

FSC/NL

Final version of the National Dutch FSC¹ Standard for certification of good forest management

This document replaces doc. "FSC 03 01 E Def" d.d.24-01-03

August, November 2004

For an explanation of changes compared to FSC 01 03 E, FSC 02 02 E , FSC 02 03 E and FSC 03 01 E Def see next page

¹ FSC is the Forest Stewardship Council, an international association of persons and organisations that have a concern for good forest management.

Explanation of changes

In an earlier (draft) version of the Dutch FSC standard (FSC 01 03 E d.d. 21-01-02) the structure and formulation of all FSC principles had been brought into line with the international FSC standard. Where this deviated from the Dutch interpretation, the previous text had been added as an explanation in the right-hand column. In addition, unclear and vague formulations had been adapted or clarified, after consulting the FSC secretariat following the first pre-evaluation.

These changes were considered to be appropriate under the mandate given to the secretary by the FSC working group at its 10th meeting on 30-11-00.

However, the next version of the Dutch FSC standard (FSC 02 02 E d.d. 03-06-02) constituted a profound revision, following urgent advice of the international FSC secretariat at the second pre-evaluation. The main changes resulted from the obligation to include not only the principles but all principles and criteria of the international FSC standard in their exact wording. The FSC secretariat had been duly informed of the strong opinions against such an approach within the Dutch working group. However, it did not have the liberty to deviate from the international guidelines that had been tightened recently.

In addition to these profound changes, some improvements had been made to the formulation of the standard in order to clarify its meaning.

As this revision went beyond the mandate of the Dutch secretary, the resulting standard has been put before the Dutch FSC working group for approval at its 11th meeting on 20-08-02. Shortly before the meeting additional comments from the FSC secretariat were received based on an informal pre-evaluation in order to assist the Dutch secretariat.

After careful consideration and thorough discussions, the working group formulated several guidelines for the final revision of the standard and decided to set up a small taskforce to work out a definitive proposal to be submitted to FSC for approval.

The proposal (FSC 02 03 E marked d.d. 21-10-02) was circulated to all members of the working group and the few remaining comments have been processed in this final version.

Version FSC 03 01 E Def has been submitted to FSC for formal approval on 09-05-2003. Informal feedback from FSC International made clear that approval would not be granted, due to a number of preconditions. The current version (FSC 04 02 E def d.d. 23-08-2004) has been revised in order to solve the preconditions.

1: comp liance with laws and FSC principles	<i>verifiers</i> ² / explanation
<p>Principle 1: Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.</p>	<p>For the Dutch standard this principle regards all activities of the forest owner that relate to his³ forest management.</p>
<p>Criterion 1.1: Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.</p>	<p>Refer to Annex I for relevant legal and administrative reference documents (1.1).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 1.1.1: The forest owner respects the legal framework regarding forests and forestry in general and fulfils the obligations that result from it for his specific forest enterprise and forest management. <p>norm⁴: No violations have been established of national or local laws or other legal obligations that are applicable to the forest enterprise or the forest management.</p>	<p>This concerns mainly: the Dutch Constitution ("Grondwet"), Forest Act ("Boswet"), Nature Conservation Act ("Natuurbeschermingswet"), Flora and Fauna Act ("Flora- en Faunawet"), Town and Country Planning Act ("Wet Ruimtelijke Ordening"), Environmental Management Act ("Wetgeving Milieubeheer"), Hazardous Materials Act ("Wetgeving gevaarlijke stoffen"), Regulations and by-laws of the Dutch Forestry Board ("Verordeningen Bosschap").</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Business administration, Persons or authorities concerned</i>⁵</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 1.1.2: The forest owner fulfils all administrative requirements resulting from laws or regulations regarding his forest enterprise and forest management. <p>norm: No violations have been established of administrative requirements that are applicable to the forest enterprise or the forest management.</p>	<p>This concerns mainly the requirements resulting from the following policy regulations: Nature Conservation Act ("Natuurbeschermingswet"), Landscape Act ("Natuurschoonwet"), Flora and Fauna Act ("Flora- en Faunawet"), Grant Scheme for Nature management ("Regeling Functiebeloning" and "Regeling Natuurbeheer"),</p>

² Guidelines for *verifiers* are written in italic; explanations are in standard font; specification of indicators by **norms** is separately mentioned in the first column, where applicable.

³ Please also read 'she' and 'hers' where 'he' and 'his' are used.

⁴ A **norm** is a further specification of an indicator, stating the required condition or target.

⁵ Where *persons or authorities concerned* or *stakeholders* are mentioned, this refers not only to owner, manager and/ or tenant, but also to individuals or organisations related to the forest enterprise with whom the certification body can verify whether the forest management meets the FSC standard.

1: compliance with laws and FSC principles	<i>verifiers</i> ² / explanation
Criterion 1.2: All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.	Grant Scheme for Afforestation of Agricultural Land ("Stimuleringsregeling Bosaanleg op Landbouwgronden"), Provincial Grant Schemes and other regulations for nature and forest management ("Provinciale regelingen") <i>Verifiers: Business administration, Persons or authorities concerned</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 1.2.1: The forest owner complies with the financial obligations of all legal and other regulations, on the basis of which he entered into an agreement regarding his forest enterprise and forest management. <p>norm: No violations have been established of the financial obligations of the forest owner regarding his forest enterprise or forest management.</p>	<i>Verifiers: Business administration, Persons or authorities concerned</i>
Criterion 1.3: In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.	Refer to Annex I for relevant multilateral treaties and European agreements (1.2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 1.3.1: The forest owner respects all applicable international treaties regarding his forest enterprise and forest management. <p>norm: No violations have been established of any international treaty applicable to the forest enterprise or the forest management.</p>	<i>Verifiers: Business administration, Persons or authorities concerned</i>
Criterion 1.4: Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purpose of certification, on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.	<i>Verifiers: Business administration, Persons or authorities concerned, Dutch FSC working group</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 1.4.1: In case of conflicts between laws or regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria, the certification body and the relevant parties involved have come to a written agreement to resolve the conflict. 	

1: comp liance with laws and FSC principles*verifiers²/ explanation***Criterion 1.5: Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.**

- **Indicator 1.5.1:** The forest owner can show proof of measures which have been taken to protect the property⁶ from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.
norm: These measures should include surveillance and the reporting of illegal activities to the proper authorities.

*Verifier: Management plan, Business administration, Field visit, Authorities concerned***Criterion 1.6: Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.**

- **Indicator 1.6.1:** The forest owner declares that he will comply with the guidelines of this Dutch FSC standard to the letter and to the spirit for a period of at least five years and that he strives to continue also in the long term the sustainable management of his forest property according to the FSC principles and criteria.
norm: The explicit choice to comply with the FSC standard at present and for the future is laid down in a written and signed declaration; the forest owner can indicate how this choice will affect the daily practice of the forest enterprise and the forest management.

*Verifiers: Field visit, Business administration, Management plan***2: tenure and usage rights and responsibilities***verifiers / explanation***Principle 2** Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

For the Dutch standard this principle includes rights of ownership and is restricted to forest land and forest resources.

