
Sustainable Forest Management - Requirements



PEFC Slovakia

T. G. Masaryka 24
SK-960 01 Zvolen
Slovak Republic

Tel: +421 45 5206 444, Fax: +421 45 5206 050
E-mail: info@pefc.sk, Web: www.pefc.sk

Copyright notice

© PEFC Slovakia 2025

This document is -protected by copyright owned by the PEFC Slovakia. This document is freely available from the PEFC Slovakia website www.pefc.sk or upon request.

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

Official language of the document is Slovak. When there is inconsistency between versions, the English version of the document as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference document.

Document name: Sustainable Forest Management - Requirements

Document title: TD SFCS 1003:2021, Issue 2

Approved: PEFC Slovakia General Assembly

Date: 1.8.2025

Issue date: 1.8.2025

Application date: 1.8.2025

Transition date: 31.12.2025

Date of next periodic review: 11.11.2026

CONTENTS

Foreword.....	4
Introduction	5
1 Scope	6
2 Normative references	6
3 Terms and definitions	6
4 Context of the national standards and the organisations applying PEFC endorsed standards.....	7
5 Leadership.....	10
6 Planning	11
7 Support.....	18
8 Operation.....	24
9 Performance evaluation	57
10 Improvement	60

Foreword

Products with a PEFC claim and/or label offer assurances that the raw materials that have been used in their manufacture originate from sustainably managed forests and Trees outside Forests (TOF) areas, recycled and controlled sources.

The document “Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements” had been developed within the standard revision process by the Technical Committee of the PEFC Slovakia with the participation of the main stakeholder groups.

This document was submitted to the national governing body of the Slovak Forest Certification System for formal adoption. The document was adopted as TD SFCS 1003:2021, Issue 2 on 1.8.2025.

PEFC Slovakia is the national governing body of the Slovak Forest Certification System and incorporates representatives of forestry, wood processing industry and other stakeholder groups.

This document applies standards and procedures as developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) as set out in PEFC ST 1003:2024 *Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements*, which aligns with the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

PEFC supports gender equality. Hence, every term in this standard referring to a specific person (e.g. manager, owner, participant) embraces women and men likewise, without further accentuation.

This document replaces technical document TD SFCS 1003:2021, Issue 1 *Sustainable Forest Management -Requirements*.

Introduction

The document „Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements“ (national sustainable forest management standard) is inseparable part of the SFCS documentation and valid for the entire territory of the Slovak Republic. It contains a set of requirements for qualified, independent and objective assessment of the level of forest management. Meeting the criteria is an inevitable precondition for the issuance of certificate confirming that the forests are managed in compliance with the principles of sustainable forest management.

The objectives of the document „Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements“ are as follows:

- a) to specify the basic requirement for the forest management system to ensure fulfilment of all ecological, economic and social functions of forests, regardless of their category, form and method of management
- b) to create an outline for the clarification, unification and harmonisation of activities of independent certification bodies for the assessment of the state of forestry, definition of the objectives and scope of audits, and the assessment of the conformity or nonconformity of forest management of an audited entity with the specified group certification requirements
- c) to establish a frame of reference for forest owners/managers when deciding for certification and commitment for sustainable forest management

In order to eliminate the costs of certification process, the already existing information about the state of forest ecosystems and their management shall be used at maximal rate for conformity assessment of the applied forest management system with the criteria of sustainable forest management. Data and information included in databases of the forestry information system governed by the National Forest Centre, forest record, Forest Protection Service, national forest inventory and forest state inventory, Green Report, State Nature Conservancy of the SR on protected areas and their conditions, state administration bodies and other institutions, professional organisations and non-government organisations with activities related to forests and their management shall be used.

1 Scope

The requirements set out in this document apply to forest owners and managers, as well as to contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas. They may vary depending on the size of the managed forests and the legal status of the forest manager.

For participants in the certification process, this document:

- determines the management rules, procedures and criteria by which the manager:
 - o demonstrates the ability to continuously provide products and services that meet established internationally recognized standards, regulatory requirements and customer requirements
 - o wants to increase customer satisfaction through the effective operation of the management system, including processes for its continuous improvement
- sets out the framework procedures and form for the results of the important phases of forest management, in the achievement of which its management is considered sustainable, in accordance with the principles of PEFC forest certification.

The individual chapters of this document and the names of the processes are arranged in the structure of STN ISO 9001: 2015 Quality management system - requirements. The requirements in Chapter 8 "Operation" are ordered according to the generally accepted principles (I - VI) of sustainable forest management. The wording of the national criteria is in accordance with the relevant sections (titles) of the applicable legislation and corresponds in content to long-term forestry practices.

The chapters are structured as follows:

- a) **Process number**
- b) **Process title**
- c) **Full wording:** describes the subject of partial processes of quality management system and stages of sustainable forest management, lists the crucial tools and determines indicators ensuring the improvement of practical procedures and methods of sustainable forest management
- d) **Objective:** defines the expected result to which the fulfilment of the criterion should aim
- e) **Legislative background:** provides references to applicable legislative standards containing or regulating the particular issue
- f) **Requirements:** Quantitative or qualitative parameters describing the objectively and unambiguously the subject of the requirement and are evaluated in relation to the requirements. They shall apply to each manager participating in the certification. They set out the boundary requirements of management and important phases ensuring the sustainability of forest management or specify the framework procedures and the form of the results of important phases of forest management, in the achievement of which its management is considered sustainable.
- g) **Method of verification:** specifies the source of information used to assess the status of compliance with the criteria indicators

2 Normative references

For the purposes of this document the normative references given in 1001:2021 *Slovak Forest Certification System - Description and Context* apply.

3 Terms and definitions

4 Context of the national standards and the organisations applying PEFC endorsed standards

Process number	4.1
Process title	GENERAL
Full wording	PEFC claims provide information on the origin of forest based products from sustainably managed forests and other non-controversial sources. The main objective of using PEFC claims is to support the demand and supply of products from sustainably managed forests by providing accurate and verifiable information, thus stimulating the market's potential for continuous improvement of the world's forest resources.
Objective	To provide reliable evidence of the origin of forest products
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TD SFCS 1004:2020 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements - Decree MP SR 232/2006 Coll. on marking timber harvesting, marking of harvested timber and documents on the origin of timber as amended
Requirements	<p>4.1.1 The claim "100% PEFC certified" shall be used to communicate the origin of products to customers with a PEFC chain of custody</p> <p>4.1.2 Products with the claim "100% PEFC certified" or with another system specific claim are placed on the market by the participants in the certification only if they originate from certified forests covered by a recognized PEFC certificate issued in accordance with this standard</p> <p>4.1.3 Information provided to a PEFC certified customer in the chain of custody shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the organisation's name as the supplier of the PEFC material b) product identification c) quantity of product with the date of delivery / delivery period / accounting period d) the applicable PEFC claim specifically for each claimed product covered by the documentation e) the certificate number of the supplier's PEFC recognised certificate
Remark	<p><i>Note 1:</i> The certificate number is a numerical or alpha-numerical combination which is a unique identifier of the certificate.</p> <p><i>Note 2:</i> An example of delivery documentation is an invoice or delivery note providing the information required.</p>
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

Process number	4.2
Process title	UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS
Full wording	The forests of Slovakia are a strategic and extremely valuable resource. Therefore, they must be managed, but also used for the benefit of all citizens and communities that are dependent on the forest or live in the forest environment, relax or create, or the forest significantly affects the quality of their lives. As the affected stakeholders to whom the implementation of the standard may cause a direct change in living or working conditions or who may be users of the standard and are therefore subject to the standard are more attached to the certified area, the participant in certification shall monitor their status and focus, understand their needs and expectations and to conduct open and constructive communication about SFM.
Objective	To continuously provide products and services provided by the forest that meet the requirements of the owner, citizen (customer), applicable legislative requirements and regulatory requirements
Requirements	4.2.1 Participant on certification shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify the affected stakeholders that are territorially relevant for sustainable forest management b) identify the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders c) monitor and review the requirements of the affected stakeholders, which reflect their needs and expectations d) keep a list of the affected stakeholders
Remark	Applicable, however not an exhaustive list of the affected stakeholders and their expectations is given in chapter 4.2.1 of TD SFCS 1002:2021
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

Process number	4.3
Process title	DETERMINING THE SCOPE OF THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
Full wording	<p>The management system concerns the management, administration and direction of the activities and processes related to the provision of SFM managed by the certification participant.</p> <p>It shall be comprehensible, measurable and feasible for everybody. Its scope is adapted to the legal form, organizational structure, size and volume of work performed by the participant. The key management activities of the forest entity are represented by planning, organization, operational management, and control.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> An organisation's quality (ISO 9001) or environmental management system (ISO 14001) may be used to implement the minimum requirements for the management system defined in this standard.</p>
Objective	To ensure the effective functioning of the management system leading to the fulfilment of the expected functions by the public and the owners, including the processes of its continuous improvement.
Requirements	<p>4.3.1 The management system with a description of processes, competencies, management tools and control mechanisms in SFM shall correspond to the legal form, size and volume of work performed by the participant</p> <p>4.3.2 The subject of SFM process management shall comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assessment of the state of forests - elaboration of the annual operational plans - implementation of the annual operational plans - monitoring the quality of work - assessment of the effects of the management practices on SFM, including their social, environmental and economic impacts <p>4.3.3 Details on the production conditions of the workplace and on technological requirements minimizing the damage to forest ecosystems and eliminating safety risks are submitted in writing before the start of work (order sheets)</p> <p>4.3.4. The inventory of geolocation data related to the certified area where forest and tree-based products are harvested shall be maintained.</p>
Remark	The geolocation data can be limited to active operational sites.
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

