National System of Voluntary Forest Certification

Approved by the decision of the Working Group
of the Association "National System of Voluntary Forest Certification"
on the development of forest management standard

April 30, 2020

ST-01-20XX

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(Draft)

Version 2

2020

Content

Foreword

The second version of the standard (ST V2) was developed by Stakeholder Working Group based on PEFC ST 1003: 2018 Sustainable Forest Management and contains all its mandatory basic requirements, except the requirements for forest plantations and trees outside the forest.

According to the decision of the standardising body - the Association "National System of Voluntary Forest Certification", special requirements for these categories of timber logging sources are not developed for the territory of Ukraine. The developed standard contains only restrictive requirements for forest plantations located within forest areas.

In the future, when the results of standard effect monitoring will reveal their relevance, they can be developed and included in this standard in accordance with the procedures for its revision, or allocated to the separate standard.

ST V2 is submitted for public consultation by decision of the Working Group, consensually adopted by all stakeholders in order to improve it and prepare the final version of the standard ST-01-20XX SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT. GENERAL PROVISIONS by the Working Group in accordance with the procedures set out in the Procedures for development, taking over, revision of the PEFC standard of forest management in Ukraine.

1. Scope

The standard establishes the basic provisions of sustainable forest management, intended to the ensuring of high productivity and stability of forests, conservation and restoration of forest biodiversity, minimization or elimination of negative effects of forestry production on the environment, sustainable forest use, economic efficiency of forestry production, its social function.

The standard is intended to be used by legal entities and / or private individuals engaged in forest management and / or forest use. The standard requirements are also applicable for economic entities that render services (perform work) in forestry. The standard requirements cover all necessary processes aimed at the achieving of sustainable forest use, all types of products and services.

2. Normative references

- ILO No. 87, Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948;
- ILO No. 29, Forced Labour Convention, 1930;
- ILO No. 98, Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949;
- ILO No. 100, Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951;
- ILO No. 105, Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957;

- ILO No. 111, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958;
- ILO No. 138, Minimum Age Convention, 1973;
- ILO No. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999;
- ISO/IEC 17021-1, Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements;
- United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948;
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 1998;
- PEFC ST 1001, Standard Setting – Requirements;
- PEFC ST 1002, Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements;
- PEFC GD 1007, Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision;
- PEFC ST 2002, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements;
- ISO Guide 2, Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary;
- PEFC ST 1003: 2018 Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements.

3. Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the relevant terms and definitions given in ISO / IEC Guide 2, as well as the following definitions, are used:

Affected stakeholder

A stakeholder who might experience a direct change in living and/or working conditions caused by implementation of a standard, or a stakeholder who might be a user of a standard and therefore is subject to the requirements of the standard.

Note 1. Affected stakeholders include local communities, employees of the Organization and service providers (contractors), adjacent land users registered in local communities, local processors of forest products, etc. (the list is not exhaustive). However, having an interest in the subject matter of the standard (e.g. NGOs, scientific community, civil society) is not equal to being affected.

Note 2. A stakeholder who might be a user of the standard is likely to become a certified entity,e.g. a forest manager in the case of a forest management standard, or a wood processing enterprisein the case of a chain of custody standard.

Afforestation

Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding or natural expansion of forest on land that, until then, was under a different land use, implies a transformation of land use from non-forest to forest (source: based on FAO 2018).

Artificially established forest

Forest stands established by planting of seedlings, saplings, cuttings of trees and shrubs or by sowing of their seeds (National Standard of Ukraine DSTU 2980).

Biological control agents

Living organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other living organisms [pests and diseases] (Source: World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Biological diversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Article 2).

Certified area

The forest area covered by a sustainable forest management system according to the PEFC SustainableForest Management Standard (PEFC ST 1003).

Connectivity

A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, body of

water or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements or bodies of water. (Source: Based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press, 632 pp.).