⁶ In the framework of this standard, forest property means: the forest area of one owner or a group of owners for which application for certification is submitted.

2: tenure and usage rights and responsibilities
verifiers / explanation

Criterion 2.1: Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.

- **Indicator 2.1.1:** Rights of ownership and possible tenure and usage rights regarding the forest property are laid down in writing and its legal coverage is clearly indicated.

norm: The owner has at his disposal the relevant documents to demonstrate his legal rights to the forest property.

Verifiers: Documents proving legal right of property and a map delineating the property

- **Indicator 2.1.2:** In the case that others, such as local communities, can also exercise a right to the forest property, the owner has documents at his disposal in which everybody's rights and duties are well defined.

Verifiers: Written agreement(s) between the owner and (groups of) person(s) or communities entitled to the use

Criterion 2.2: Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

- **Indicator 2.2.1:** Legal or customary tenure or use rights of local communities are identified and documented. In the case that others, such as local communities, can also exercise a right to the forest property, the owner has documents at his disposal in which the control over forest operations has been agreed upon
- **Indicator 2.2.2:** If local communities can exercise legal or customary tenure or use rights, a written agreement between the forest owner and legal representatives of the local community is available, guaranteeing the local community the extent of control over forest operations needed to exercise their legal or customary rights.

Verifiers: Documents proving legal or customary tenure or use rights.

Verifiers: Written agreement(s) between the forest owner and legal representative of the local community

Criterion 2.3: Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from

2: tenure and usage rights and responsibilities	verifiers / explanation
<p>being certified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 2.3.1: In case of disputes over tenure claims and use rights, the owner has documents at his disposal in which the dispute resolution is documented and an appropriate procedure has been followed. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Written documentation on dispute resolution, persons or authorities concerned</i></p>
3: indigenous peoples' rights	verifiers / explanation
<p>Principle 3: The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.</p>	<p>For the Dutch standard this principle regards all people as having equal rights to own, use and manage their forest property and its related resources, products and values, and that these rights shall be recognised and respected. Under Dutch Constitution all people in the Netherlands have the same fundamental rights⁷; there is no such category as indigenous peoples as defined by the United Nations⁸.</p>
<p>Criterion 3.1: Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</p>	<p><i>Verifier: There are no indigenous peoples in the Netherlands; the Dutch Constitution guarantees equal rights; so this criterion is self-explanatory</i></p>
<p>Criterion 3.2: Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly,</p>	<p><i>Verifier: There are no indigenous peoples in the Netherlands; the Dutch Constitution guarantees</i></p>
<p>⁷ Article 1 [equality] of the Dutch Constitution (adopted 1983) states: "All persons in the Netherlands shall be treated equally in equal circumstances. Discrimination on the grounds of religion, belief, political opinion, race, or sex or on any other grounds whatsoever shall not be permitted."</p>	
<p>⁸ This refers to the definition of indigenous people from the United Nations Submission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and its Study of the Problem of Discrimination against Indigenous Populations: UN Doc. E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/1986/7/Add. 4 para 379 (1986).</p>	

3: indigenous peoples' rights	verifiers / explanation
the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.	equal rights; so this criterion is self-explanatory Refer also to Criterion 2.3.
Criterion 3.3: Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.	Verifier: There are no indigenous peoples in the Netherlands; the Dutch Constitution guarantees equal rights; so this criterion is self-explanatory Refer also to Indicator 9.1.2.
Criterion 3.4: Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	Verifier: There are no indigenous peoples in the Netherlands; the Dutch Constitution guarantees equal rights; so this criterion is self-explanatory
4: community relations and worker's rights	verifiers / explanation
Principle 4: Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.	For the Dutch standard this principle regards the society concerned in general and the forest workers in particular.
Criterion 4.1: The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.	This criterion is not meant to interfere with international rules for public procurement ⁹ .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.1.1: The forest owner provides opportunities for economic participation of qualified employees, suppliers and contractors in the management and use of his forest property. <p>norm: When ordering goods or services or providing employment, no ungrounded restrictions are imposed to exclude qualified market parties from competing.</p>	Verifiers: Business administration, Persons concerned
<p>⁹ This refers to rules and agreements as published by the World Trade Organization (http://www.wto.org/wto/english/docs_e/legal_e/gpr-94_01_e.htm) and The European Commission (http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/publproc/index.htm)</p>	

4: community relations and worker's rights	verifiers / explanation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.1.2: The relevant instructions and collective regulations concerning terms of employment, labour relations, the type of labour and working conditions, training and quality improvement have been implemented to improve the skills of the employees. 	<p>This refers to the collective labour agreement for forestry workers ("CAO Bosbouw") or a similar arrangement, schools for forestry, the apprentice system ("leerlingstelsel"), criteria in the regulation for the recognition of forestry contractors, competitions for forestry workers ("bosbouw - beroepswedstrijden") and the national organisation for professional education in the agricultural sector ("AEQUOR").</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.1.3: When contracting out works exceeding 2.500 euro, contractors have been employed who meet collectively established criteria of professionalism, quality and reliability. <p>norm: The terms are in accordance with the criteria of the regulation on the recognition of forestry contractors ("<i>Erkenningsregeling bosaannemers</i>") or demonstrably equivalent.</p>	<p><i>Verifiers: Business administration, Persons concerned</i></p>
<p>Criterion 4.2: Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</p>	<p><i>Verifiers: Business administration, Management plan, Persons concerned</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.2.1: The forest owner takes care that the instructions covering health and safety are met with all activities that are undertaken under his responsibility in his forest property. <p>norm: No violations have been established of applicable laws and regulations covering health and safety of people.</p>	<p>Refer also to Indicator 6.3.3.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.2.2: The relevant instructions and collective regulations concerning working conditions are implemented by or on behalf of the forest owner when contracting and carrying out activities. 	<p>This refers mainly to the requirements following the law on working conditions ("ARBO-wet"), the collective labour agreement in the forestry sector ("CAO Bosbouw"), the regulations of the Dutch Forestry Board ("Boschap") and the regulation on the recognition of forestry contractors ("<i>Erkenningsregeling bosaannemers</i>").</p>
	<p><i>Verifiers: Business administration, Persons concerned</i></p>
	<p><i>Verifiers: Business administration, Field visit,</i></p>

4: community relations and worker's rights	verifiers / explanation
<p>norm: The terms are in accordance with the criteria of the regulation on the recognition of forestry contractors ("<i>Erkenningsregeling bosaanemers</i>") or demonstrably equivalent.</p>	<i>Persons concerned</i>
<p>Criterion 4.3: The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.3.1: No violations have been established of the rights of workers to organize and negotiate on their labour conditions. 	<i>Verifiers: Business administration, Persons concerned</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.3.2: Employment contracts are based on the collective labour agreement that is prevailing for the forestry sector, or on an equivalent arrangement. 	<i>Verifiers: Business administration, Persons concerned</i>
<p>Criterion 4.4: Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups directly affected by management operations.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.4.1: In the case of drastic changes in forest management or forest use on a scale exceeding that of usual¹⁰ management operations, the people concerned have been informed in advance and have got the opportunity to react. 	<p>This refers to communication initiated by the forest owner regarding public acceptance for his forest management.</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Correspondence, Persons concerned</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.4.2: The forest owner shall demonstrate how wishes and complaints of the people concerned regarding forest management or forest use have been actively taken into account in the decision-making and implementation of management operations. 	<p>This refers to the way in which the forest owner deals with reactions from the public.</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Correspondence, Persons concerned</i></p>
<p>Criterion 4.5: Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.</p>	

¹⁰ What is usual should be considered in comparison to the preceding management plans.

