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National Forest Stewardship Standard for Finland

The Finnish FSC Association

A Working Group of the FSC - Forest Stewardship Council

8.3.3. The transfer of ownership shall be clearly defined regarding the goods covered by the certificate.

Verification: Timber contracts, bookkeeping of the holding, forest management plan.

8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.

8.4.1. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan as soon as such needs are observed

Verification: Management plan, monitoring results.

8.5 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.

8.5.1. A summary of the results under 8.2. shall be made publicly available at the end of each planning period

Verification: The availability of monitoring results.

PRINCIPLE #9: MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

Note: The concept of High Conservation Value Forest is defined in Annex 5

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.

9.1.1. The forest management shall perform an evaluation that results in the identification and mapping of high conservation attributes for the forest management unit, if such exist.

Note: A landscape ecological plan defined under Criterion 7.1 will be drawn up in relation to the size of the forest property. Criteria 3.3., 4.4., 5.4., 5.5, 5.7., and 6.4. define how sites with social/cultural value shall be taken into account in the forest management. Forest and environmental authorities provide expert services in identification, location and protection of sites of high conservation value.

Verification: Documented results of the assessment. Management plan, maps, field inspection, interviews, statements by the involved parties.

9.1.2 The ecological values of (a) traditional and (b) cultural landscapes and (c) nationally important scenic landscapes shall be preserved in accordance with the guidelines delivered by the regional Environment Centres and/or the National Board of Antiquities

Verification: Chosen sites, results of consultation, Landscape Working Group report (Ministry of the Environment), management plan, guidelines provided by regional Environment Centres and the National Board of Antiquities

9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.

9.2.1. During the consultation process connected to the certification phase, the forest management and the certification body shall focus on the identified conservation attributes

Verification: Certification body.

9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.

9.3.1. The forest management demonstrates that the management strategies and measures selected to maintain or restore High Conservation Values are consistent with a precautionary approach, and with respect to each conservation attribute:

- a) Will create conditions with a very high probability of securing the long-term maintenance or the restoration of the applicable conservation attribute;
- b) Are being implemented; and,
- c) Are proving effective or are adapted as required based on the results of monitoring.

Verification: Documentation of management strategies and those portions addressing the above points. Field observations. Monitoring data.

Note: Precautionary principle has been applied in the wording of Criterion 6.4, which only allows measures which aim to preserve conservation values or enhancing them. The management plan shall determine how the conservation values of socially significant sites defined in Criteria 3.3.1, 4.4.2, 5.4.2, 5.5.1 and 5.7.1 are addressed.

9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.

9.4.1. (a) Measures targeted at preserving or enhancing the attributes of high conservation value (Criteria 3.3., 4.4., 5.4., 5.5., 5.7. and 6.4) shall be documented in the forest management plan and (b) their impact shall be assessed annually.

Verification: Field inspection, interview, notes.

PRINCIPLE #10: PLANTATIONS

Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 - 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

Note: In the Finnish context, plantations refer to the forest stands established on the abandoned agricultural lands or on abandoned peat production sites. They are very few in number, and usually covering only small areas. The aim of these plantations is to allow the site to develop towards the natural forest type, even if the process is envisaged to take several rotation periods.

