

## Overview of the corrective actions for Slovenian Forest Management Standard document: Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management - PEFC SLO 03:2021

Corrective actions were implemented as amendments to final version of the standard on the basis of assessors comments and identified nonconformities in the document Final Report Conformity Assessment PEFC Balkan Forest Certification System

No.	General comments	BFCS Standard & Document	Amendments to address comments
<b>PEFC SLO FM PEFC SLO 03:2021 Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management</b>			
1	general	general	Title of the document was edited Wording "regional level" was erased from the title as it was confusing.
2	general	general	Document was edited.
3	general	general	Document was edited. Word vitality was used for proper translation.
4	benchmark requirement 4.h		A list of national legislation was added to the document. Quantity, quality and certified status of the forest are defined on transportation document.
5	benchmark requirement 4.i)		List of national legislation was added to the annex.
6	benchmark requirement 6.3.1.3	Organisation must implement anti-corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption and national anti corruption	Document was edited to be in line with benchmark requirement.

		legislation.	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bench mark requirement 7.4.1):</li> </ul>	7.4.1 Appropriate mechanisms must be in place at the level of regional representative and national governing body for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.	Document was edited to be in line with benchmark requirement.
8	Clause 7.5.2	7.5.2 The Rules of Procedure and other documented information must be regularly updated and relevant to the activities of the organization it's current organizational structure and applicable legislation.	<p>Document was edited to be in line with benchmark requirement.</p> <p>The Rules of Procedure and other documented information must be updated annually if needed and relevant to the activities of the organisation's organisational structure and applicable legislation.</p>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bench mark requirement 8.1.4c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clause 1.1.a.5</li> </ul>	<p>Document was edited to be in line with benchmark requirement 8.1.4.</p> <p>A list of national legislation that ensures public consultation and involvement of stakeholders was added in the annex.</p> <p>Criteria for limiting deforestation were added to chapter 1.1</p> <p>Following criteria shall be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- when forest conversion is compliant to the national and regional spatial planning programme and legislation;</li> <li>- when agreement has been reached with affected stakeholders;</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it represents a small share (no greater than 5 %) of an individual forest type within the certified area and has no negative impacts on threatened species (including vulnerable and rare species), forest eco-systems, cultural and social functions and on important habitats of threatened species or on other protected areas,</li> <li>- does not destroy forests with significantly high carbon stocks</li> <li>- when it contributes to the long-term preservation of economic and social benefits.</li> <li>- has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation</li> <li>- safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services</li> <li>- has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of recent deliberate poor forest management practices</li> <li>- is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.</li> </ul> <p>The conversion of abandoned agricultural land into forest land shall be carried out if economic, ecological, social or cultural functions of the landscape are thus improved.</p> <p>Afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems in forest is not allowed.</p>
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No.	PEFC requirement	BFCS Standard & Document	Amendments to address NC
<b>PEFC SLO FM PEFC SLO 03:2021 Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management</b>			
1	<p>8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock;</p>	<p>“1.1.a.5 Deforestation of a certified forest which is aimed at converting land into agricultural or other non-forest land use, including the conversion of forest into a plantation of forest trees, shall not be allowed except in justified cases. Following criteria shall be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- does not destroy larger areas of forests with significantly high carbon stock”</li> </ul>	<p>Wording was edited to :</p> <p>"- does not destroy forests with significantly high carbon stocks.</p> <p>Deforestation shall be allowed when in line with national strategies and legislation and spatial planning and includes consultation with interested and affected stakeholders. Forest conversion for agricultural purposes can be allowed only when forest is not classified as protective forest or a special purpose forest and contributes to the long-term preservation of economic and social benefits. Additional criteria are to be respected for forest certification as described in 1.1.a.5</p>
2	<p>8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.</p>	<p>no long-term preservation of economic and social benefits are mentioned</p>	<p>Wording "contributes to the long-term preservation of economic and social benefits" was added.</p>