4: community relations and worker's rights	verifiers / explanation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.5.1: The owner can provide evidence of measures to avoid loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources or livelihoods of local peoples. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Correspondence, Management plan, Field visit, Persons concerned</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 4.5.2: In case of grievances, or loss or damage, the owner has documents at his disposal in which the resolution of the matter is laid down. Agreements about compensation - if applicable - have been documented and signed by parties concerned. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Correspondence, Written agreements, Persons concerned</i></p>
5: benefits from the forest	verifiers / explanation
<p>Principle 5: Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.</p>	<p>For the Dutch standard this principle focuses on the viability of the forest property and includes ecological functions.</p>
<p>Criterion 5.1: Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.</p>	<p>Forest management strives towards a planned and sustainable production of goods and services of the forest property in the long term. This mainly refers to the variety of products and services as a factor determining the quality in fulfilling a number of functions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 5.1.1: All money transactions concerning forest management activities should be documented in the business administration of the property. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Management plan, Persons concerned</i></p>
<p>norm: All documented money transactions can be linked to specific forestry activities (e.g. harvest, weed control).</p>	<p>Refer also to Principle 7.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 5.1.2: The forest owner can provide documents showing that cost-benefit analysis takes place periodically, preferably in cycle with the management plan. The analysis shows that the forest management plan is economically viable and the following factors have been taken into account: ecological, social and economic conditions, and the necessary investment to guarantee quality and productivity of the forest property in the long run. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Management plan, Business administration, Persons concerned</i></p>
	<p>Refer also to Principle 7.</p>

5: benefits from the forest
verifiers / explanation

- **Indicator 5.1.3:** A yearly budget plan is available.

Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons concerned

Norm: The budget plan reflects that forestry activities stated in the management plan have been taken into consideration.

Criterion 5.2: Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.

This criterion is not meant to interfere with international rules for public procurement¹¹.

- **Indicator 5.2.1:** Forest management aims at fulfilling several functions at the same time by the same forest property, proportionate to the allocation of specific functions¹².

This refers to the functions: nature, landscape, recreation, timber production and environment.

norm: The basic assumption is that all woodlands in the Netherlands are multifunctional. The allocation of functions within this multifunctional concept by the owner is directive for the assessment of forest management by the certification body.

Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Persons concerned

- **Indicator 5.2.2:** Forest management contributes to conserving and enhancing natural and landscape values.

Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Persons concerned

norm: Forest management makes a well-balanced contribution to natural and landscape values, proportionate to the functions allocated.

Refer also to Criteria 6.2 and 6.3.

- **Indicator 5.2.3:** Forest management contributes to providing opportunities for outdoor recreation.

This refers to the minimum requirements for opening up to and accessibility for the public. These norms reflect the high importance that is attached to the recreational use of Dutch forests. Refer to Criterion 6.2 and Annex I for endangered

norm: The forest property is open to the public during daylight hours on roads, paths and waterways for quiet forms of outdoor recreation¹³, for at least 8 months per year (of which the period May-August is compulsory). Access may be regulated by zoning and financial

¹¹ This refers to rules and agreements as published by the World Trade Organization (http://www.wto.org/wto/english/docs_e/legal_e/gpr-94_01_e.htm) and The European Commission (http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/publproc/index.htm)

¹² This choice for the multifunctional character is a logical consequence of the widely accepted view that all woodlands in the Netherlands fulfil more than one function at a time, to a different extent. This should be reflected in forest management. The formulation leaves sufficient room for the owner to choose for a clear accent. Nevertheless the standard is meant for proper forest management as a whole and it cannot be interpreted as a standard neither for purely nature management, nor for purely recreational management or purely production management.

¹³ According to the conditions of the Landscape Act ("Natuurschoonwet") and the Subsidy Scheme for Nature Management ("Regeling Natuurbeheer")

5: benefits from the forest	verifiers / explanation
<p>measures (like membership or entrance fees) as tools of proper recreation management. Access may be restricted to prevent negative impact on endangered species or delicate ecosystems, to protect the privacy of people living on the premises, and to guard visitors from danger.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 5.2.4: Forest management contributes to the production, marketing and processing of timber (wood material). <p>norm: Forest management makes a well-balanced contribution to the production of timber, proportionate to the functions allocated. When deciding on planning and implementing forest management activities, the opportunities for marketing and processing have been taken into account.</p>	<p>species.</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Contracts Subsidy Scheme for Nature Management ("Regeling Natuurbeheer")</i></p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5.3: Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 5.3.1: Waste from forest operations such as oil and fuel containers is removed from the site and deposited in a safe and proper way. Indicator 5.3.2: When performing harvesting and processing operations, measures have been taken to minimize damage to other forest resources such as remaining trees and undergrowth. 	<p>Refer also to Criterion 6.7.</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Business administration</i></p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Business administration</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5.4: Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 5.4.1: More than one single product and/or service is offered to the local community. Indicator 5.4.2: Income is generated from more than a single forest product or service. Sources of income are e.g. timber revenues, subsidies, hunting revenues. 	<p>Refer also to Criterion 5.2 and 7.1.</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons concerned</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5.5: Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p>	<p>Refer also to Criterion 6.3 and 7.1.</p>

5: benefits from the forest	<i>verifiers / explanation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 5.5.1: Areas with a high potential for forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries are identified and recorded on maps. • Indicator 5.5.2: For all high potential areas the management plan provides information on how the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds or fisheries will be maintained and, where appropriate enhanced. 	<p>This refers to recreational access, ancient and ornamental trees, water resources, soil quality and biodiversity.</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons concerned</i></p> <p><i>Verifiers: Management plan</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5.6: The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</p>	<p>Refer also to Criteria 7.1 and 8.2.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 5.6.1: An estimate is available of the annual increment of the growing stock, based on recent inventories. Guidelines are available for the maximum average annual yield, based on the estimated increment. The average yearly harvest should not exceed the maximum average annual yield. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons concerned</i></p>

6: environmental impact	<i>verifiers / explanation</i>
<p>Principle 6: Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p>	<p>For the Dutch standard this principle also includes improving of biodiversity and environmental quality.</p>
<p>Criterion 6.1: Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed – appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources – and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.</p>	

6: environmental impact*verifiers / explanation*

- **Indicator 6.1.1:** Documents shall be produced to show how the results of the preceding assessment have been taken into account

norm: This concerns operations at a scale > 5 ha (for plantations > 10 ha) or > 20% of the forest property.

Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Persons concerned

- **Indicator 6.1.2:** Depending on the extent of operations and the qualities of the area, measures have been taken to prevent negative ecological effects. This applies in any case to transformation management, changes in management system, changes in water levels and increased intensity of forest operations

Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Persons concerned

Criterion 6.2: Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.

