambiguous separation of audit activities.

	minimum period for keeping records and documents that are relevant as evidence is 5 (five) years.
Connection with legislation	
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The system for SFM has been established and agreed among employees. The system shall be monitored and improved annually. 2. The declaration of the organisation covering full compliance with the PEFC Principles and criteria and also including statement on equal rights, non-discrimination, freedom from workplace harassment is publicly available.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Results obtained from monitoring. - Verification by an independent organization. (External audit) - Declarations from Top management - Affected Stakeholder mapping and expectation analysis - Record management - Interviews with employees. - Internal control reports (internal audit)
Minimum requirements	

Section 7: Organizational issues	
Thematic area: Internal procedures	
Criterion No.	7.2. Education and Awareness
Criterion description	<p>Specialised and technical staff and service providers working in the organisation shall be aware of the implementation of the SFM. Based on this prerequisite, forest managers shall prepare and implement a training program for employees and service providers in forest operations as a prerequisite for compliance with the requirements of the standard.</p> <p>The management of the organisation shall define and secure the necessary structure between employees and service providers and have clearly defined responsibilities for the implementation of the SFM.</p> <p>The update on the roles of all persons in the system shall be implemented at an annual level through the provision of written instructions and training. This includes all the resources and documented information to place, implement, maintain and improve system efficiency.</p> <p>The organization shall identify the main responsible person who will prepare and keep records of all relevant and up-to-date information related to the activities carried out by the organization.</p> <p>The organization shall conduct risk analysis on threats and opportunities for compliance with standard requirements and risk mitigation measures based on size and scale of the operations of the organisation.</p>
Connection with legislation	

Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The organization will have a written internal procedure for the responsibilities of all business-related persons (employees and service providers). 2. The instructions are shared and can be used in any way that is appropriate for all employees and service providers. 3. In-house training on SFM requirements takes place after written instructions have been issued. For new employees and service providers, the organization shall implement training after starting work. Training for persons employed in field work shall be carried out before their assignment in the field. 4. The necessary documents will be prepared for the maintenance of the system, including the internal regulation on the retention of records and the appointment of the responsible person. 5. A list will be prepared for the identification of threats and opportunities related to the implementation of SFM and mitigation measures.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal procedures of the organization - Records of instructions given to employees and service providers - Systematization of job positions in the organization (if any) - Training records for employees and service providers, including new employees - Records of interviews with employees and service providers (if any)
Minimum requirements	

Section 7: Organizational issues	
Thematic area: Internal procedures	
Criterion No.	7.3. Internal Control
Criterion description	<p>The organization shall plan, organize and implement an annual internal inspection program to confirm whether SFM is suitable:</p> <p>a) In compliance with standard requirements and internal procedures; b) Carried out and maintained effectively;</p> <p>The programme for internal control shall be composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation plan, frequency, methods, responsible person and reporting; • Scope and criteria defined for each control; • Selection of appropriate auditors by checking their qualifications • Defining the implementation procedures, including the part that will guarantee the objectivity and impartiality of the process; • Reporting of the results obtained from the applied internal inspections to the relevant management; • Description of record keeping procedures; <p>This program shall take into account the importance of the relevant processes and the results of previous inspections.</p>
Connection with legislation	

Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existence of organizational procedures for the implementation of internal inspection according to the criteria requirements. 2. The existence of annual reports on the applied internal inspection and its results.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Archived procedures for internal inspection - Archived reports for the internal inspection performed - Records of interviews with employees (if any)
Minimum requirements	

Section 7: Organizational issues	
Thematic area: Internal procedures	
Criterion No.	7.4. Nonconformity Service Management
Criterion description	<p>As part of internal procedures, the organization shall prepare procedures in writing to deal with nonconformities. As part of this, it must provide the following content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The way the organization reacts if a nonconformity occurs; • Definition of corrective actions in case of detection of non-compliance with the SFM standard and ways to cope with the consequences; • Instructions for the investigation of the cause of nonconformities and the recommendation to take final measures to eliminate the cause of nonconformity and its possible recurrence; • Determination of whether similar nonconformities exist or may potentially occur; • Instructions for taking corrective measures appropriate to the detected level of nonconformity and reviewing the effectiveness of the measures; • Instructions on changes to be made to the management system if deemed necessary. <p>All information about the occurrence of nonconformity, corrective measures taken and the results of corrective measures shall be documented and archived.</p>
Connection with legislation	
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existence of written and archived procedures that will be applied in case of non-compliance with the requirements of the standard. 2. The records related to the findings of nonconformities and the implementation of corrective measures shall be archived appropriately and accessible upon request.
Verification source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration for findings related to non-compliance with the standard - Registration for findings and measures taken. - Records of interviews with employees (if any)
Minimum requirements	

Section 7: Organizational issues	
Thematic area: Internal procedures	
Criterion No.	7.5. Management Review
Criterion description	<p>In order to successfully comply with the requirements of the standard, the organization shall conduct annual management review activities to identify possible weak points in the management system and, at the same time, create the basis for improved management. The annual review shall include:</p> <p>a) The status of the activities implemented since the previous review; b) Changes in external or internal factors related to the management system; c) Information on the quality of management, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The detected nonconformities and the corrective measures taken; • The results obtained from the implementation and evaluation • The results obtained from internal and external audits; • Continuous improvement opportunities; <p>The results obtained from the management's review shall be taken into account by the organization's management.</p> <p>If weak points or opportunities for improvement are identified, decisions will shall be prepared in writing by the management. In case the weak points are not identified, the management shall still prepare the continuous improvement decisions in writing.</p> <p>All reports from the management review shall be archived and accessible on request.</p>
Connection with legislation	
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The organization shall regularly implement management review, including all the issues identified in the criteria requirement. 2. Annual management review reports and management decisions shall be archived and available upon request.
Verification source	- Annual management review reports and management decisions.
Minimum requirements	