5 Leadership

Process number	5.1.
Process title	COMMITMENT
Full wording	Responsible approach to forest management is the obligation of the manager towards both the owner and the society. The manifestation (expression) of responsibility are specific goals related to environmental responsibility, social justification and economic viability in forest management.
Objective	To define and document a commitment to establish and comply with the requirements of the national standard for sustainable forest management.
Requirements	<p>5.1.a Commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other related applicable requirements of the SFCS certification system</p> <p>5.1.b Continuously improve own SFM management system</p> <p>5.2 Responsibilities and authorities in SFM process and management of forestry activities shall be determined in writing and assigned to particular persons (does not apply to the manager - natural person)</p> <p>5.3 The commitment shall be publicly available to the organization's employees, certification participants, suppliers, consumers and stakeholders.</p>
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

6 Planning

Process number	6.1.
Process title	FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS AND FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS
Full wording	All forests shall be managed in accordance with regularly revised forest management plans or forest land management projects. These plans and projects shall comply with applicable national legislation, existing territorial development plans and nature and water protection documentation and are subject to a public comment and approval process. Registered forest management measures are provided for the forestry information database, are publicly available and are a significant source of scientific and research data.
Objective	Purposeful and planned forest management ensuring ecological sustainability, social benefits and economic efficiency.
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended - Decree MPRV SR 297/2011 Z. z. on forest management records as amended - Notice MFEA SR 304/2013 Coll. on the signing of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
Requirements	<p>6.1.1 FMP of forest manager shall consist minimally of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) general part consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - decision of ŠS LH on the FMP approval with defined amount of harvesting - forest management models b) forest stand description c) plan of management operations d) area table e) summary tables f) relief and stand map <p>6.1.2 Changes in planned management operations shall be carried out on the basis of an on-site assessment in favour of improving environmental functions and state of forest stands; they shall always be justified and properly registered either as an adjustment or change in FMP</p> <p>6.1.3 The implemented management measures shall be properly and timely recorded in the forest management records and submitted to the bodies of ŠS LH</p> <p>6.1.4 Forest management plans, relevant maps, basic management frameworks and information on the results of forest management shall be publicly available, except of confidential information that are subject to business secret</p> <p>6.1.5 During FMP elaboration, cooperation is provided in the matter of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) development of management models (years 9-10) b) proposal for protective forests (years 9-10) c) elaboration of documents and recommendations for the management report (year 10)

	<p>d) elaboration of a plan for the first year of validity of FMP (year 10)</p> <p>e) elaboration of the list of forest lands without forest stands (year 10)</p> <p>f) discussion of planned management measures and the total amount of harvesting (year 10)</p> <p>g) elaboration of report on the tasks performed in the last year of validity and harmonising the balance of cleared areas (year 1)</p> <p>6.1.6 The boundaries of units of spatial forest distribution shall be properly maintained</p>
Remark	K 6.1.2 Any change in the functional use of the forest (change of forest category) or change in the principles of felling, for which there is a reasonable presumption that it will significantly worsen the performance of any of the forest ecosystem services, shall be duly justified, shall be in the interest of local communities or implemented due to other overriding public interest.
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - databases of frame models of forest management of the forest management institute of NLC - ŠS LH information - records related to elaboration of FMP - FMP and LHE of forest manager - other documentation of participant in certification - inspection in forest

Process number	6.2.
Process title	MEASURES TO ADDRESS RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES
Full wording	The participant in certification shall consider the risks and opportunities related to compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest management. The size and scope of the organization's operations shall be considered.
Objective	To implement preventive measures to eliminate the causes of possible deficiencies in SFM.
Requirements	6.2.1 The assessment of risks and opportunities of the development of the state of forest resources shall minimally consist of the need for reforestation, care for young forest stands, the need for stand tending, start and end of stand regeneration, forest protection, construction and condition of transport infrastructure, the impact of forest management on specific natural values and the quality of life of local people and affected stakeholders. It shall be performed annually.
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - documentation of participant in certification

Process number	6.3.
Process title	ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLANS - MANAGEMENT PLANS
Full wording	The aim of the annual operational plans is to optimally harmonise the maintenance of favourable health status and the regulation of development and growth processes in forest stands with economic conditions.
Objective	To ensure favourable development of the state of forest resources in accordance with the requirements of SFM.
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended - Notice MFEA SR 304/2013 Coll. on the signing of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
Requirements	<p>6.3.1 Forest management shall be carried out by OLH registered in the register of professional forest managers</p> <p>6.3.2 The planned scope and intensity of management shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest areas</p> <p>6.3.3 Basic forestry operations (felling, reforestation, pruning, secured young stands, forest protection, maintenance of transport and skidding roads) shall be performed according to the management plans that are approved by OLH and an authorized representative of the certification participant</p>
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

Process number	6.4.
Process title	APPLICABLE LEGISLATION
Full wording	Forest management shall be in accordance with the applicable legislation in the field of forestry, including ways of forest management, nature and environmental protection, protected and endangered species, property, tenure and land-use rights for local communities or other affected stakeholders, health, labour and safety issues, anti-corruption, and the payment of applicable fees and taxes.
Objective	To ensure compliance with the legislation in forest management.
Legislative background	Annex 1: List of applicable legislation
Requirements	6.4.1 The participant shall have access to the applicable legislation relating to forest management 6.4.2 Know and comply with applicable legislation on forest management, anti-corruption legislation, trade and custom legislation. 6.4.3 Implement measures to ensure adequate protection of forests against unauthorized activities 6.4.4 Report to the competent authorities the activities that are in conflict with forestry legislation
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - relevant bodies of state administration - documentation of participant in certification

Process number	6.5
Process title	OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF FOREST LAND
Full wording	Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Only persons who can prove ownership, governance or other legal document authorizing them to manage the forest are entitled to manage the forest.
Objective	Property rights and rights and obligations related to the management and use of forest and other land shall be respected by all.
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act 460/1992 Coll. Constitution of the Slovak Republic as amended - Act 40/1964 Coll. Civil Code as amended - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act 229/1991 Coll. on arrangement of the ownership rights to land and other agricultural property as amended - Act 330/1991 Coll. on land consolidation, land ownership, land offices, land fund and land communities as amended - Act NR SR 97/2013 Coll. on land communities as amended - Act 582/2004 Coll. on local taxes and local fees for municipal waste and minor construction waste as amended
Requirements	<p>6.5.1 Keeping of documentation of forest land register (written part, map section, collection of documents) classified by legal grounds of their management. The property boundaries are drawn in the contour map.</p> <p>6.5.2 The management of the common property or jointly managed property shall be carried out on the basis of a written community contract</p> <p>6.5.3 The owner – landlord of forest land shall be informed at least once a year about the annual management results, the balance sheet of the fulfilment of FMP tasks and the occurrence of accidental felling in accordance with the wording of bullets 6, 11, 12 and 13 of § 23 of Act 326/2005 on forests</p> <p>6.5.4 Terms and agreements regarding financial obligations related to management of forest land (rent, property tax, penalties, etc.) shall be immediately fulfilled</p> <p>6.5.5 Maintenance of property boundaries in the terrain</p> <p>6.5.6 Foreign property may be used for the purposes of forest production only on the basis of an agreement with the owner or a decision of bodies of ŠS LH. After tenure is discontinued the property shall be returned to the state agreed with the owner or designated in the decision.</p>
Remark	Land under the ongoing dispute over the ownership or management shall not be included in certification
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proprietary documents - tenancy contracts - records of forests land and buildings - documentation of court cases - respective tax office - inspection in forest