- **Indicator 6.2.1:** The forest property has been screened for the presence of rare and endangered plant and animal species and the relevant areas and field characteristics have been indicated on a map.

norm: This inventory concerns: old trees with cavities for birds and mammals and nesting trees for birds of prey; rare and threatened species of trees, shrubs and herbs; also other threatened species, when data are available for the concerned area.

This refers to species and areas that have been indicated as such in policy documents; often they have been inventoried countrywide already. See for instance "Natuurbeleidsplan" (nature policy plan), "Bosbeleidsplan" (forest policy plan), "Natuur voor mensen, mensen voor natuur" (policy document for nature, forest and landscape in the 21st century), "Red lists" of endangered species, "Flora- en Faunawet" (act on protection of flora and fauna), "EU Vogel- en Habitatrichtlijn" (EU directives for the conservation of wild birds, natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna) and "Natuurbeschermings wet" (nature conservation act).

Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Map of the forest enterprise

6: environmental impact	verifiers / explanation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.2.2: When deciding on planning and implementing forest management activities and forest use (all forest types), the habitat requirements of rare and endangered plant and animal species have explicitly been taken into account. norm: Special attention is paid to zoning and timing of forest management activities and forest use. Precautions are taken against unauthorised use. • Indicator 6.2.3: Special Protection Zones, legally appointed by the Dutch government for the protection of species and habitats, are identified and recorded on maps. • Indicator 6.2.4: Measures (e.g. surveillance) have been taken to prevent inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting. 	<p>Refer also to Criterion 1.5 and Annex I (1.1).</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons or authorities concerned</i></p> <p>The EU birds and habitats directives request appointment by national law of Special Protection Zones for the protection of rare and endangered species.</p>
<p>Criterion 6.3: Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) forest regeneration and succession; b) genetic, species and ecosystem diversity; c) natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.3.1: In forest management, natural regeneration processes have been used in principle, where possible and advisable. • Indicator 6.3.2: In forest management the size of clear-felling areas is limited to a maximum of 2 hectares, unless this is not advisable in the context of transformation management. For plantations the maximum size for clear-felling areas is 5 hectares (refer also to Criterion 10.1). • Indicator 6.3.3: Forest management aims at a certain percentage of indigenous tree species. norm for percentage: At least 50% of the total basal area of the property under certification, to be achieved within a period of 30 years. In the case of group-certification the norm is applied to the total property of the group. For plantations a norm of 10% is applied. (refer also to Criterion 10.1). norm for indigenous: one or more of the following tree and shrub species: <i>Acer campestre</i>, <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>, <i>Aesculus carnea</i>, <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>, <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>, <i>Alnus incana</i>, <i>Amelanchier lamarckii</i>, <i>Andromeda polifolia</i>, <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>, <i>Berberis vulgaris</i>, <i>Betula pendula</i>, <i>Betula pubescens</i>, <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>, <i>Carpinus betulus</i>, <i>Castanea sativa</i>, <i>Clematis vitalba</i>, <i>Cornus mas</i>, <i>Cornus sanguinea</i>, <i>Corylus avellana</i>, <i>Crataegus</i> 	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons concerned</i></p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Contracts "Regeling Natuurbeheer" (subsidy scheme for nature management)</i></p> <p>The management plan will indicate how and when the norm will be achieved in the period of 30 years.</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Contracts "Regeling Natuurbeheer" (subsidy scheme for nature management)</i></p>

6: environmental impact*verifiers / explanation*

curvisepala (syn. C. calycina, C. rosiformis), Crataegus laevigata, Crataegus monogyna, Crataegus x macrocarpa (curvisepala x laevigata), Crataegus x media (monogyna x laevigata), Cytisus scoparius, Daphne mezereum, Empetrum nigrum, Erica cinerea, Erica scoparia, Erica tetralix, Euonymus europaeus, Fagus sylvatica, Fraxinus excelsior, Genista anglica, Genista pilosa, Genista tinctoria, Hedera helix, Hippophae rhamnoides, Ilex aquifolium, Juniperus communis, Ligustrum vulgare, Lonicera periclymenum, Lonicera xylosteum, Malus sylvestris, Mespilus germanica, Myrica gale, Pinus sylvestris, Populus nigra, Populus tremula, Populus x canescens, Prunus avium, Prunus padus, Prunus spinosa, Pyrus communis, Pyrus pyraster, Quercus petraea, Quercus petraea x robur, Quercus robur, Rhamnus catharticus, Rhamnus frangula, Ribes nigrum, Ribes rubrum, Ribes spicatum, Ribes uvacrispa, Rosa agrestis, Rosa arvensis, Rosa canina, Rosa corymbifera, Rosa micrantha, Rosa pimpinellifolia, Rosa rubiginosa, Rosa villosa, Rubus caesius, Rubus fruticosus, Rubus idaeus, Salix alba, Salix atrocinerea, Salix aurita, Salix caprea, Salix cinerea, Salix fragilis, Salix pentandra, Salix purpurea, Salix repens, Salix triandra, Salix viminalis, Salix x multinervis (cinerea x aurita), Salix x rubens (fragilis x alba), Salix x smithiana (viminalis x cinerea), Sambucus nigra, Sambucus racemosa, Solanum dulcamara, Sorbus aucuparia, Taxus baccata, Tilia cordata, Tilia platyphyllos, Tilia x vulgaris, Ulmus glabra, Ulmus laevis, Ulmus minor, Ulex europaeus, Vaccinium myrtillus, Vaccinium uliginosum, Vaccinium vitis-idaea, Viburnum lantana, Viburnum opulus, Viscum album.

- **Indicator 6.3.4:** The management plan contains objectives for achieving a certain percentage of old trees and dead wood.

The management plan must indicate the owner's choice for the norm.

Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Contracts "Regeling Natuurbeheer" (subsidy scheme for nature management)

norm for percentage: Per hectare an average of at least 4 dead trees, with a base diameter of at least 30 cm, either standing upright or lying flat¹⁴, or 5% of the forest property being permanently exempted from harvest operations.

- **Indicator 6.3.5:** At least 25 % of the forest cover of the property under certification should consist of mixed stands (2 or more species, mixed either individually or groupwise), to be achieved within a period of 30 years. For plantations the minimum percentage is 10%.

The management plan will indicate how and when the norms will be achieved within the period of 30 years.

Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Contracts "Regeling

¹⁴ This norm only applies in forest stands where the stage of forest development is such that the condition can be met.