Degraded forest

Forest that delivers a reduced supply of goods and services from a given site and maintains only limited biological diversity. It has lost the structure, function, species composition and /or productivity normally associated with the natural forest type expected at that site (Source: ITTO, 2002, https://www.cifor.org/rehab/_ref/glossary/Degraded_Forest.htm)

Ecologically important forest areas

Forest areas

a) Containing protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems that are objects of conservation in their natural state within the territories and objects of the Natural Conservation Fund (according to the Law of Ukraine "On the Nature Conservation Fund of Ukraine");

b) Containing significant concentrations of endemic and endangered species listed in the Red Book of Ukraine and their habitats (according to the Law of Ukraine "On the Red Book of Ukraine");

c) Containing endangered or protected in situ genetic resources - genetic reserves (according to "Guidelines for Forest Seed Breeding");

d) Contributing to globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscapes with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species - primary forests, quasi-primary forests, natural forests (according to the Law of Ukraine "On the Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Conservation of Virgin Forests in Accordance with the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians");

e) which are Emerald Network areas, habitats in need of special conservation measures in accordance with Resolution 4, as well as habitats of species listed in the annexes to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (according to the Law of Ukraine "On the Accession of Ukraine to the 1979 Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats);

f) Containing significant concentrations of species included in the regional (oblast) lists of plant and animal species subject to special conservation in these regions (oblasts) (according to the Laws of Ukraine "On Fauna" and "On Flora");

g) which are the especially protective forest sites with a regime of limited forest use (according to "The Order of the Division of the Forests on Categories and Allocation of Especially Protective Forest Sites").

Introduced species

A species occurring in an area outside of its historically known natural range as a result of intentional or accidental dispersal by human activities. Also known as alien species (Source: http://iufro-archive.boku.ac.at/iufro/silvavoc/glossary/29_0en.html)

Ecosystem

A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (Source: The Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992).

Ecosystem functions

Inherent characteristics of an ecosystem in relation to a set of conditions and processes by which an ecosystem maintains its own integrity (such as primary productivity, food chain, biogeochemical cycles). Ecosystem functions include processes such as destruction, production, nutrient cycling, nutrient and energy flows. (Source: based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC; and R.F. Noss. 1990. Indicators for monitoring biodiversity: a hierarchical approach. Conservation Biology 4(4):355–364).

Ecosystem services

Benefits obtained from ecosystems. These include:

- provisioning services such as food, water, timber,fibre, fuel, genetic resources etc.;
- regulating services that affect climate and macroclimate (incl. affects the productivity of crops), protection against floods and other natural disasters, disease control, absorption of human waste, water and air purification, pest control;
- cultural services that provide enrichment of cultural, spiritual and aesthetic aspects of human well-being: emotions from communication with nature, sense of terrain, environment for the formation of lifestyle, customs and traditions;
- supporting services that provide the existence of ecosystems: soil formation, primary productivity, basic biogeochemical processes (nutrient cycle, photosynthesis), environmental conditions.

(Source: based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC, https://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.300.aspx.pdf).

Forest

Forest - type of natural complexes (ecosystems), which combines mainly woody and shrubby vegetation with appropriate soils, grasses, fauna, microorganisms and other natural components that are interrelated in their development, affect each other and the

environment.

Forests include forest areas with an area of at least 0.1 ha. Forest areas can be covered with forest vegetation, as well as permanently or temporarily not covered with forest vegetation (due to the heterogeneity of forest natural complexes, forestry activities or natural disasters, etc.). Non-forested forest areas include forest areas occupied by non-closed young artificially established forests, forest nurseries and plantations, as well as forest roads and compartment lines, forest firebreaks, forest drainage ditches and drainage systems. (Source: Based on Forest Code of Ukraine, https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3852-12).

Forest categories

There are 4 categories of forests according to their ecological and socio-economic significance:

1) protective forests (perform mainly water protection, soil protection and other protective functions);

2) recreational and health forests (perform mainly recreational, sanitary, hygienic and health functions);

3) forests for environmental protection, scientific, historical and cultural purposes (perform special environmental, aesthetic, scientific functions, etc.);

4) exploitation forests.