Process number	6.6
Process title	HEALTH, SAFETY AND WORKING CONDITIONS
Full wording	Creating standard working conditions enabling work in the forest to be carried out in accordance with the principles of safety and health at work for employees and contractors
Objective	To create long-term favourable conditions for maintaining and improving life in the countryside
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 124/2006 Coll. on safety and health protection at work and on the amendment of certain acts as amended - Act NR SR 355/2007 Coll. on the protection, promotion and development of public health and amending certain acts as amended - Decree MPSVaR SR 46/2010 Coll. laying down details to ensure the safety and health protection of forest work and details of professional competence for the performance of certain work activities and the operation of certain technical equipment as amended - Resolution of the SR Government 468/2016 Strategy of safety and health protection at work in the Slovak Republic for the years 2016 to 2020 and the program of its implementation
Requirements	<p>6.6.1 Specific conditions of workplace, warning signs, risk assessment and procedure in the event of health injury shall be provided in writing and in an appropriate manner during work assignment</p> <p>6.6.2 Forest work is carried out in accordance with the procedures for ensuring safety and health at work specified in Decree 46/2010 Coll.</p> <p>6.6.3 Wages and payables for work performed shall meet legal standards and shall be paid on time and in the agreed amount. This obligation shall be also required from contractors - employers</p> <p>6.6.4 The conditions for carrying out forestry activities respect gender equality. They shall not be discriminatory against the local population. As far as possible, workers from local communities shall be preferred. The manager shall supports the training of employees in relation to the work performed.</p> <p>6.6.5 Monitoring of compliance with the essential requirements of safety and health at work by participants in forestry operations shall be carried out continuously. Changes shall be implemented, if required.</p> <p>6.6.6 Right of employees to associate and organize, fulfilment of collective agreements or similar obligations shall be respected (ILO Conventions 87 and 98)</p> <p>6.6.7 The rights and obligations of employees arising from the employment relationship, at least in accordance with the Labour Code, shall be stated in the collective agreement or employment contract or in another legally binding document</p> <p>6.6.8 Consultancy and training on safety in work procedures shall be provided for all forestry operations</p>

	<p>6.6.9 Used production facilities, devices, tools and equipment, including personal protective equipment shall be kept in good condition</p> <p>6.6.10 Workplaces endangering the health and safety of third parties (felling and the application of chemicals) are marked with warning signs on access roads</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collective agreements or similar obligations - statements or complaints from employees or contractors - working contracts - contracts with contractors - information from Labour Inspectorate, trade unions, self-governments - documentation of safety and health protection at work - professional licenses and medical certificates - technological protocols - interviews with employees and suppliers - inspection in forest - records of the manager

7 Support

Process number	7.1.
Process title	RESOURCES
Full wording	The participant in certification shall establish appropriate conditions and provides necessary resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.
Objective	Continuous provision of maintaining the favourable state of forests and its improvement
Requirements	<p>7.1.1 Established conditions and necessary resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - human resources (management, employees) - infrastructure (offices, hardware, software) - means of transport - information and communication technologies - financial resources <p>7.1.2 Conditions and resources correspond to the legal form, size of the property and shall be sufficient to permanently ensure the maintenance of the favourable state of forests and its improvement</p>
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

Process number	7.2.
Process title	COMPETENCE
Full wording	Forest managers, contractors, employees as well as forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and kept up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this document
Objective	Sustainable forest management shall be carried out by professionally qualified persons according to the latest scientific knowledge and research
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 245/2008 Coll. on education and training as amended - Act NR SR 568/2009 Coll. on lifelong learning as amended - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Decree MPSVaR SR 46/2010 Coll. laying down details to ensure the safety and health protection of forest work and details of professional competence for the performance of certain work activities and the operation of certain technical equipment as amended
Requirements	<p>7.2.1 The person (s) responsible for SFM shall have a professional education in forestry and a completed educational program organized by PEFC SK for the application of the Slovak Forest Certification System. Forestry education can be replaced by work experience in management of forestry operations for at least 5 years.</p> <p>7.2.2 Persons responsible for the forest production processes shall have sufficient access to information on sustainable forest management and possibilities for continuing education in this area</p> <p>7.2.3 Natural persons performing work in the forest shall be professionally qualified to perform forestry operations (valid certificates of professional competence) and informed about the quality requirements of the PEFC certification scheme.</p> <p>7.2.4 Sufficiency of to-date information on the results of technological development and innovations; use opportunities for enhancing professional growth</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - documentation of participant in certification - educational and scientific and research institutions

Process number	7.3.
Process title	COMMUNICATION
Full wording	Regarding sustainable forest management. Effective communication and consultation with local communities and other stakeholders shall be provided. Local communities and affected stakeholders shall have an irreplaceable place in relation to forests as they create an environment for them, a space for work and the maintenance of their traditions and/or they are also the subject of interest of their professional and leisure activities in accordance with the applicable legislation.
Objective	To provide truthful, comprehensible, and convincing information about the state of forests and SFM for the public and gain the public's opinion on the state of forests and the way they are managed
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act 460/1992 Coll. Constitution of the Slovak Republic as amended - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information as amended - Act 113/2018 Coll. on placing timber and timber products on the internal market as amended
Requirements	<p>7.3.1 Effective communication and consultation shall be provided with local governments, local communities and NGOs about the way and forms of SFM and its impacts on long-term health and quality of life - justified proposals are incorporated into implementation plans</p> <p>7.3.2 The following are located in a publicly accessible place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - confirmation on participation in PEFC forest certification - commitment to comply with the PEFC standard for sustainable forest management <p>7.3.3 Forestry work affecting the quality of life of the local population is carried out after prior discussion with the interest groups concerned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - felling in stands less than 100 m from the border of the village or scattered permanent settlements - felling in the vicinity of 100 m from the sites of special importance connected with the inhabitants - storage of timber in the vicinity of 100 m from the sites of special importance connected with the population during the period of its use - transport of timber on local roads in an intensity of more than 10 crossings with a load per day on one road - use of individual application of chemicals and fertilizers in stands less than 100 m from the boundary of the village or scattered permanent settlements - area application of chemicals (insecticides, rodenticides or herbicides) and fertilizers on a continuous area of more than 1 ha in stands less than 500 m from the boundary of the village or 300 m from scattered permanent settlements - changes (also short-term) on access roads to sites of special importance connected with the population
Method of verification	- media, information materials

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - events for public - web sites - documentation of participant in certification - communication with stakeholders - inspection in forest
--	--

Process number	7.4.
Process title	COMPLAINTS
Full wording	Appropriate mechanisms shall be in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions
Objective	To meet the requirements to ensure the provision of the required functions of forests
Legislative background	- Act 9/2010 Coll. on complaints as amended
Requirements	7.4.1 Complaints submitted by the complainant in paper or oral form shall be recorded and investigated 7.4.2 Legitimate complaints and disputes concerning forest management, land use rights and working conditions shall be settled by mutual agreement with the complainant. 7.4.3 The way and result of the investigation and handling of the complaint shall be recorded
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

Process number	7.5.
Process title	DOCUMENTED INFORMATION
Full wording	The organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system
Objective	To establish, use and maintain transparent documentation understandable to all stakeholders
Requirements	<p>7.5.1 The following documents shall be kept and maintained on determined media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) management policy and objectives b) description of the organizational structure, processes, competencies and control mechanisms for the implementation of the SFM policy, c) procedures leading to the achievement of the objectives of the SFCS certification criteria d) authorized plans of forestry operations <p>7.5.2 The following records shall be kept and maintained on determined media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) decisions and statements of the state administration bodies concerning the content of certification criteria b) written communication with stakeholders c) reports from internal monitoring audits of the group entity d) audit reports of the certification body e) records of own internal audits, measures taken and their implementation f) self-assessment g) management review report h) report on implementation of imposed corrective and preventive measures i) records of the movement of timber originating from non-certified and controversial sources j) records of handover and takeover of the workplace by the contractor k) records of the results of investigations and the handling with complaints l) a list of the affected stakeholders <p>7.5.3 Documented information shall be valid, easily identifiable, legible and available</p> <p>7.5.4 Operational records of forest management and the state of the forests shall be kept and stored on determined media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Balance sheet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – balance of cleared areas, – balance of cleaning – balance of thinning up to 50 years – balance of thinning over 50 years – balance of total felling b) Records of ensuring young forest stands c) Passport of forest roads d) Records of accidental felling increases and decreases e) Records of chemical substances consumption f) Illegal landfills

	g) Implementation annual plans h) Documentation of acquired education and qualifications i) Records of professional competence j) Documentation of forest land register
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

8 Operation

Process number	8.1.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE
Part	8.1.1. PROTECTION OF FOREST LAND
Full wording	Forest management shall aim to maintain or increase the existing forest area as a basic pillar for the provision of ecosystem services, improve the global carbon cycle and maintain or increase the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forests
Objective	By maintaining or increasing the existing forest area, to support the maintenance and enhancement of all forest functions, in particular the global carbon cycle
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 220/2004 Coll. on the protection and use of agricultural land as amended - Decree MP SR 12/2009 Coll. on the protection of forest land in land-use planning activities and in their exclusion and restrictions on fulfilment of forest functions - Working procedures for forest management no. A/2008/1611
Requirements	<p>8.1.1.1 Conversion to agricultural land use is prohibited</p> <p>8.1.1.2 Conversion (exclusion) of forest land and forests growing on it to other land uses than silviculture and forestry purposes shall be based on a valid decision of state administration body</p> <p>8.1.1.3 When issuing the permission for the exclusion of forest land from the performance of forest functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - forest land shall be protected, in particular in protective forests and special purpose forests - only the inevitably necessary area of forest land shall be used and disturbance to the integrity of the forest shall be limited - the use of the functions of the surrounding forest shall not be restricted <p>8.1.1.4 Forest conversions to other land use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shall be 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 - shall entail only a small proportion (no greater than 5%) of forest type within the certified area - shall not have negative impacts on protected species, habitats and/or protected area, elements of cultural or spiritual significance - shall not concern areas of significantly high carbon stock - makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits. <p>8.1.1.5 Biological and technical recultivation projects of forest land temporarily excluded from forest functions shall correspond to natural conditions and be in accordance</p>