6: environmental impact	verifiers / explanation
<p>norm for mixed stands: Mixed stands consist of 2 or more tree species and none of the species cover more than 80% of the total basal area</p>	<p><i>Natuurbeheer" (subsidy scheme for nature management)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.3.6: Forest management refrains from operations that contribute to lowering water levels unless survival of the forest is at stake. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan</i></p>
<p>norm: No new drains, trenches or other provisions for drainage have been constructed.</p>	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan</i></p>
<p>Criterion 6.4: Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</p>	<p>All forests with special values ("A-locaties") have been assessed and documented by a national forest research institute.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.4.1: Representative samples of indigenous forest ecosystems have been identified and are recorded on maps. The management plan or other management documents contain measures to protect or restore the identified ecosystems in their natural state. 	<p>See also 5.5.1</p>
<p>norm: This refers to areas that have been indicated as such in government documents like "A-lokaties" (forests with special values), "bosreservaten" (forest reserves) and "natuureservaten" (nature reserves).</p>	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons or authorities concerned</i></p>
<p>Criterion 6.5: Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.</p>	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Persons concerned</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.5.1: Areas susceptible to erosion are identified and are recorded on maps. For these areas written guidelines for the prevention of erosion are available. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Persons concerned</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.5.2: The forest owner uses clear guidelines for harvest activities and transport within his forest property to protect man, nature and the environment and he checks its execution in practice. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Business administration, especially the guidelines in use, the method of checking and its results</i></p>
<p>norm: The guidelines give insight in the restrictions for harvest and transport, also in the case of contracting and selling standing timber. The forest owner has documented the checking procedure and its results.</p>	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Authorities concerned, Public</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.5.3: Areas for the protection of water ("Grondwaterbeschermingsgebieden") are 	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Authorities concerned, Public</i></p>

6: environmental impact	verifiers / explanation
<p>identified by the proper authorities. Guidelines concerning the protection of water, provided by the proper authorities, shall be followed.</p>	<i>documents.</i>
<p>Criterion 6.6: Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</p>	Refer also to Criterion 4.2 and 7.3.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.6.1: Forest managers shall not use chemical pesticides prohibited by FSC according to FSC's policy "Chemical Pesticides in Certified Forests. Interpretation of the FSC Principles and Criteria" (July 2002) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.6.2: Forest managers shall aim to control pests without using chemical pesticides, and have documents to demonstrate their efforts to achieve this aim. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Contracts "Overlevingsplan Bos en Natuur" (temporary scheme to mitigate negative effects of environmental changes and pollution)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.6.3: If chemical pesticides are applied, they shall be used only locally and for specific well-described purposes. The application of these chemical pesticides is explicitly motivated and documented by the forest manager 	<p><i>This refers mainly to the requirements following the law on working conditions ("ARBO-wet"), the environmental legislation ("Wet Milieubeheer") and the regulations for admittance of chemicals.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 6.6.4: If chemical pesticides are applied, personnel concerned shall be licensed accordingly and equipment shall be used in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. 	
<p>norm: personnel is licensed according to "Licentie gewasbescherming" (issued by Ministry of LNV)</p>	<p><i>A 'Licentie Gewasbescherming' can only be obtained by following the pre-scribed (mandatory) training</i></p>

6: environmental impact	verifiers / explanation
<p>Criterion 6.7: Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.</p>	Refer also to Criteria 4.2, 5.3 and Indicator 6.6.3.
<p>Indicator 6.7.1: No chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes are stored on site, nor do they remain on site after completion of forestry operations.</p>	<i>Verifiers: Field visit, Business administration</i>
<p>Indicator 6.7.2: Written guidelines concerning the environmentally appropriate disposal of chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes are available and personnel concerned are familiar with these guidelines.</p>	<i>Verifiers: Field visit, Documents, Persons concerned</i>
<p>Criterion 6.8: Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 6.8.1: In forest management, biological pest control is only allowed if a specific need for it exists and if its use is surrounded by strict care to protect man and the environment. 	Necessity depends on the gravity of the situation, the availability and effectiveness of alternatives.
<p>norm: Biological pest control is applied only locally and for a specific purpose, after proper consideration of the necessity and possible alternatives. The use of biological control agents is explicitly motivated, monitored and documented by the forest owner. No genetically modified organisms are used.</p>	<i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Business administration, Persons or authorities concerned</i>
<p>Criterion 6.9: The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p>	Refer also to Indicator 6.3.3 and Criterion 8.1.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 6.9.1: No new exotic tree species shall be introduced unless long-term experience has proven these species to be well adapted to the local conditions and non-invasive 	<i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons concerned</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 6.9.2: The total basal area of exotic tree species shall not exceed 50%. If total basal area of exotic species exceeds 50% the percentage of exotic tree species shall be decreased within a period of 30 years. 	Refer to 6.3.3

6: environmental impact	verifiers / explanation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 6.9.3: In case of invasive tree species (e.g. <i>Prunus serotina</i>), the potential occurrence of adverse ecological impacts has been evaluated and documented. In case of adverse ecological impacts, measures have been taken to prevent the spreading of invasive tree species. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Management plan, Field visit</i></p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan</i></p>
<p>Criterion 6.10: Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.</p>	<p>Refer also to Criterion 10.9.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 6.10.1: Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, unless conservation benefits can be demonstrated. The owner shall provide documents describing the evaluation of environmental costs and conservation benefits of this conversion. 	<p>Refer to 6.1.1 and 6.1.2</p> <p>Conversion of forest to non-forest land is not allowed without legal exemption from the obligations in the national forest act ("Boswet")</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Provincial forest authority</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 6.10.2: High conservation value forests shall not be converted to plantations or non-forest land. No conversion has been established from uneven-aged, multi-structured and mixed forests into even-aged, mono-species plantations. 	<p>Refer to 6.4.1 and 9.1 (for High Conservation Value Forests)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 6.10.3: In case of conversion of forest land to plantation or non-forest land, this conversion will be limited to 10% of the total area of the forest property. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons concerned</i></p>
7: management plan	verifiers / explanation
<p>Principle 7: A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations</p>	<p>For the Dutch standard it is central that the</p>

7: management plan*verifiers / explanation*

-- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

forest property shall be managed according to plan and verifiably; management plan and monitoring are instrumental to that end.

Criterion 7.1: The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: a) management objectives; b) description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands; c) description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories; d) rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection; e) provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics; f) environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments; g) plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species; h) maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership; i) description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.

The forest owner has laid down his vision on management and use of his forest property in a concrete management plan that is periodically reviewed.

In view of the high costs of management planning and the low financial returns for the many small and very small forest properties, requirements for the management plan should be appropriate to the scale of the forest property.

- **Indicator 7.1.1:** The management plan and supporting documents shall address the following items.

This refers especially to those aspects of forest management that are relevant for certification according to this standard. The management objectives of the forest owner are the starting point. The certification body should be enabled to check both in the management plan and in the field to what extent the forest management meets the Dutch FSC standard.

Verifier: Management plan

a) Management objectives:

- A statement is required describing the objectives the forest owner wishes to achieve through forest management on the long term and within the time span of the management plan. The stated objectives should be specific, measurable, acceptable, realistic and time related (S.M.A.R.T.).

b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands:

- A description is required of the location and size of the forest management unit(s). A description of relevant aspects of the surrounding area (e.g. ecology, land use, ownership) is also required.
- A description is required of the composition of the forest management unit(s) in terms of e.g. species(groups), forest types (e.g. mixed, indigenous), forest structure (i.e. layers), age classes, presence of dead trees.