(Source: Based on Forest Code of Ukraine, https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3852-12).

Forest conversion

Change of designated purpose of forest plots, or replacement of natural and semi-natural forests for non-forest lands or forest plantations.

Примітка. Note: Regeneration by planting or direct seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, to the same dominant species as was harvested or other species that were present in the historical species mix is not considered a conversion.

Forest inventory period

The period for which the management plan is developed; usually covers a period of 10 years.

Forest Management

A set of administrative, economic, legal, social, technical and scientific aspects of forest management and includes all types of work related to the reproduction, protection, protection and use of forests and forest resources.

Forest plantation

Land plot with artificially established stands of fast-growing and / or technically

valuable forest species (including introduced ones) to obtain valuable wood assortments, timber for energy production, raw materials for wickerwork and other products.

The purpose of plantations is to reduce the time of timber growing , improve its quality and increase timber stock per unit of area, which is achieved by using intensive methods depending on the type of product (pre-planting tillage with fertilizers, disease and pest control, thinning , fertilizer application, etc.) and the selection of certain species, forms and varieties of trees and shrubs.

There are plantations of long-term exploitation with annual (willow) or cyclic (each 3 or 4 years) harvest throughout the plantation lifetime and plantations with relatively short rotation, when new plantation (of poplars, willows, other species for growing wood mass, etc.) are established immediately after harvest.

Fundamental ILO conventions

Eight conventions (ILO 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182) identified by the ILO's Governing Body as "fundamental" in terms of principles and rights at work: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Genetically modified trees

Trees in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination, taking into account applicable legislation providing a specific definition of genetically modified organisms.

Note 1: The following techniques are considered as genetic modification resulting in genetically modifiedtrees (EU Directive 2001/18/EC):

1) recombinant nucleic acid techniques involving the formation of new combinations of geneticmaterial by the insertion of nucleic acid molecules produced by whatever means outside anorganism, into any virus, bacterial plasmid or other vector system and their incorporation into ahost organism in which they do not naturally occur, but in which they are capable of continuedpropagation;

2) techniques involving the direct introduction into an organism of heritable material prepared outsidethe organism including micro-injection, macro-injection, and micro-encapsulation;

3) cell fusion (including protoplast fusion) or hybridisation techniques where live cells with newcombinations of heritable genetic material are formed through the fusion of two or more cells bymeans of methods that do not occur naturally.

Note 2: The following techniques are not considered as genetic modification resulting in geneticallymodified trees (EU Directive 2001/18/EC):

1) in vitro fertilisation;

2) natural processes such as: conjugation, transduction, transformation;

3) polyploidy induction.

Greenhouse gases

Gases in the planet's atmosphere that are able to absorb thermal radiation from the planet's surface and clouds (infrared radiation) and reflect it back, further warming the planet's atmosphere.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Integrated application of methods for long-term regulation of development and spread of harmful organisms to an imperceptible economic level based on the forecast, economic thresholds of harmfulness, action of beneficial organisms, energy saving and environmental technologies that provide reliable plant protection and ecological balance of the environment (Source: the Law of Ukraine "On Plant Protection", https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/180-14).

Landscape

Landscape is an integral natural-territorial complex with genetically homogeneous natural conditions of local areas, which were formed as a result of interaction of components of geological environment, relief, hydrological regime, soils and biocenoses. (Source: High Conservation Value Forests: Definition and Management. Practical Guide for Ukraine. http://sfmu.org.ua/files/OCZL.pdf).

Landscape diversity

The formal expression of the numerous relations existing in a given period between the individual or a society and a topographically defined territory, the appearance of which is the result of the action, over time, of natural and human factors and a combination of both (Source: Council of Europe Draft Recommendation on the Integrated Conservation of Cultural Landscape Areas as part of Landscape Policies. Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. https://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/rbsap/peblds-rbsap.pdf)

Management

The process of planning, organizing, implementing and controlling the Organization in order to achieve coordination of human, financial, natural and technological resources necessary for the effective performance of tasks.