	<p>with the relevant management models. Their implementation shall be continuously monitored. Converting forest to a forest plantation is prohibited.</p> <p>8.1.1.6 Forest lands are stabilized by clear boundaries in the terrain</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of ŠS LH - decisions on exclusion and decisions issued in doubt - documentation of participant in certification - inspection in forest

Process number	8.1.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE
Part	8.1.2. MULTIFUNCTION USE OF FOREST RESOURCES
Full wording	Methods and procedures of forest management planning shall ensure the maintenance and improvement of the biodiversity conditions and vitality of forest resources in order to fulfil the required functions while maintaining and enhancing long-term competitiveness and viability of forestry. Forest plantations are undesirable and forest plantations are not subject to forest certification.
Objective	To increase the use of economic, environmental, cultural and social values of forest resources for the development of rural areas
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.1.2.1 Conversions of primary forests to planted forests are prohibited.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Planted forests established by converting primary forest after 31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification</p> <p>8.1.2.2 Synergy with the FMP elaborators and affected stakeholders shall be provided in designing proposals for the proclamation of protective forests and forests fulfilling specific ecological, social and cultural functions</p> <p>8.1.2.3 The applied forest management practices shall prevent the damage to existing communities, both in their biological component and in soil and water resources</p> <p>8.1.2.4 Any human interventions and activities that result in forest degradation are prohibited</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of ŠS LH - records related to FMP elaboration - communication with stakeholders - documentation of participant in certification - inspection in forest

Process number	8.1.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE
Part	8.1.3. MANAGEMENT OF NON-FOREST LAND
Full wording	Abandoned and unused agricultural land and other treeless areas are the opportunities for expansion of forest area whenever they can add to increasing of the economic, ecological, social and cultural potential of the country, while at the same time, non-forest areas are important landscape elements and elements important from the point of view of biodiversity, especially in areas with high forest cover
Objective	To effectively consider the afforestation of abandoned agricultural land, non-forest land and other unused forest land. At the same time to maintain the existing non-forest elements significant from the landscaping as well as ecological point of view.
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 220/2004 Coll. on the protection and use of agricultural land as amended - Act 330/1991 Coll. on land consolidation, land ownership, land offices, land fund and land communities as amended
Requirements	<p>8.1.3.1 Non-forest lands declared to be forest shall be managed according to forest land management projects</p> <p>8.1.3.2 As far as possible, the manager shall declare non-forest lands overgrown with forests to be forests</p> <p>8.1.3.3 Conversion of non-forest land to forest is only possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if it is supported by a valid decision of the state administration body - if is based on consultations with authorities in the field of nature protection - unless they are significant and rare non-forest ecosystems - if there is no threat to rare or endangered species of organisms or their habitats identified on the site - if the right of stakeholders to participate in the consultation is maintained - if the carbon stock is improved - if it is in line with long-term conservation, economic and social objectives <p>8.1.3.4 Landscape-enhancing elements that increase biodiversity, and the existence of which is historically conditioned and located in the managed area, and which are owned / managed by the manager, such as meadows, views, crossings shall be maintained</p>
Remark	<p>8.1.3.2 In particular, non-forest land owned by the manager, overgrown with forest trees with a minimum area of 0.5 ha, a minimum width of 20 m, a loose canopy* and a potential height of more than 5 m (with the exception of dwarf mountain pine) shall be declared a forest.</p> <p>* / when the canopy is loose, the crowns do not touch, but no other trees can fit in the gaps</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - land consolidation projects - decisions on change of land to forest land - FMP and forest land projects - ÚSES documentation - inspection in forest

Process number	8.2.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND VITALITY
Part	8.2.1. INTEGRATED FOREST PROTECTION AND REVITALISATION OF DAMAGED FOREST ECOSYSTEMS
Full wording	Integrated forest protection shall be focused on effective, systematically applied prevention and environmentally sound suppression of effects of biotic pests. It shall use the utmost management and silvicultural measures promoting natural structures and processes as well as preventive biological and amelioration measures enhancing natural regulatory mechanisms and ecologisation of forestry operations.
Objective	To maintain or improve the condition of forest stands in relation to their stability, biodiversity, vitality and ecological value by implementing appropriate measures with the maximum possible use of natural processes
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended - Decree MPRV SR 297/2011 Z. z. on forest management records as amended - Decree MŽP SR 450/2019 Coll. laying down the conditions and methods for removing invasive non-native species
Requirements	<p>8.2.1.1 Implemented measures shall ensure the preservation or improvement of the health of forest ecosystems. Damaged and degraded forest ecosystems are revitalized in order to maintain or restore the genetic, species and structural diversity corresponding to the relevant HSLT</p> <p>8.2.1.2 Fertilizers shall be used to a limited extent in forest nurseries and only individually applied in artificial forest regeneration</p> <p>8.2.1.3 Area application of fertilizers, taking into account their impact on individual components of the environment and in the amounts recommended by pedological analysis shall be carried out in special cases as part of land amelioration measures to improve long-term unfavourable soil conditions or land reclamation</p> <p>8.2.1.4 If natural and operational conditions allow, cleared areas caused by harmful factors shall be revitalized (regenerated forest) with a maximum use of naturally occurring tree species according to the operational arrangement or through the phase of preparatory forest, respectively</p> <p>8.2.1.5 The use of fertilisers shall be properly documented</p>
Remark	8.2.1.1 As damaged and degraded stands are considered stands under significant influence of natural harmful factors, while they cease to fulfil the basic forest functions
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - forest amelioration projects - FMP and LHE of forest manager - reviews and opinions of expert authorities - communication with stakeholders - inspection in forest

Process number	8.2.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND VITALITY
Part	8.2.2. MONITORING OF FOREST HEALTH AND FOREST PROTECTION MEASURES
Full wording	Systematic monitoring of forest health shall be focused on key harmful factors that have potential, when outbreaks, negatively affect the health and vitality of forest ecosystems. Planning and implementation of measures to protect forests shall be, considering the state and development of pest abundance, focused on prevention, protection and defence, and limiting the consequences.
Objective	To ensure the preservation and improvement of health and vitality of forests
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended - Decree MPRV SR 297/2011 Z. z. on forest management records as amended
Requirements	<p>8.2.2.1 The state and development of damage of forest stands by biotic, abiotic and anthropogenic harmful factors shall be monitored</p> <p>8.2.2.2 Effective and accessible conservation, defensive and preventive measures shall be implemented at all stages of forest development to prevent the spread and reproduction of pests, including project-based measures to prevent the spread and reproduction of pests. Biological and biotechnical products and processes shall be used wherever appropriate and justified.</p> <p>8.2.2.3 Accidental felling shall be carried out preferably, the processing deadline shall be met. In the case of accidental felling in protected areas, the principle of reasonable assessment shall be respected, and its implementation is governed by the statement of the State Nature Conservancy or a decision issued by the nature conservancy state administration body, respectively.</p> <p>8.2.2.4 Fencing of large-scale cleared areas providing protection of vegetation against damage by animals shall be built with the passage of through corridors. The passage of existing natural corridors shall be maintained.</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of ŠS LH and ŽP - accidental felling reports and processing applications - authorized schedules of processing accidental felling - LHE of forest manager - results of the state supervision - communication with stakeholders - inspection in forest

Process number	8.2.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND VITALITY
Part	8.2.3. TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES
Full wording	Technological preparation and implementation of harvesting and transport processes shall correspond to the real production and current weather conditions, while minimizing the negative impacts on soil and the whole ecosystem
Objective	To reduce the environmental burden and damage to forest resources caused by performing forestry operations and illegal activities of local communities
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 364/2004 Coll. on waters as amended - Act NR SR 305/2018 Coll. on protected areas for natural water accumulation - Act 223/2001 Coll. on waste as amended - Documented obligatory procedures of the group entity to minimize damage to vegetation and soil during forestry operations
Requirements	<p>8.2.3.1 The maximum permissible limits for damage to the terrain, soil, forest roads, forest stands and trees by felling and transport of timber shall be kept</p> <p>8.2.3.2 At the end of the work, as well as during the work, measures shall be taken that demonstrably and effectively minimize the impacts of the technologies used. They shall be implemented at the latest when the maximum permissible limits of damage to the terrain, soil or forest roads have been reached.</p> <p>8.2.3.3 A permanent network of technological lines in forest spatial distribution units corresponding to topographic, pedological and growth conditions shall be established. The trees at the edge of the lines are marked so that their course is always easily recognizable.</p> <p>8.2.3.4 Environmentally friendly technologies appropriate to the given production conditions shall be preferably used after prior assessment of the risks and impacts of the felling and transport process on forest ecosystems and sites of natural accumulation of surface water and groundwater.</p> <p>8.2.3.5 The tree method of timber production minimizes damage to standing trees. It shall not be used for deciduous trees during the growing season. Whenever possible, other methods are preferred to the tree method of timber production.</p> <p>8.2.3.6 Technical condition of machines shall be assessed and shall not be a source of danger to the safety of production process, environment, public health, or a source of pollution or damage to the roads</p> <p>8.2.3.7 Machines used in forest work shall be equipped with absorbents of possible (accidental) leakage of oil substances into the environment. Refuelling with petroleum-based fuels is only possible in justified cases, in designated areas and at the same time using retaining measures in the event of a possible leak.</p>