7: management plan*verifiers / explanation*

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- A description is required of the history (e.g. establishment, land use, ownership details) of the forest management unit(s).
 - A description is required of the growing conditions (e.g. soil, water, Potential Natural Vegetation "PNV") of the forest management unit(s).
 - A description is required of local stakeholders (e.g. municipality, adjacent owners, nature working groups) and their relations to the forest management unit(s).
- c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories:
- A description is required of the main (silvicultural) management method(s) to be used to achieve the management objectives. The relation between the described management method(s) and the present and future (ecological) composition of the forest management unit(s) should be mentioned explicitly. The role of inventory data should be mentioned explicitly.
- d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection:
- Quantified guidelines are required for the average annual harvest. These guidelines are founded on inventory data, preferably collected on site. A documented explanation is required, if the planned average annual harvest exceeds the annual increment. If certain tree species require specific harvesting guidelines, these are explicitly documented.
- e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics:
- A description is required of monitoring provisions. The described provisions show which attributes/aspects will be monitored; at what intervals and in what way; and how the results will be documented.
- f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments:
- In case of major operations, documented guidelines are required for the prevention and/or limitation of adverse environmental impacts. This refers to indicator 6.1.1.
- g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species:
- If the forest management unit has not yet been screened for rare, threatened or endangered species, a documented action plan is required for the identification of
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7: management plan	verifiers / explanation
<p>mentioned species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If rare, threatened or endangered species have been identified within the forest management unit(s), the identified species should be explicitly mentioned in the management plan or supporting documents. If protective measures are required in order to maintain the local populations of the identified rare, threatened or endangered species, these shall be explicitly documented. <p>h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A map is required showing the ownership boundaries of all forest management unit(s) as well as the topographical details necessary for orientation and navigation. - Maps are required showing all identified areas of special attention, e.g. special protection zones (indicator 6.2.3), special value forest (indicator 6.4.1), areas susceptible to erosion (indicator 6.5.1). - All the documented planned management activities can be traced to mapped forest management (sub)units ("vak/afdeling"). <p>i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If identified areas of special attention, require extra-ordinary harvesting techniques or equipment, these techniques and/or equipment should be explicitly documented. This refers to e.g. special protection zones (indicator 6.2.3), special value forest (indicator 6.4.1), areas susceptible to erosion (indicator 6.5.1). 	
<p>Criterion 7.2: The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 7.2.1: The management plan is revised and adapted to changing conditions in forest management and forest use once every period of ten years, or as much earlier as required because of internal or external developments. 	<p><i>Verifier: Management plan</i></p>
<p>Criterion 7.3: Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure</p>	<p>Refer also to Criterion 4.1 and 4.2</p>

7: management plan	<i>verifiers / explanation</i>
proper implementation of the management plan.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 7.3.1: When assigning or contracting out management operations, due care has been taken to give proper instructions and to monitor the results; training and supervision of forest workers are part of this approach. 	<i>Verifier: Business administration, Persons concerned</i>
Criterion 7.4: While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 7.4.1: For all forest properties a public summary of the management plan is available upon request; the elements and level of detail of the summary are in line with the norms for large, small and very small properties as described under Indicator 7.1.1. 	<i>Verifier: Management plan, Persons concerned</i>
8: Monitoring and assessment	<i>verifiers / explanation</i>
Principle 8: Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.	For the Dutch standard it is central that the forest property shall be managed according to plan and verifiably; management plan and monitoring are instrumental to that end.
Criterion 8.1: The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.	The forest owner monitors the effects of management and use of his forest property and uses these data for adjustments of the forest management or interim revision of the management plan. In view of the high costs of monitoring and the low financial returns for the many small and very small forest properties, requirements for monitoring should be appropriate to the scale of the forest property.

8: Monitoring and assessment	verifiers / explanation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 8.1.1: A description is required of monitoring provisions. The described provisions show: which attributes/aspects will be monitored; at what intervals and in what way; and how the results will be documented. Monitoring takes place of all relevant ecological, economic and social effects. 	<p>Refer also to Criterion 7.1</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Business administration, Field visit</i></p>
<p>Criterion 8.2: Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) yield of all forest products harvested; b) growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest; c) composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna; d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations; e) costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 8.2.1: Inventory data and/or documented research results are available on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Yield of all forest products harvested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This refers only to products that are commercially harvested. b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Average annual increment (indicates growth as well as condition). - Age(class) and/or diameter(class) distribution (indicates regeneration). c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribution of species(groups), forest types (e.g. mixed, indigenous), forest structure (i.e. layers). d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental and/or ecological assessments, if available. - Stakeholders consultations, if available. e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Money transactions linked to specific forestry activities 	<p><i>Verifier: Management plan, Business administration, Persons concerned</i></p>

8: Monitoring and assessment	verifiers / explanation
<p>Criterion 8.3: Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the “chain of custody”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 8.3.1: The forest owner has documented the harvest and sale of timber in such a way that the products can be traced from the forest to the first sales outlet or to the forest road in the case of selling standing timber. <p>norm: The documentation of harvest and sale records the type of product, quantity, place of origin, date of harvest and transport, FSC license number, next destiny and persons or organisations involved.</p>	<p><i>Verifiers: Business administration, Especially harvest figures, contracts and bills of contractors, transporters and buyers</i></p>
<p>Criterion 8.4: The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 8.4.1: The forest owner uses the results of monitoring for adjustment of the forest management and for revision of the management plan. <p>norm: The forest owner periodically compares the results of monitoring with the expected development according to the management plan and documents his findings for future reference in the management process.</p>	<p>Refer also to Criterion 7.2.</p> <p><i>Verifier: Management plan, Business administration, Persons concerned</i></p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator 8.5.1: For all forest properties a public summary of the monitoring results is available upon request; the elements and level of detail of the summary are in line with the norms for large, small and very small properties as described under Indicator 7.1.1, 8.1.1 and 8.2.1. 	<p><i>Verifier: Management plan, Persons concerned</i></p>

9: maintenance of high conservation value forests*verifiers/ explanation*

Principle 9: 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.

Criterion 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.

- **Indicator 9.1.1:** A written procedure for inventories to determine the presence of critical biotopes and High Conservation Value Forests is in place.
- **Indicator 9.1.2:** The management is familiar with the attributes that indicate HCV forests in their region.

norm: the attributes that indicate HCV forests are;

- Undisturbed soils
- Old forests (forest present since before 1850)
- Minimum Structure Area (sufficiently large for natural dynamics)
- Spontaneous Forests (present without human interference)
- Located in a "boscomplex" (where Minimum Structure Area is not available)
- Bufferzones
- Endemic plant species

- **Indicator 9.1.3:** Maps are available that locate HCV forests and other protected areas.

Refer to 6.4.1. All forests with special values ("A-locaties") have been assessed and documented by a national forest research institute. These documents describe the attributes defining the special value and provide guidelines for the management of these forests.

NB-wetgebied (Nature Conservation Act area) is appointed by government as a conservation area.