Management plan

Documented information specifying objectives, actions and control arrangements concerning the management of ecosystem resources and services for a set period of time.

Note 1. Forest inventory and management planning materials are the integral (but not the only) part of the management plan, mandatory for forest management, strategic planning and forecasting the use of forest resources.

Note 2. The components of the management plan are also tactical (annual production and financial) and operational (quarterly, monthly) plans.

Management system

Set of interrelated or interacting elements of an organisation to establish policies and objectives andprocesses to achieve those objectives.

Manager

Person who directs and controls an organisation.

Monitoring

The process of regular data collection and registration with subsequent analysis and forecast of changes in indicators for management decisions.

Non-forest ecosystem

Natural units, which consist of a number of living and non-living components that form a stable system and are characterized by natural (original) vegetation other than forest ecosystems. These include steppe, meadow ecosystems. Alpine (subalpine) ecosystems can be identified in the Carpathians.

Non-forest lands

Areas occupied by agricultural lands, waters and swamps, buildings, communications, unproductive lands, etc., which are provided according to the established procedure to the Organization for permanent use and are used for forestry purposes. (Source: Based on Forest Code of Ukraine, https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3852-12).

Non-wood forest products

Products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from forests and Trees outside Forests (source: following FAO 2017).

Objective

The result to be achieved.

Note 1. The objective can be strategic, tactical or operational.

Note 2. Objectives can relate to different disciplines (such as financial, health and safety, and environmental objectives) and can apply at different levels (such as strategic, organization-wide, project, product and process. (ISO 9000:2015).

Organisation

Person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its objectives (ISO 9000:2015).

Note 1. An organisation applies for PEFC certification and is responsible for the compliance with PEFCsustainable forest management requirements and can be responsible for several forest management units.

Note 2. A manager or owner can also take the role of an organisation.

Policy

Intentions and direction of an organization as formally expressed by its top management (ISO 9000:2015).

Reforestation

Re-establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding or natural regeneration on land classified as forest (source: Based on FAO 2018).

Sensitive natural resource features

Elements of natural resources that can degrade or disappear due to uncontrolled exploitation or excessive recreational activities.

Stakeholder

A person, group, community or organisation with an interest in the subject of the standard.

Standardising body

Body that has recognised activities in standardisation.

Note: A standardising body for a forest management certification system/standard is a body which is responsible for the development and maintenance of standards for the forest certification system. In the context of this standard, the National Governing Body - the Association "National System of Voluntary Forest Certification" acts as the standardization body.

Strategy

Plan to achieve a long-term or overall objective (ISO 9000:2015).

Strategic plan

A document or set of interrelated documents that defines resource-agreed goals, priorities, and expected outcomes.

Note 1. The strategic planning of a forestry enterprise is based on forest inventory and management planning materials.

Trees outside Forests (TOF)

Trees growing outside areas of nationally designated forest land. Such areas will normally be classified as “agriculture” or “settlement”.

4. Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard

4.1 The general requirements for sustainable forest management defined in this standard:

a) include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the forest managementunit level, or at another level as appropriate, to ensure that the intent of all requirements is achievedat the forest management unit level;

Note: An example of a situation where a requirement can be defined as being at another level(e.g. group/regional) is monitoring of forest health. Due to monitoring of forest health at regional level, and communicating of results at the FMU level, the objective of the requirement is met without the necessity to carry out the individual monitoring of each forest management unit.