	<p>8.2.3.8 Biodegradable lubricants (oils) shall be used for lossy lubrication.</p> <p>8.2.3.9 The measures taken shall limit the generation of waste related to forestry production (does not apply to logging residues). The generated waste shall be continuously removed from the forest and properly disposed.</p> <p>8.2.3.10 Measures to prohibit disposal of waste or limit the creation of illegal landfills shall be implemented. The resulting landfills shall be addressed immediately.</p>
Remark	<p>8.2.3.10 The waste associated with forest production is considered to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non-functional packaging and forest protection products made from petroleum materials - non-functional metal mesh, ropes and other metal objects - municipal waste generated during the production
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contracts with contractors - documentation of the assignment and receipt of work and workplaces - records of assessment of the technical condition of production means - records of waste management - information of ŠS LH, ŠS ŽP, ŠOP SR, SAŽP, SVP, SRZ, SIŽP - inspection in forest

Process number	8.2.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND VITALITY
Part	8.2.4. PESTICIDES APPLICATION
Full wording	Pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides) shall be used only to a limited extent, while respecting the degree of nature protection, as a last option only in cases where they cannot be replaced by appropriate cultivation and biological measures. The use of pesticides prohibited by international conventions is not permitted. All chemicals used shall meet hygienic, toxicological and ecological limits and conditions of nature protection. Their use shall be properly documented.
Objective	To minimise the application of pesticides and herbicides
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act 405/2011 Coll. on plant health care as amended - Act 67/2010 Coll. on the conditions of placing chemical substances and mixtures on the market as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.2.4.1 The use of persistent substances such as e.g. chlorinated hydrocarbons as defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on Dangerous Chemicals is prohibited</p> <p>8.2.4.2 The use of non-registered and highly toxic products and WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides in forest protection is prohibited</p> <p>8.2.4.3 In protected areas, NATURA 2000 areas, UNESCO natural monuments or Ramsar sites, the use of pesticides shall be only possible with the consent of the nature conservation organization and after consultation with the affected stakeholders</p> <p>8.2.4.4 Widespread application of pesticides over a continuous area of more than 2 ha and aerial application of pesticides shall be subject to evaluation, which includes consultation with the affected stakeholders and shall be carried out only if there is no alternative solution</p> <p>8.2.4.5 The use of pesticides and other products shall be properly documented and justified. It is permissible as an alternative to other, mainly biotechnical measures, provided that these biotechnical measures are significantly economically demanding or that there is a shortage of manpower</p> <p>8.2.4.6 Applicants of chemical substances shall have completed mandatory training, use appropriate protective equipment, means and procedures, including disposal of their residues and packaging in accordance with the manufacturer's safety instructions (safety data sheets). They shall carry out their activities under the supervision of the holder of a certificate of professional competence in the field of plant protection products.</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The list of authorised plant protection products and other products - Material Safety Data Sheets - records of consumption of plant protection products, including auxiliary agents, in accordance with applicable legislation - certificate of proficiency in the field of plant protection products - permission for the use of chemicals

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of ŠS ŽP, SIŽP, ŠOP SR, SAŽP, SVP, SRZ and managers of water resources - LHE of forest manager - inspection in forest
--	---

Process number	8.2.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND VITALITY
Part	8.2.5. FIRE PROTECTION
Full wording	In forest operations, the principles of fire prevention shall be respected and adequate capacity for monitoring and fighting fires shall be systematically built. Fire in forest operations shall be used in the most urgent cases, only if the necessary economic measure cannot be achieved in any other way.
Objective	To minimise the risk of damage to forest by fires
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act 314/2001 Coll. on fire protection as amended - Decree MV SR 121/2002 Coll. on fire prevention as amended
Requirements	<p>8.2.5.1 Burning of harvesting residues shall be carried out only as part of forest protection measures in order to prevent the spread of bark beetles or other pathogens only in the event of their calamitous overgrowth or the threat of their calamitous overgrowth. All legislative requirements shall be met.</p> <p>8.2.5.2 Fire protection maps and documents shall be regularly updated and shall contain all relevant information regarding fire protection</p> <p>8.2.5.3 Fire patrol activities shall be carried out at least in times of increased fire danger on the basis of a timetable of patrol activities</p> <p>8.2.5.4 Combustion carried out in order to dispose unwanted biomass as a part of the preparation for the regeneration of stands is not allowed</p> <p>8.2.5.5 Visitors in the forest shall be notified in an appropriate manner of the dangers of fires and the prohibition of laying fires</p> <p>8.2.5.6 Machines used for work in the forest shall be equipped by a suitable fire extinguisher with a minimum of 5 kg content</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - documentation of fire protection - documentation on ensuring fire safety during combustion of flammable substances in open space - information of ŠS on fire protection - inspection in forest

Process number	8.3.
Process title	MAINTENANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS (WOOD AND NON-WOOD)
Part	8.3.1. SUSTAINABILITY AND CONTINUITY OF TIMBER HARVESTING
Full wording	The volume of timber intended for harvesting shall be determined differently according to forest categories so as to ensure the optimal use of forest production potential and maintain the permanent fulfilment of forest functions, using appropriate management measures and preferring techniques that minimize negative impacts on forest resources. The harvesting potential reflected in the harvesting possibilities shall be in line with the increment and shall not exceed it in the long term.
Objective	Removal of standing volume shall be steady through the balanced ratio between the volume of harvesting and the increment, up to the amount of the objectively determined harvesting level indicator
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended - Decree MPRV SR 297/2011 Z. z. on forest management records as amended
Requirements	<p>8.3.1.1 The total volume of timber harvesting prescribed in FMP for forest unit and forest category shall not be exceeded</p> <p>8.3.1.2 The annual volume of harvesting during the validity of the FMP under the proper forest management shall be in the range between 70% to 130% of the 1/10 of the FMP prescription (does not apply for entities under 1000 ha)</p> <p>8.3.1.3 Timber harvesting shall be carried out in accordance with the condition and needs of the stand according to the harvesting principles and based on a written harvesting permit</p> <p>8.3.1.4 The volume of intentionally harvested timber by species shall correspond (+/- 15% or +/- 10m³, whichever is more) to the data on volume obtained from trees marking and recorded in the harvesting permit.</p> <p>8.3.1.5 Harvesting on non-forest land is governed by the regime of Act 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection. Harvesting permit and calibration marking is required.</p>
Remark	<p>8.3.1.2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not apply to special cases such as large-scale accidental or extraordinary felling - proper forest management: the total volume of accidental felling shall not exceed 36% of the total harvesting prescribed by FMP for the forest or ownership unit
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FMP and LHE of forest manager - permission for timber harvesting - results of state supervision - inspection in forest

Process number	8.3.
Process title	MAINTENANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS (WOOD AND NON-WOOD)
Part	8.3.2. ROUNDWOOD
Full wording	Timber from sustainably managed sources shall be placed on the market in order to achieve acceptable economic performance necessary to ensure sustainable forest management, including the fulfilment of all its functions.
Objective	To ensure that the timber needed for obtaining and maintaining the necessary resources for responsible forest management is obtained in accordance with the applicable legislation
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act 113/2018 Coll. on placing timber and timber products on the internal market as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MP SR 232/2006 Coll. on marking timber harvesting, marking of harvested timber and documents on the origin of timber as amended - Decree MPRV SR 297/2011 Z. z. on forest management records as amended - STN 48 0050 Roundwood - STN 48 0055 Qualitative classification of softwood round timber - STN 48 0056 Qualitative classification of hardwood round timber
Requirements	<p>8.3.2.1 Timber placed on the market shall be properly sorted and adjusted. The documentation shall contain complete data on the wood delivery and on the customer.</p> <p>8.3.2.2 The volume of timber placed on the market shall be equal to the volume of timber harvested</p> <p>8.3.2.3 Due diligence system shall be applied when placing timber on the market. Records of the origin and movement of timber shall be kept.</p> <p>8.3.2.4 Timber originating from non-forest land, non-certified forests or the purchase of timber shall be separated and placed on the market as non-certified</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of SLDI - FMP and LHE of forest manager - proof of the timber origin - trade documentation - due diligence system of operator placing timber on the market - inspection in forest