Attributes that indicate HCVF are also described in *Werkdocument IKC Natuurbeheer Nr. W-76. E.J. Al en J.L. van der Jagt, 1995. Informatie en KennisCentrum Natuurbeheer, Wageningen*

Verifiers: Management plan, Field visit, Authorities concerned, Contracts "Regeling Natuurbeheer" (subsidy scheme for nature management), Other contracts for management ("beheersovereenkomsten")

Verifiers: Management plan, Field visit, Persons or authorities concerned, Contracts "Regeling Natuurbeheer" (subsidy scheme for nature management)

Criterion 9.2: The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on

9: maintenance of high conservation value forests	verifiers / explanation
the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 9.2.1: Identified conservation attributes and the maintenance thereof are specifically addressed in the stakeholder consultation process . 	<i>Verifiers: Reports of consultation by the certification body</i>
<p>Criterion 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 summary.</p>	Refer also to Criteria 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and Principle 7.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 9.3.1: Management objectives and management measures for high conservation value areas are explicitly geared to conserve the valuable aspects of these areas. 	<i>Verifiers: Management plan, Persons concerned, Field visit, Contracts “Regeling Natuurbeheer” (subsidy scheme for nature management), Other contracts for management (“beheersovereenkomsten”)</i>
<p>Criterion 9.4: Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.</p>	Refer also to Principles 7 and 8.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 9.4.1: Monitoring of high conservation value areas explicitly takes into account the effects of management on the valuable aspects of these areas. 	Refer also to Criteria 8.1 and 8.4.
<p>norm: The forest owner periodically compares the results of monitoring with the expected effects of management and documents his findings for future reference in the management process.</p>	<i>Verifier: Management plan, Business administration, Persons concerned</i>
10: plantations	verifiers / explanation
<p>Principle 10: 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</p>	Plantations have to comply with all FSC principles and criteria; in some cases specific norms have been set for plantations (refer to Principles 5 and 6).

10: plantations*verifiers / explanation*

the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

Criterion 10.1: The management objectives of the plantation, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives, shall be explicitly stated in the management plan, and clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the plan.

- **Indicator 10.1.1:** The management objectives of plantations reflect the aim of optimum and sustainable production of timber or other forest products, and simultaneously to contribute to conserving and enhancing ecological values.

Verifier: Management plan

norm: The characteristics of plantations are: even-aged monoculture, planted in a systematic pattern, clear-felling system and aimed at timber production. This applies for a limited number of species for which this is the optimum silvicultural system to produce timber. In order to add to ecological values, nature conservation objectives are also included in the planning and implementation of plantation management.

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Criterion 10.2: The design and layout of plantations should promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods, shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands found within the natural landscape.

- **Indicator 10.2.1:** Plantations have not been established on farming land with high natural and cultural values. Existing wildlife corridors and streamside zones are identified and are recorded on maps. These corridors and zones can be recognized in the plantation design and layout.

Verifiers: Management plan, Zoning plan ("Bestemmingsplan"), Authorities concerned

norm: This refers to areas that have been indicated as such in government documents such as the nature policy plan ("Natuurbeleidsplan"), the forest policy plan ("Bosbeleidsplan"), the policy document for nature, forest and landscape in the 21st century ("Natuur voor mensen, Mensen voor natuur"), and regional and local zoning plans.

10: plantations	verifiers / explanation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 10.2.2: Plantations have been established in such a way that there is no negative effect on adjacent, semi-natural forests. norm: This refers to potential risks such as invasive tree species, negative effects on soil and water resources, spreading of diseases or pests. 	<p>Refer also to Criterion 10.8</p> <p><i>Verifiers: Management plan, Zoning plan ("Bestemmingsplan"), Persons concerned</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 10.2.3: Existing wildlife corridors and streamside zones are identified and are recorded on maps. These corridors and zones can be recognized in the plantation design and layout. 	<p>Refer also to Criterion 10.9</p> <p><i>While no natural forests exist and plantations can only be established by afforestation of agricultural land, plantations will reflect the man-made character of the Dutch agricultural landscape.</i></p> <p><i>Verifier: Management plan</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 10.2.4: Mosaics of stands, of different ages and rotation periods can be identified in the plantation design and layout. 	<p><i>Verifiers: Management plan</i></p>
<p>Criterion 10.3: Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological, and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.</p>	<p>Refer also to Criterion 10.2 and 10.5.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator 10.3.1: Plantations smaller than 25 hectares consist of at least two tree species. For plantations larger than 25 hectares the composition of management units shows variance in species and age. The size of individual forest stands within a plantation should not exceed 2 hectares. 	<p><i>Verifier: Management plan</i></p>
<p>Criterion 10.4: The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance</p>	

10: plantations*verifiers / explanation*

the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological impacts.

- **Indicator 10.4.1:** No species should be planted on a large scale unless local trials and/or experience have shown that they are ecologically well-adapted to the site, are not invasive, and do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems.

Verifier: Management plan, Field visit

norm: The production stock of plantations is restricted to tree species *Populus spec.*, *Salix spec.*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Prunus avium*, *Castanea sativa*, *Juglans spec.* and *Picea abies*. For ecological purposes the growing stock is complemented mainly by native species.

- **Indicator 10.4.2:** At least 10% of the property is planted with a mixture (2 or more) of indigenous tree species
- **Indicator 10.4.3:** If the plantation consists -partly- of exotic tree species, documented proof is available of monitoring visits aimed at detecting mortality, disease, insect outbreak and adverse ecological impacts.

Criterion 10.5: A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation and to be determined in regional standards, shall be managed so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover.

Refer also to Criterion 10.2.

- **Indicator 10.5.1:** In plantation management, at least 10% of the property is planted with a mixture (2 or more) of indigenous tree species; at least 5% of the property will not be harvested.

Verifiers: Management plan, Business administration, Field visit

norm: The mixed native species area that is not to be harvested, is either located at the edges of the property or along watercourses or natural boundaries or is adjacent to a semi-natural area.

Criterion 10.6: Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course

10: plantations*verifiers / explanation***drainage patterns.**

- **Indicator 10.6.1:** The management plan describe which measures will be taken to maintain soil conditions and to prevent adverse impacts on water.

Refer also to Criteria 5.5, 5.6 and 6.5.

norm: In planning and implementing plantation management, the plantation owner shows a well-considered approach to safeguard the environmental qualities of the property.

Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons concerned

Criterion 10.7: Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimize outbreaks of pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions. Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Plantation management should make every effort to move away from chemical pesticides and fertilizers, including their use in nurseries. The use of chemicals is also covered in Criteria 6.6 and 6.7.

- **Indicator 10.7.1:** Documented proof is available of monitoring visits, aimed at detecting outbreaks of pests, diseases, fire and invasive plants. In case of such outbreaks evidence can be shown of measures taken to minimize the effects.
- **Indicator 10.7.2:** Forest managers shall aim to control pests without using chemical pesticides and fertilizers, and have documents to demonstrate their efforts to achieve this aim
- **Indicator 10.7.3:** The use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers is only permitted if biological alternatives are not available and/or not effective. In case of use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers the forest manager can provide documents proving this.

Refer also to Criteria 6.6, 6.7 and 6.8.

Verifiers: Field visit, Management plan, Persons concerned

10: plantations*verifiers / explanation*

Criterion 10.8: Appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation, monitoring of plantations shall include regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site ecological and social impacts, (e.g. natural regeneration, effects on water resources and soil fertility, and impacts on local welfare and social well-being), in addition to those elements addressed in principles 8, 6 and 4. No species should be planted on a large scale until local trials and/or experience have shown that they are ecologically well-adapted to the site, are not invasive, and do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems. Special attention will be paid to social issues of land acquisition for plantations, especially the protection of local rights of ownership, use or access.