These requirements are formulated so that:

b) be clear, performance based and auditable;

c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements;

d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards;

e) specify “100% PEFC certified”, or another system specific claim, as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody;

Note: System specific claims of PEFC endorsed standards and PEFC Council approved abbreviations of such claims and the claim “100% PEFC certified”, and their translations into languages other than English, are published online on the PEFC website www.pefc.org.

f) require that where owners/managers of forests are selling products from areas other than covered by the standard, only products from areas covered by the standard are sold with the claim “100% PEFC-certified” or a system specific claim;

Note: An example would be the situation when a certificate holder purchases products from non-certified suppliers for processing or resale. In this case, the certificate holder cannot use the claim "100% PEFC certified" when selling this particular product.

g) require that claims on the origin of products in an area covered by the standard are only made by forest owners/managers covered by a PEFC recognised certificate issued against the standard;

Note: An example would be the situation when the certificate holder products are sold by non-certified enterprise. In this case, this non-certified enterprise cannot claim that these products are "100% PEFC certified".

h) specify requirements concerning the information which need to be provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer;

i) include an overview of applicable legislation, if requirements of this benchmark are not reflected in the regional, national or sub-national standard, because they are already addressed through the legislation.

4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders

The organisation shall determine:

a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to the sustainable forest management;

b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders;

c) the effective mechanism for communication with these stakeholders (See 7.3).

4.3 Determining the scope of the management system

4.3.1 The organisation shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the management system to establish its scope.

4.3.2 The forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management practices. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement.

5. Leadership

5.1 The organisation shall provide a commitment:

a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;

b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.

5.2 This commitment shall be publicly available for all stakeholders.

5.3 The responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.

6. Planning

6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities

6.1.1 The organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest management, in particular:

a) economic, socio-cultural, technology factors shall be identified and assessed;

b) regulatory, competitive, organizational, market factors shall be analyzed.

6.1.2 The assessment of the quantitative and qualitative characteristics and mapping of forest resources shall be carried out and maintained to the extent appropriate to local and national conditions, as well as to the requirements specified in this Standard.

6.2 Management plan

6.2.1 The management plans shall be:

a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;

b) appropriate to the category and use of the forest area;

c) based on applicable legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans;

d) adequately covering all kinds of forest resources.

6.2.2 The management plans shall take into account the different uses and functions of the managed forest area.

6.2.3 The management plans shall include at least a description of the current forest management unit, long-term objectives, and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification.

6.2.4 The annually allowable use of non-wood forest products shall be included in the management plan where forest management covers commercial use of non-wood forest products.

6.2.5 The management plans specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.

6.2.6 The management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.

6.2.7 The summary of the management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information on the general objectives and forest management principles.

6.2.8 The publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.

6.3 Compliance requirements

6.3.1 Legal compliance

6.3.1.1 The organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its activity.

6.3.1.2 The organisation shall comply with current legislation on management, including but not limited to forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.

6.3.1.3 The organisation shall develop measures to reduce the corruption risk in accordance with anti-corruption legislation.

6.3.1.4 The measures shall be implemented to address protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.

6.3.2 Legal rights related to the forest land.

6.3.2.1 The property right to land and forest use right shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.

6.3.2.2 The forest practices and operations shall be conducted in recognition of the

established framework of legal rights. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved, or is in dispute, there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such cases forest managers shall, in the interim, provide meaningful opportunities for parties to be engaged in forest management decisions whilst respecting the processes and roles and responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.

6.3.2.3 The forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

6.3.3 Fundamental ILO conventions

6.3.3.1 The forest practices and operations shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.

6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions

6.3.4.1. Labor protection management

6.3.4.1.1 The organization shall provide the appropriate occupational health and safety management system for all employees engaged by the Organization to perform the work, including service providers (contractors):

6.3.4.1.2 Forest management activities shall be planned, organized and implemented in such way as to identify risks to health hazards and occupational injuries.

6.3.4.1.3 The organization shall take all necessary measures to ensure the safe working conditions for employees.

6.3.4.1.4 Employees shall be informed about the risks associated with their work and about measures to avoid such risks.

6.3.4.2. Training and supervision over safe labor practices

6.3.4.2.1. The organization shall provide training and briefings on health and safety for all personnel involved in forestry operations.