Process number	8.3.
Process title	MAINTENANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS (WOOD AND NON-WOOD)
Part	8.3.3. NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
Full wording	Forest management planning shall respect the requirements of forest manager to customize the way of forest management for the production of non-wood forest products and services. The commercial use of forest products shall be regulated and based on the principle of sustainability.
Objective	The production of other goods and services shall not worsen the quality and condition of forest resources
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 274/2009 Coll. on game management as amended
Requirements	<p>8.3.3.1 During the process of FMP elaboration, the manager shall, if applicable, require application of procedures to ensure that forests are able to produce a full range of not only wood but also non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis</p> <p>8.3.3.2 The commercial use of non-wood forest products shall be planned, based on a sustainable basis. Production shall be recorded.</p> <p>8.3.3.3 In hunting grounds, which are managed by certification participants, the condition of the game and its care shall be governed by plans approved by the state administration bodies ensuring their sustainability. Records of venison production shall be kept.</p> <p>8.3.3.4 Hunting shall not disturb the natural development, stability of stands and the fulfilment of other forest functions</p> <p>8.3.3.5 Damage to vegetation by game shall be monitored, damage recorded and resolved with the relevant user of hunting ground.</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of ŠS LH, ŠS ŽP, SIŽP, ŠOP SR, SAŽP - game management and hunting plans - statistical reports - documentation of participant in certification - inspection in forest

Process number	8.3.
Process title	MAINTENANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS (WOOD AND NON-WOOD)
Part	8.3.4. FOREST ROAD NETWORK
Full wording	Development of transport infrastructure (roads, bridges, outlets, drainages etc.) shall be planned; each construction shall be established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts of individual components on the environment. Forest road network shall be maintained in a favourable condition; potential erosion shall be minimized by the use of anti-erosion protection and road drainage.
Objective	To optimize the transport accessibility of forest stands and improve the state of transport infrastructure
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act 50/1976 Coll. on territorial planning and building order (building act) as amended - Act 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment as amended - STN 73 6108 Forest Road Network
Requirements	<p>8.3.4.1 The forest road network including its technical equipment shall be maintained in operating condition.</p> <p>8.3.4.2 Actual condition of forest roads and bridges including drainage facilities, their wear and tear, defects and deficiencies shall be continuously monitored, recorded in the forest road network passport and reflected in the plan of maintenance and repairs of the forest road network</p> <p>8.3.4.3 Permanent approach roads of the 3L category shall be secured against erosion after the completion of wood skidding; temporary approach roads shall be restored in order to fulfil forest functions</p> <p>8.3.4.4 The construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be planned, legal and carried out in such a way as to minimize soil exposure, erosion of soil into watercourses and to ensure protection of the natural function and condition of watercourses. Adequate drainage facilities shall be built and properly maintained on the roads.</p> <p>8.3.4.5 Designing and constructing of forest transport infrastructure, including temporary approach roads over 50 m in length, shall take into account the ecological and environmental value of the area, the occurrence of specially protected areas, rare species of fauna and flora and migratory routes of protected animals shall be considered. The construction of infrastructure in the habitats of critically endangered species is prohibited.</p> <p>8.3.4.6 Compliance with project documentation during the construction of transport infrastructure, especially in rare and sensitive ecosystems, shall be monitored.</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - project documentation for the construction of forest road network - passport of forest road network

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plan of maintenance and repairs - information of building supervision - information of ŠS LH, ŠS ŽP, SIŽP, ŠOP SR - inspection in forest
--	---

Process number	8.4.
Process title	MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS
Part	8.4.1. FOREST REGENERATION
Full wording	A gradual change of tree species composition is the key tool for adapting forests to climate change. Forest regeneration shall be carried out using the management methods ensuring the achievement of the provenance suitable natural regeneration contributing to maintaining the diversity of genotypes, natural species composition, structure and ecological stability of forest ecosystems which responds appropriately to changing climatic conditions. Genetically modified tree species shall be excluded from regeneration.
Objective	To ensure healthy and well developed regenerated forest stand consisting of trees corresponding to site conditions
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 138/2010 Coll. on forest reproduction material as amended - Act NR SR 274/2009 Coll. on game management as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended - Decree MPRV SR 297/2011 Z. z. on forest management records as amended - Decree MŽP SR 24/2003 Coll. implementing the Act 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.4.1.1 Genetically modified trees shall not be used</p> <p>8.4.1.2 Regenerated areas shall be planted within the legal deadlines by tree species supporting biodiversity also with the help of undergrowths and pre-plantings in accordance with the site conditions</p> <p>8.4.1.3 Forest stands shall be secured at the latest within the period specified in FMP, while at least 60% of the regenerated area shall consist of suitably distributed trees of target tree composition, out of which minimally 30% are represented in the respective forest management model</p> <p>8.4.1.4 Provenance suitable natural regeneration of original, site suitable tree species and provenances (those having a higher potential to resist climate change) shall be preferred to artificial afforestation</p> <p>8.4.1.5 Artificial regeneration shall not be used to establish monocultural forests</p> <p>8.4.1.6 Secured forest stands shall consist of trees without significant damage, which are well adapted to the site conditions and have an evident height increment, and where no supplementary planting is required</p> <p>8.4.1.7 Special records on the status and respecting of deadlines for securing forest stands shall be kept</p>

	<p>8.4.1.8 Young forest stands shall be protected, or the population of game shall be controlled so that there is no destruction or devastation of the stands</p> <p>8.4.1.9 During FMP elaboration process, the manager shall require procedures to ensure the conservation, protection or enhancement of biodiversity at landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.</p>
Remark	8.4.1.2 regeneration (reforestation) of protective forests intended for the protection of easily vulnerable and erodible soil in extreme habitats shall be carried out as soon as possible
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - models of forest management - project of forest regeneration - decisions of ŠS LH on prolonging period for forest regeneration at a clearing site and for securing forest stand - agreement on the manner and form of minimizing the damage caused by animals and on animals - FMP and LHE of forest manager - results of state supervision - communication with stakeholders - inspection in forest

Process number	8.4.
Process title	MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS
Part	8.4.2 STRUCTURE AND NATURAL CHARACTER OF FORESTS
Full wording	Applied forest management measures shall support close-to-nature internal arrangement, construction and composition of forest stands corresponding to the typical character and diversity of the landscape
Objective	To promote tree species, age and vertical diversity of forest stands by using appropriate silvicultural measures
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended - Decree MPRV SR 297/2011 Z. z. on forest management records as amended
Requirements	<p>8.4.2.1 Tending and regeneration operations shall correspond to the growth phase and maturity of forest stands and shall be implemented on time and in favour of improving the structure and standing volume of stands. Small-scale forms of restoration shall be preferably used. Large-scale regeneration shall be applied only in justified cases.</p> <p>8.4.2.2 Intensity of clearings and thinning up to 50 years recommended by FMPs shall be mandatory</p> <p>8.4.2.3 By strengthening the natural climate-positive practices, defined for close-to-nature forest management, in management measures, the preconditions for genetically original, species and structurally diverse, stable and vital stands shall be created, wherever natural and operational conditions allow.</p>
Remark	8.4.2.2 justified corrections in FMPs done by OLH shall be accepted
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - models of forest management - FMP and LHE of forest manager - results of state supervision - inspection in forest

Process number	8.4.
Process title	MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS
Part	8.4.3. GENETIC RESOURCES
Full wording	Maintaining biological resources of forests, their genetic, species and ecosystem diversity as well as their sustainable use for the establishment of new forest stands. Preference shall be given to native tree species suitably adapted to the site conditions.
Objective	To ensure the optimal management of genetic resources and best use of reproduction material for the purposes of forest regeneration
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 138/2010 Coll. on forest reproduction material as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended - Decree MPRV SR 297/2011 Z. z. on forest management records as amended
Requirements	<p>8.4.3.1 Principles of the use of reproduction material originating from approved reproduction resources for reforestation and afforestation shall be followed; records of the origin of reproduction material for reforestation shall be kept</p> <p>8.4.3.2 Compliance with the recognised specific procedures in the management of reproduction material resources shall be ensured</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognition letters of sources of forest reproduction material - project of management of gene basis - certificate on origin or cover letter of forest reproduction material - card of stand origin - reports of changes in the sources of reproduction material - FMP and LHE of forest manager - results of state supervision - inspection in forest

Process number	8.4.
Process title	MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS
Part	8.4.4. NON-NATIVE AND INVASIVE TREE SPECIES
Full wording	Only those non-native tree species, provenances or varieties shall be used, whose impact on the ecosystem and the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances has been assessed and evaluated, and if they pose none or only limited risk to native tree species or to the protection of ecosystems in the given area; invasive species shall be mitigated and measures shall be taken to limit their further spread
Objective	To control and mitigate artificial bringing of non-native tree species or foreign provenances and forms of forest tree species into forest stands outside their current area
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 138/2010 Coll. on forest reproduction material as amended - Decree MŽP SR 24/2003 Coll. implementing the Act 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MŽP SR 450/2019 Coll. laying down the conditions and methods for removing invasive non-native species
Requirements	<p>8.4.4.1 Non-native species and their interspecies hybrids shall not be artificially propagated, their natural distribution shall be controlled and shall be subject to expert assessment. Dissemination is only possible in accordance with approved legal procedures.</p> <p>8.4.4.2 Invasive tree species shall be purposefully removed; measures shall be taken to prevent and reduce the spread of such species; forest shall be managed in a way that the conditions for the spread of invasive species cannot be created</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FMP and LHE of forest manager - information of ŠOP - decisions of ŠS in the area of environment and landscape protection - communication with stakeholders - inspection in forest