- **Indicator 10.8.1:** Both in the management plan and in monitoring of plantations, explicit attention is being given to possibly negative ecological effects on the forest area and its surroundings.

Refer also to Indicator 10.2.2.

norm: The choice of species and layout are well considered. As a minimum, attention is paid to the effects of species selection and plantation layout on soil, water, diseases and pests.

Verifier: Management plan

- **Indicator 10.8.2:** Assessment of impacts of the plantation on local welfare and social well-being is part of the management plan.

Verifier: management plan

Criterion 10.9: Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion.

- **Indicator 10.9.1:** In view of the semi-natural values that most forests develop over time, only recent afforestations of agricultural land will qualify for certification as production plantations. All other forests will be managed for multiple functions, including semi-natural values.

norm: Only permanent production stands that were planted after 1975 on (previous) farming land may qualify for certification. Farm forests established before 1975 are considered to have obtained such ecological values as to prevent them from being converted into production plantations.

Verifier: There are no natural forests in the Netherlands and the conversion of semi-natural forests is not allowed under criterion 6.10 of this standard.

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FSC/NL

Annex 1 to the National Dutch FSC Standard for certification of good forest management

Overview of reference documents, international treaties and red lists

1.1 Reference documents¹⁵ of the Dutch FSC Standard

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| • Constitution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (“Grondwet”) | • criterion 1.1, principle 3 |
| • Forest Act 1961, latest update January 1998 (“Boswet”) | • criterion 1.1, 6.10 |
| • Nature Conservation Act 1998 (“Natuurbeschermingswet”) | • criterion 1.1, 6.2, 6.4 |
| • Act on protection of flora and fauna, April 2002 (“Flora- en faunawet”) | • criterion 1.1, 6.2 |
| • Game Act 1954. Latest update February 1999 (“Jachtwet”) ¹⁶ | • criterion 1.1 |
| • Landscape Act, 1928. Latest update February 1999 (“Natuurschoonwet 1928”) | • criterion 1.1, 5.2 |
| • Directives for the conservation of wild birds, natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (“EU Vogel - en habitatrichtlijn”) | • criterion 1.1, 6.2 |
| • Birds Protection Act, 1936. Latest update February 1997 (“Vogelwet”) and decree on birds protection, 1994 ¹⁷ | • criterion 1.1, 6.2 |
| • Town and Country Planning Act, 1962. Latest update February 1999 (“Wet op de Ruimtelijke Ordening”) | • criterion 1.1 |
| • Environmental Management Act, 1979. Latest update January 2000 (“Wet Milieubeheer”) | • criterion 1.1, 4.2, 6.6, 6.7 |
| • Hazardous Materials Act , 1963, latest update 1996 (“Wetgeving gevaarlijke stoffen”) | • criterion 1.1, 5.3, 6.7 |
| • Regulations and by-laws of the Dutch Forestry Board on the prevention of pests, diseases, etc. (“Verordeningen Bosschap (dennenscheerder en bestrijding van insectenplagen in lariks en picea, 1996) | • criterion 1.1, 4.2, 6.6, 10.7 |
| • Grant Schemes for forest and nature management 1995,1999, 2000 (“Regeling functiebeloning”, “Regeling natuurbeheer”) | • criterion 1.1, 1.2, 5.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.3 |
| • Grant Scheme for afforestation 1994 (“Stimuleringsregeling bosuitbreiding op landbouwgronden”) ¹⁸ | • criterion 1.1, 1.2 |
| • Act on Working Conditions, 1980. (“ARBO wet”) | • criterion 1.1, 4.1, 4.2, |

¹⁵ The English text is a description or a near-to literal translation of the Dutch title of the Act or Regulation. Between brackets the Dutch title is given.

¹⁶ Recently included in “Flora- en Faunawet” 2002

¹⁷ Recently included in “Flora- en Faunawet” 2002

¹⁸ Recently included in “Regeling Natuurbeheer” 2000

1.1 Reference documents¹⁵ of the Dutch FSC Standard

4.3

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admittance policy and guidelines for pesticides (“Toelatingsbeleid chemische middelen”) • Collective Labour Agreement for the forestry sector (“Raam-CAO voor werken in bos en natuur (2003)”) • Scheme for recognition of contractors in forestry (“Erkenningsregeling bosaannemers”) • Yearly contests for professional forest workers (“Bosbouwberoepswedstrijden”) • National Organisation for professional education in the agricultural sector (“AEQUOR”) • Temporary Scheme to mitigate negative effects of environmental pollution on forests and nature (“Overlevingsplan bos en natuur”) • Nature Policy Plan 1990 (“Natuurbeleidsplan”) • Forest Policy Plan 1994 (“Bosbeleidsplan”) • Policy document for nature, forest and landscape in the 21st century 2000 (“Natuur voor mensen, mensen voor natuur”) • Red Lists¹⁹ of endangered species (for reptiles, amphibians, mushrooms, birds, plants, mammals, crickets and grasshoppers, freshwater fishes, dragonflies, butterflies, lichens (“Rode lijsten”) • Government decision on the designation of forest of special interest (“A-locaties, aanwijzingsbesluit”) • Government decision on the designation of strict forest reserves (“Aanwijzingsbesluit Bosreservaten”) • Municipal zoning plans (“Gemeentelijke bestemmingsplannen”) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • criterion 4.2, 6.6, 10.7 • criterion 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 • criterion 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 • criterion 4.1 • criterion 4.1 • criterion 6.6 • criterion 6.2, 10.2 • criterion 6.2, 10.2 • criterion 6.2, 10.2 • criterion 6.2 • criterion 6.4, 9.1 • criterion 6.4, 9.1 • criterion 10.2 |
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1.2 Multilateral treaties and European Agreements (criterion 1.3)²⁰

¹⁹ See also section 1.3 of this annex

²⁰ Refer to the website of the European Economic Community, <http://europa.eu.int/>, for full texts of the agreements.

1.2 Multilateral treaties and European Agreements (criterion 1.3)²⁰

- European Council directive (79/409/EEC) on the conservation of wild birds (latest amendment 1997)
 - European Council directive 92/43/EEC of 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna. (latest amendment 1997)
 - Washington Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna (CITES)
 - Bern Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats
 - Rio de Janeiro Convention on biological diversity, 1992
 - Bonn convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals, 1979
 - European Council Resolution and forestry strategy for the European Union
 - European Council directives on public services, suppliers, works contracts and "excluded" sectors amended
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1.3 Red lists of endangered species (criterion 6.2)

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Freshwater fishes | June 1998 |
| • Lichens | April 1998 |
| • Dragonflies | April 1998 |
| • Crickets and grasshoppers | April 1998 |
| • Mushrooms | November 1996 |
| • Reptiles and Amphibians | November 1996 |
| • Butterflies | May 1995 |
| • Mammals | February 1995 |
| • Birds | 1985, updated 1993/94 |
| • Plants | FLORON 1989/90 |
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