6.3.4.2.2. The organization shall provide the adequate control of the compliance on health and safety for all personnel involved in forestry operations.

6.3.4.2.3. Organizations should study the capacity and oblige service providers (contractors) to adhere occupational safety and health during the performing of forestry work.

6.3.4.3 Working conditions

6.3.4.3.1 The organization shall comply with the requirements for working hours and vacations in accordance with national law and in accordance with the concluded collective agreements.

6.3.4.3.2 Wages for both local workers and migrants, contractors and other workers involved in PEFC-certified areas shall meet at least the statutory branch minimum standards or exceed them (if any) under collective agreements.

6.3.4.4 The Organization's employment policy shall provide for equal opportunities and non-discrimination, in particular on the basis of gender identity.

7. Support

7.1 Resources

7.1.1 The organisation shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.

7.1.2 The organization shall consider (take into account):

a) opportunities and constraints related to its existing internal resources;

b) resources that need to be attracted from the outside to achieve the stated objectives.

7.2 Competence

7.2.1 Forest managers, employees, service providers (contractors) and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and kept up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this Standard.

7.2.1.1 The organization shall determine the required level of competence of employees involved in the performance of work under its supervision.

7.2.1.2 The organization shall ensure the sufficient level of employees' competence.

7.2.1.3 The organization shall provide the opportunities to increase the employees' competence.

7.2.1.4 The organization shall bring the employees' competence under control.

7.2.2 The organization shall record and keep the appropriate evidence of employees' competence in accordance with the requirements of section 7.5.

7.3 Communication

7.3.1 The organization shall provide the effective communication and consultation with and involvement of local communities and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management

7.3.2. The approved procedures of the Organization for interaction with stakeholders shall reflect:

a) issues involving stakeholders;

b) stakeholder engagement criteria, including ensuring the appropriate representation of current stakeholders (by age, gender, etc.);

c) mechanisms for identifying and coordinating information exchange channels with stakeholders;

d) criteria and mechanism for dissemination of information about the consultation results.

7.3.3 Stakeholder consultation processes shall be transparent.

7.4 Complaints

7.4.1 The organization shall have the appropriate mechanisms for resolving

complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.

7.4.2 The Organization shall make publicly available the existing mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes related to forest management, land use rights and work conditions in the state language, and in other languages - at the discretion of the Organization.

7.5 Documented Information

7.5.1 The organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.

7.5.2 The documented information shall be relevant, and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.

7.5.3 The organization shall document at least the following aspects of its activities:

a) the process of forest management organization and planning;

b) monitoring of the objects determined by the organisation;

c) the process of communication with stakeholders;

d) social aspects, including labor protection issues;

e) allocation of ecologically important areas.

8 Operation

8.1 Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle

8.1.1 Management of organisation shall aim to maintain and increase forests and their ecosystem services as well as the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources.

8.1.1.1. Timely reforestation according to the types of forest habitats shall be provided on logged area after clear cuttings.

8.1.1.2. The share of areas not covered by forest vegetation shall not be increased in general structure of forest areas or such increasing shall be justified.

8.1.1.3. Management measures shall be planned and implemented taking into account forest categories to maximize the values of each category.

8.1.1.4. Forest ecosystem services within the territory of the Organization and on adjacent territories shall be identified and measures to maintain and improve such services shall be implemented.

8.1.2. The quantity and quality of the forest resources and the capacity of the forest to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by ensuring the timber logging in quantities not exceeding the total average

changes in stock during the revision period (except in cases of emergencies related to natural disasters), using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources.

8.1.2.1. The volume of logged timber shall not exceed the total average change in stock during the revision period, except the cases when the increase of logging is due to the occurrence of emergencies related to natural disasters.

8.1.2.2. The annual allowable cut shall be established for each groups of tree species and for each tree species, taking into account their biological and productive maturity of stands.