Process number	8.4.
Process title	MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS
Part	8.4.5. LEAVING STANDING WOOD
Full wording	Standing trees and dead wood shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard the existing biological diversity and to allow to survive of all species dependent on old trees and dead wood that are typical for natural ecosystems under given conditions. Dead wood and left standing trees shall neither threaten forest visitors or the health and stability of standing forests and surrounding ecosystems.
Objective	To provide the necessary volume of dead wood in the full diversity of tree species and degrees of degradation as well as standing trees, taking into account their possible negative impact on the surrounding stands
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.4.5.1 Depending on the site conditions, the number of standing trees left to survive after the regeneration shall be at least 5 suitable individuals of the mother stand per 1 ha of stand area, preferably in bio groups. They shall be clearly identifiable for a long time and after death they shall be left in the stand for natural decomposition.</p> <p>8.4.5.2 Parts of dead wood in various stages of decomposition and biomass after tending and harvesting operations shall be purposefully left for the development of biodiversity (at least 10 m³/ha)</p>
Remark	<p>8.4.5.1 Habitat trees left for survival shall be mainly trees with large diameters + 100 cm, hollow trees, nesting trees and trees with the occurrence of protected animal species with the potential for long-term existence. The possible negative impact on the surrounding vegetation and safety at work shall be taken into account.</p> <p>8.4.5.3 Quantitative (diameter over 30 cm, length over 2 m) and qualitative properties of left dead wood with different stages of decomposition allow the survival of relevant species of organisms bound to dead wood - xylophagous species e.g. beetles.</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of ŠOP SR - information of participant on certification - communication with stakeholders - inspection in forest

Process number	8.4.
Process title	MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS
Part	8.4.6. FORESTS OF HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES
Full wording	Forests of high environmental values shall be managed by traditional methods that led to their creation, or in accordance with special regulations so as to ensure the preservation or enhancement of their special values
Objective	To ensure differentiated care for forests of high natural values in protected areas and in individual elements of the territorial system of ecological stability defined outside the protected areas, depending on their nature and level of preservation
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Decree MŽP SR 24/2003 Coll. implementing the Act 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.4.6.1 Primeval forests and natural forests with features of primeval forests shall be identified and they shall be excluded from the implementation of any management measures, including measures related to the processing or sanitation of accidental calamities caused by natural disturbances</p> <p>8.4.6.2 Map and textual documentation shall be kept about specially protected areas (ecologically important forest habitats)</p> <p>8.4.6.3 Annual operational plans shall respect or take into account the requirements and procedures of the relevant management programs for protected areas and areas of European importance</p> <p>8.4.6.4 Management measures in protected areas under the special protection of the state shall be carried out in accordance with best practice and, wherever appropriate and possible, in accordance with the principles of the close-to nature forest management, with an emphasis on preserving the subject of protection; if necessary, they shall be consulted with the State Nature Conservancy and affected stakeholders</p> <p>8.4.6.5 Specific rare habitats maintained by forestry operations shall be managed by practices respecting the latest scientific knowledge from the research of natural forests and the principles of protection and conservation of these habitats</p> <p>8.4.6.6 Traditional practices that maintain forests of high natural values in a favourable condition for a long time shall be encouraged and used wherever possible. It shall be monitored whether the management measures do not have a negative impact on maintaining and improving their condition</p>
Remark	Forests of high natural values are forests in "A" and "B" zones of national parks and protected landscape areas, stricter zones of

	protected bird habitats and forests in small-scale protected areas and their protection zones (NPR, PR, NPP, PP, CHA, CHKP) , where the subject of protection are forest ecosystems very important in terms of biodiversity protection, including identified primeval forests and their residues, which arose from the results of the national forest inventory and do not yet have adequate protection.
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of ŠOP SR, - maps.sopsr.sk - http://pralesy.sk/lokality/lokality-pralesov.html - http://pralesy.sk/lokality/pralesove-zvysky.html - documentation of participant in certification - communication with stakeholders - inspection in forest

Process number	8.4.
Process title	MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS
Part	8.4.7. PROTECTED AND ENDANGERED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES AND VALUABLE AND RARE ECOSYSTEMS
Objective	Habitats of protected and endangered plants and animals, and particularly valuable and rare habitats, shall be managed in a way that meets the ecological requirements of the protected species or habitat; their possible use for commercial purposes is governed by international and national regulations
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 364/2004 Coll. on waters as amended - Decree MŽP SR 24/2003 Coll. implementing the Act 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.4.7.1 Commercial use of protected species is prohibited. An exemption is allowed if it is in accordance with the CITES requirements.</p> <p>8.4.7.2 The occurrence of protected species of plants and animals and especially valuable and rare habitats shall be mapped and documented</p> <p>8.4.7.3 Implemented management measures shall not threaten the existence of habitats of protected species and particularly valuable or rare habitats within wider temporal and spatial frameworks. It shall be monitored whether they have a negative impact on maintaining and improving their condition</p> <p>8.4.7.4 Approved management programs for endangered species in forests, including habitats of their seasonal concentration and approved protection programs, as well as approved management programs for protected areas or NATURA 2000 sites, subject of which is the protection of endangered species, or particularly valuable or rare habitats shall be respected and complied with</p>
Remark	It covers particularly valuable and rare habitats, habitats of valuable, endangered, rare and endemic species listed in the State Nature Conservancy lists, which are of indicative importance in terms of biodiversity and are sensitive to the way the forests are managed
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of ŠOP SR - documentation of endangered and protected species of flora and fauna - management program for protected species - protection programs - FMP and records of participant in certification - communication with stakeholders - inspection in forest

Process number	8.5.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS IN FOREST MANAGEMENT (NOTABLY SOIL AND WATER)
Part	8.5.1. SOIL PROTECTION
Full wording	Implementation of appropriately timed and intensity-appropriate management measures to maintain the functionality and resilience of forests aimed at soil protection, prevention of erosion, avalanches, landslides, ravines, rubble and subsequent degradation of the used land
Objective	To protect forest land and soil from external destruction processes
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.5.1.1 Forest stands fulfilling soil protective functions shall be managed in a way that ensures their permanent forest cover, preference shall be given to the principles of close-to-nature forest management</p> <p>8.5.1.2 Effective measures to stabilize the exposed slopes and prevent erosion in traffic lanes of machines shall be implemented</p> <p>8.5.1.3 Areas prone to erosion or shallow soil shall be regenerated primarily using the natural regeneration. The operations and technologies used shall minimize damage to the soil surface.</p> <p>8.5.1.4 Dead wood, which no longer poses a risk of spreading harmful agents, does not pose an increased risk to the health of visitors on marked hiking trails and does not constitute a real obstacle to regeneration in accordance with the requirement 8.5.1.1, shall be left in the stand for natural decomposition if it cannot be removed from the stand without the risk of disturbing the soil surface</p>
Remark	8.5.1.1 A permanent forest cover is considered to be the cover of the stand with more than 70% of full stocking, or even the occurrence of natural succession stages (e.g. preparatory forest, although with lower cover, etc.) if it demonstrably provides protection against erosion
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FMP and records of participant in certification - communication with stakeholders - inspection in forest

Process number	8.5.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS IN FOREST MANAGEMENT (NOTABLY SOIL AND WATER)
Part	8.5.2. PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES
Full wording	Implementation of appropriately timed and intensity-appropriate management measures to maintain the functionality and resilience of forests aimed at water resources protection
Objective	To ensure the required quality and expected intensity of water resources also in connection with their ecological function. Technical operations shall minimize negative impacts on water resources.
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 364/2004 Coll. on waters as amended - Act NR SR 305/2018 Coll. on protected areas for natural water accumulation - Act 538/2005 Coll. on the natural healing waters, natural curative spas, spa sites and natural mineral waters as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.5.2.1 Forest management in the forest stands situated in spring areas, waterlogged sites, banks of water streams, reservoirs and protection zones of natural curative resources and sources of natural mineral water shall be preferably adapted to fulfilment of their protective functions</p> <p>8.5.2.2 Springs and waterlogged habitats shall be specially protected during logging; appropriate measures shall be taken to prevent damage to such sites</p> <p>8.5.2.3 Water protection zones shall be documented; water quality measures shall be kept</p> <p>8.5.2.4 In localities of natural accumulation of surface water and groundwater, it is prohibited to apply aerial application of fertilizers, plant protection products and biocidal products at a distance of less than 50 m from surface waters, exposed groundwater and water bodies, where water pollution or water quality hazards may occur.</p> <p>8.5.2.5 Skidding through watercourses shall be carried out only to the necessary extent and only after the assessment of other possibilities; damaged banks and river beds shall be returned to their original state</p> <p>8.5.2.6 No routes for movement of logging and skidding machinery shall not be designed through heavily waterlogged and wet localities</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - models of forest management - FMP and LHE of forest manager - results of state supervision - inspection in forest