3	<p>8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes;</p>	<p>“1Deforestation (...), including the conversion of forest into a plantation of forest trees, shall not be allowed except in justified cases. Following criteria shall be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- when agreement has been reached with materially and directly interested persons and organizations;”</li> </ul>	<p>8.1.6. Wording was added under point 5 to be in line with requirement. Additional explanation of legislation was added annex to SFM standard.</p> <p>If a conversion of degraded forest to forest plantation would be proposed a public announcement must be made at the level of municipality land use plan. All stakeholders are included in the process.</p> <p>“Severely degraded forests are by Slovenian legislation forest land and cannot be changed to agricultural land with no public debate, as any change to plantation of forest trees would mean change of land use.</p> <p>In this sense a public announcement is made for municipal land use changes of forest area.</p> <p>National legislation describing Rules on the content, format and drawing-up of municipal spatial plans were added to the annex.</p>
4	<p>8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation;</p>	<p>The conversion of abandoned agricultural land into forest land shall be carried out if economic, ecological, social or cultural functions of the landscape are thus improved.</p>	<p>Wording was edited under point 5:</p> <p>-“has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation”</p> <p>Additional explanation of legislation was added annex to SFM standard.</p> <p>According to Slovene legislation forest plantation is not forest land according</p> <p>In practice degraded forest is converted to better forest through silvicultural practices including planting. National legislation does not allow forest plantations on forest land use areas.</p> <p>Plantations of forest trees on agricultural land are outside the scope of SFM certification. And are in Slovenia marginal in terms of area or quantity.</p> <p>“Severely degraded forests are by Slovenian legislation forest land.</p>

			<p>Any change to forest plantation would mean change of land use as plantation of forest trees is agricultural land.</p> <p>Conversion of severely degraded forest to better forest through plantation can occur and is mentioned in Forest act in definitions under article 3 paragraph 10 as silvicultural measure and is not a conversion."</p>
5	<p>8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services</p>	<p>Wording in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- when it contributes to the long-term preservation of economic and social benefits.</li> </ul>	<p>Wording was added under point 5:</p> <p>"safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services"</p>
6	<p>8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>g) has a land history providing evidence that the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- when it contributes to the long-term preservation of economic and social benefits.</li> </ul>	<p>Wording was added and limited to recent forest management practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of recent deliberate poor forest management practices;</li> </ul> <p>Note: Forest management practices in previous centuries frequently included withdrawal of leaves from the forest for the purpose of agricultural soil fertilization. Such activities resulted in degradation of soils.</p> <p>Degraded forests are forest land by spatial planning legislation.</p>

	degradation is not the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices;		
7	<p>8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.</p>	-	<p>Exact wording was added under point 5</p> <p>- is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.</p> <p>The topic is not applicable for Slovenia as plantations on forest areas are not allowed.</p> <p>Additional explanation of legislation was added to the annex of the standard.</p> <p>Forest act in definitions under article 3 paragraph 10 as silvicultural measure that can include planting but all possibilities of natural regeneration are considered beforehand as part of Slovenian forestry tradition and national strategies and consequently forest management plans.</p>
8	8.2.5 The standard requires that the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during forest management operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of	Covered by legislation.	<p>Wording was added in chapter 2.5: Emergency oil spill kit shall be available when using forest mechanization.</p> <p>Requirement was already covered by legislation as by recent audits. All machinery must have by legislation an "emergency oil spillage kit"</p> <p>A list of national legislation obliging forest workers to use "oil spillage kit" was added to the annex.</p>

	environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place.		
9	8.4.5 The standard requires that for reforestation and afforestation origins of native species that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.	Covered by legislation.	<p>Wording was edited in chapter 4.4:            "Planting and sowing of foreign tree species and tree species (allochthonous) and not adaptable to the site (non-appropriate provenances) shall be prohibited, unless such activities are foreseen in the forests-management or silvicultural plans and negative impacts of introduction can be avoided or minimized."</p> <p>List of legislation with explanations was added in annex 6.</p> <p><i>Note: For this requirement legislation should be respected.            Legislation defines also regular inspections of regeneration material at nurseries.</i></p>
10	8.6.5 The standard requires that the best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples. Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be encouraged.	-	<p>Wording was added in chapter 6.6 :            "Benefits arising from the utilization of local and traditional knowledge shall be encouraged and shared. "</p>