Annex 5: Terms and Definitions

Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry	The Act on state subsidies to certain forest management practises. The level of the support is specified to three different geographical regions.
Environmental Impact Assessment	The Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (EIA) came into force on September 1, 1994. The act is applied to projects where compliance with international agreements involving Finland requires assessment to be carried out, or which may have significant adverse environmental impacts on Finnish wildlife or other special features of the environment. Certain projects always require an EIA procedure. These include oil refineries, pulp, paper and board mills, large harbour projects, motorways and major hazardous waste disposal facilities. The procedure can also be applied in individual cases to a specific project or in the case of an essential change in an already completed project. In such cases, the Ministry of the Environment decides on the need for an EIA.
Everyman's right	Everyone has the right, among others, to walk and ski and collect berries and mushrooms in the forest disregarding who owns the forest
Final felling	Harvesting a mature forest with clear felling, regeneration felling, shelter wood felling or strip felling.
Forest Management Plan	A plan for using and managing the forest property for a certain period of time (usually 10 years), designed jointly with the forest owner and a forestry professional.
Key biotope	Site maintained intact also in managed forests due to its nature protection values (e.g. herb-rich sites, brook sides, shorelines and forests in archipelago).
High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF)	<p>The following habitats shall always be considered as HCVF, as defined by the Forest Act 12 Dec 1996/1093:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- immediate surroundings of small waters (springs, immediate surroundings of spring fens, and wet hollows in the permanent beds of streams and small pools);- herb-rich and grassy hardwood-spruce swamps, ferny hardwood-spruce swamps, eutrophic hardwood-spruce swamps;- eutrophic fens;- fertile patches of herb-rich forest (patches of fertile dry, fertile fresh and fertile moist herb-rich forest);- heathland forest islets in undrained wetlands;- gorges, ravines as well as steep bluffs, and the underlying forest. <p>These habitats shall be protected throughout the whole country, independent of their area and of how easily they may be distinguished or how representative they are regionally.</p> <p>The following habitats shall always be considered as HCVF, as defined by the Nature Conservation Act (20 Dec 1996/1096):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- naturally regenerated stands with significant proportion of southern broad-leaved species;- hazel groves;- black alder swamps;- sand beaches in natural state;- coastal meadows;- treeless or naturally almost treeless sand dunes;- juniper meadows;- coppice meadows;- single trees and tree groups overlooking open landscapes. <p>The following habitats shall always be considered as HCVF, as defined at 'Metsäluonnon arvokkaat elinympäristöt' by Meriluoto and Sojinen (1998) and 'Natura 2000 –</p>

luontotyyppiopas' by Airaksinen and Karttunen (1998):

- Southern slopes of eskers,
- potholes,
- forest pastures,
- slash-and-burn meadows,
- forest meadows,
- herb-rich sedge-dominated spruce and pine swamps.
- *Myrtillus*, (*Rubus*) *chamaemorus*, and *Equisetum* spruce swamps, spruce swamps with shallow peat layer

Near-natural old forests, having at least 10 m³ of varying types of dead wood per hectare, shall always be considered as HCVF regardless of their size. Definitions for near natural old forests are available in the Report of the Working Group for Protection of Old-Growth Forests, Volume II, and in the Habitat Guide for Natura 2000. Regarding old broad-leaved forests, the definition is found in 'Metsäluonnon arvokkaat elinympäristöt' by Meriluoto and Soininen (1998).

Known occurrences of nationally or regionally endangered species shall always be considered as HCVF

A buffer zone at least 20 m wide shall be preserved for habitats defined by the Forest Act (12 Dec 1996/1093), old-growth forests and endangered species dependent on sheltered microclimates. The buffer zone is included in the protected area quota introduced at Indicator 6.4.1. The buffer zone shall be considered as HCVF

LANDSCAPE ECOLOGICAL PLANNING

Landscape Ecological Planning a participatory, multi-stakeholder process, which aims at socially, ecologically and economically sustainable utilization of natural resources in the target region. The process combines the local, scientific and professional knowledge into a GIS based land use plan.

Maintenance ditching

Clearing old ditch networks with a digging machine.

Marking the trees

Labelling the trees to be cut or set aside before harvesting the forest.

Plantation

In the Finnish context, plantations refer to the forest stands established on the abandoned agricultural lands or on abandoned peat production sites. They are very few in number, and usually covering only small areas. The aim of these plantations is to allow the site to develop towards the natural forest type, even if the process is envisaged to take several rotation periods.

Prescribed burning

Fire applied in a knowledgeable manner on a specific forest area under selected weather conditions to accomplish predetermined, well-defined management and conservation objectives.

Restoration

Retrieving a site closer to its pristine stage; e.g. blocking ditches in peat lands, imitating natural disturbance dynamics with prescribed burning etc.

Sámi homeland

Juridical definition for areas where the Sámi people have traditionally practised their indigenous livelihoods. Sámi region covers the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki, and the part of the Sodankylä municipality belonging to the Reindeer Owners' Association of Lappi.

Skolt Village Assembly

The Skolt Sámi have an independent official organisation recognised by the Skolt Act of 1995. Skolt Village Assemblies (*Siidsääbbar*) exist in the Näätämö and the Nellim-Keväjärvi districts and are the main forums for dealing with everyday Skolt affairs. There is also a Skolt Council (*Säämsudvõðzz*) and a Skolt Alderman (*Õuddooumaz*). Skolts are also represented in the Sámi Parliament. The Skolt Area, where the Skolt were resettled after the annexation of the Petsamo