Process number	8.5.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS IN FOREST MANAGEMENT (NOTABLY SOIL AND WATER)
Part	8.5.3. WATER RETENTION REGIME IN THE LANDSCAPE
Full wording	Reducing surface outfall by surface retention of rainwater in the country, its infiltration and evaporation, and maintaining the natural water regime by appropriate forest management measures in the country to minimize the potential for floods
Objective	To support water-regulating effect of forests
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 364/2004 Coll. on waters as amended - Act NR SR 7/2010 Coll. on flood protection as amended - Act NR SR 305/2018 Coll. on protected areas for natural water accumulation - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended - Measures of the Water plan of the Slovak Republic and Flood risk management plans of the Slovak Republic
Requirements	<p>8.5.3.1 Regeneration of forest stands in the water crucial areas shall be carried out under the shelter of a forest stand and the last phase of regeneration (final cut) shall be made only if the stocking of subsequent growth is more than 70% of full stocking; preference shall be given to the principles of close-to-nature forest management</p> <p>8.5.3.2 The river beds shall be kept in their natural state. Logging residues and fallen tree trunks creating a risk of outflow shall be removed from watercourses immediately after the end of harvesting.</p> <p>8.5.3.3 The banks of watercourses shall be kept in permanent cover with trees so that the banks are strengthened by the root system of riparian vegetation</p> <p>8.5.3.4 Waterlogged and wetted habitats shall not be flatly drained, they shall be kept in their natural state. Drainage and drying of wetlands are not allowed.</p> <p>8.5.3.5 The torrent controlling facilities shall be maintained in operating condition. Construction of new reservoirs for flood protection, including polders, shall be encouraged.</p>
Remark	8.5.3.1 Water management crucial areas are localities in which there has been an enormous outflow of torrential rainwater causing floods in the last 5 years
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of ŠS LH, ŠVS, municipalities, managers of watercourses - FMP and records of forest manager - flood risk management plans - inspection in forest

Process number	8.6.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS AND CONDITIONS
Part	8.6.1. ACCESSIBILITY OF FORESTS
Full wording	The public has guaranteed free access to forests. Forests create an environment for the public, a space for work and the maintenance of traditions.
Objective	To support the free use of forests by the public
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.6.1.1 Appropriate and safe forest land and infrastructure (accommodation facilities, forest transport network) shall be made available to the public all year round for recreation, leisure, recovery, sports and cultural activities. Their management shall take into account the purpose of the function and the aesthetic value of the forests.</p> <p>8.6.1.2 There shall be a cooperation in building and maintaining a network of marked hiking trails and bike paths</p> <p>8.6.1.3 Local communities are not excluded from forest benefits (forest attendance, fruit picking, access to wood)</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - models of forest management - FMP and LHE of forest manager - inspection in forest

Process number	8.6.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS AND CONDITIONS
Part	8.6.2. CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES IN FORESTS
Full wording	Places of special historical, cultural or spiritual significance which are important for meeting the needs of local communities shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the sites
Objective	To preserve historical, spiritual and cultural monuments and to adapt forestry operations in these localities
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Act NR SR 49/2002 Coll. on the protection of monuments, as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.6.2.1 Management measures shall take into account the existence of places of special historical, cultural or spiritual significance that are important for meeting the needs of local communities (e.g. health, livelihoods). The performance of forestry operations (mainly logging) shall be preceded by consultations with stakeholders.</p> <p>8.6.2.2 Alleys, tree lines, windfirm margins of shrubs and aesthetically pleasing memorial trees shall be left in a viable state, especially in places of landscape significance</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of the Monuments Board of SR, ŠOP SR, local governments - documentation of participant in certification - inspection in forest

Process number	8.6.
Process title	MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS AND CONDITIONS
Part	8.6.3. TRADITIONAL PRACTICES, SKILLS AND RESEARCH
Full wording	The latest scientific knowledge from forestry and natural science disciplines as well as other scientific disciplines, the knowledge of which has an impact on the improvement of SFM shall be used and promoted in forest management. Traditional management practices shall be applied wherever appropriate.
Objective	To apply best available practices in forest management
Legislative background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act NR SR 543/2002 Coll. on nature and landscape protection as amended - Act NR SR 326/2005 Coll. on forests as amended - Decree MP SR 453/2006 Coll. on forest management and forest protection as amended
Requirements	<p>8.6.3.1 Constructive cooperation in research projects with scientific and research institutions and implementation of their application outputs shall be ensured</p> <p>8.6.3.2 Monitoring and research sites shall be managed in accordance with the purpose of their establishment</p> <p>8.6.3.3 Practical experience and traditional skills related to forests, innovations and practices of forest owners, NGOs and local communities shall be utilised in forest management. They all shall have the opportunity to participate in their implementation, if appropriate and safe.</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information of the Monuments Board of SR, ŠOP SR, local governments - documentation of participant in certification - communication with stakeholders - inspection in forest

9 Performance evaluation

Process number	9.1.
Process title	MONITORING, MEASUREMENT, ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
Full wording	Regular monitoring of the state of forest resources and regular assessment of the level of forest management serves to detect weaknesses and risk management
Objective	Continuously monitor and evaluate the development of the state of the forests from internal and external sources
Requirements	<p>9.1.1 Continuous monitoring of the state of forest resources and regular assessment of the level of forest management shall minimally cover the need for reforestation, care for young forest stands, the need for stand tending, start and end of stand regeneration, condition of transport infrastructure, the impact of forest management on forests of high natural values, habitats of protected species, particularly valuable and rare habitats, including ecological, social and economic impacts. The results of monitoring shall be the basis for the creation of annual operational plans and operational management.</p> <p>9.1.2 Health status and vitality of forest stands shall be periodically monitored. Monitoring shall cover in particular key biotic, abiotic and anthropogenic harmful factors that have the potential to negatively affect the health status and vitality of forest ecosystems such as pests (<i>Ips typographus</i>, <i>Pityogenes chalcographus</i>, <i>Lymantria sp.</i>), diseases, overgrazing, overstocking, fire, as well as damage caused by climatic factors, air pollution or inappropriate management operations.</p> <p>9.1.3 The findings of the state administration and stakeholders shall be the subject of analysis and evaluation of their applicability in the implementation of SFM</p>
Method of verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - documentation of participant in certification - communication with stakeholders

Process number	9.2.
Process title	INTERNAL AUDIT
Full wording	Verification of the reliability of information, compliance with laws, regulations, PEFC requirements of the SFM standard, efficient and effective use of resources and achievement of operational objectives
Objective	Internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) conforms to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the participant's requirements for the implemented management system • the requirements of the national standard for sustainable forest management b) is effectively implemented and maintained
Requirements	The participant in the internal audit process shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.2.1 carry out continuous control of compliance with technological procedures and the quality of work performed 9.2.2 perform an internal audit of the compliance of management with the standard of sustainable forest management at least once a year to the extent specified by the certificate holder (self-assessment) 9.2.3 select auditors and perform audits to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the audit process 9.2.4 submit the results of audits and self-assessment to the relevant management of the group (certificate holder) 9.2.5 retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and audit results
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

Process number	9.3.
Process title	MANAGEMENT REVIEW
Full wording	The participant's highest body shall review compliance with the standard of sustainable forest management at least once a year
Objective	To ensure the continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of SFM
Requirements	<p>9.3.1 Annual management review shall at least include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the status of actions from previous management reviews b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system c) information on the SFM processes and results, including trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nonconformities and corrective actions - monitoring and measurement results - audit results - corrective actions received by the certificate holder for the group d) opportunities for continual improvement <p>9.3.2 Outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system</p> <p>9.3.3 Outputs of management reviews shall be documented and retained as evidence of the results of management reviews</p>
Remark	This applies to structurally structured participants
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

10 Improvement

Process number	10.1
Process title	NONCONFORMITY AND CORRECTIVE ACTION
Full wording	Appropriate corrective action shall be taken for all SFM nonconformities
Objective	To minimize incorrect compliance with SFM requirements
Requirements	<p>9.1.1 In case of nonconformity the participant shall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. take action to control and correct it ii. deal with the consequences b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. reviewing the nonconformity ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur c) implement any action needed; d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken e) make changes to the management system, if necessary <p>9.2.1 Corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the identified nonconformities</p> <p>9.2.2 All written information on all contexts and proceedings that led to the infringement shall be documented and maintain as evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken b) the results of any corrective action
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification

Process number	10.2
Process title	CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT
Full wording	Improvement is a basic precondition for maintaining the current level of SFM and responding to changes in external and internal conditions
Objective	To respond to external and internal conditions of SFM in a timely and appropriate manner
Requirements	Suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the management system and the SFM shall be continuously revised and improved
Method of verification	- documentation of participant in certification