8.1.2.3. Preference shall be given to selective and shelterwood systems of final felling.

8.1.2.4. Natural and climatic conditions shall be taken into account during planning and implementation of management activities.

8.1.3. The management activity shall encourage greenhouse gas emission reductions and efficient use of resources.

8.1.3.1. For efficient use of resources the possibility of operational sale of merchantable timber shall be taken into account during planning of merchantable timber logging.

8.1.3.2. Logging technology, which provides the optimal amount of merchantable timber with minimal impact on growing trees and other forest components shall be applied for all types of cuttings.

8.1.3.3. Burning of logging residues of coniferous tree species can be carried out only if their abandonment leads to deterioration of the sanitary and fire protection condition of forests. Burning of logging residues of deciduous tree species can be carried out only in cases where their abandonment can lead to the spread of specific pest species, if there is a proper justification.

8.1.3.4. The Organization shall implement the effective system of fire prevention measures to prevent and timely stifle forest fires.

8.1.4. Forest conversion shall not occur within Organization unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:

a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with affected stakeholders; and

b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and

c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and

d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and

e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.

8.1.5. Afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:

a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and

b) is established based on a decision-making basis with the involvement of affected stakeholders, in cases where they have the right to influence to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and

c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) non-forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and

d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and

e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock, for example, peatlands; and

f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.

8.1.6. Conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:

a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and

b) is established based on a decision-making basis with the involvement of affected stakeholders, in cases where they have the right to influence to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and

c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and

d) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and sociallysignificant areas, or other protected areas; and

e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and

f) safeguards socio-economic functions of forests and ecosystem services of forests; and

g) has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices; and

h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.

8.2 Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality

8.2.1 Health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be maintained or enhanced and degraded forest ecosystems shall be rehabilitated wherever and as far as economically feasible, by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures.

8.2.1.1 Forest management in favorable forest conditions shall be aimed at the formation of uneven-aged mixed multi-layered stands.

8.2.1.2 Secondary stands (secondary forest ecosystems) shall be gradually replaced by native stands (native forest ecosystems), taking into account changes in natural and climatic conditions.8.2.1.3 Areas of degraded forests shall be restored to their natural state that existed before the degradation.

8.2.1.4. Measures shall be taken to prevent and control improper hunting, harvesting of non-timber products and other minor forest products.

8.2.1.5. Cattle grazing and haymaking in legally agreed forest sites shall be monitored to prevent their damage.

8.2.2 Planning and implementation of management activities shall encourage and maintain the adequate genetic, species and structural diversity to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.

8.2.2.1 Measures to conserve the diversity of forest ecosystems shall be undertaken during the implementation of forestry activities. In particular, the seed trees of main forest species, valuable and rare trees and shrubs shall be left on cutting areas during logging. Some elements of forest ecosystems important for biodiversity conservation (including single dead standing and fallen trees, defective and oldest trees, etc.) shall be left intact, if their abandonment does not lead to deterioration of forest health and justified in terms of labor protection.

8.2.2.2 Damage to the soil cover on the cutting site in the presence of viable undergrowth shall not exceed 15% of cutting site.

8.2.2.3 The share of cutting site with retained undergrowth shall be at least 75% of the total area of cutting site on which the undergrowth was to be retained.

8.2.3 Use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for wildfire protection and habitat management. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken.

8.2.4 Appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied according to local natural conditions.

8.2.4.1 Preference shall be given to natural reforestation.

8.2.4.2 In the case of artificial reforestation, preference should be given to mixed planted forests, taking into account the types of forest conditions.

8.2.4.3 When introduced species are used for reforestation, the documented professional assessment of their potential negative impact and possibilities of its mitigation by system of measures (monitoring of condition and development, prevention of spontaneous spread by special mechanical and / or chemical control measures, restrictions on using of introduced species for artificial regeneration, etc.) in order to avoid undesirable environmental consequences shall be carried out .

8.2.4.4 Technologies of thinning, sanitary cutting, final cutting and timber transportation shall be aimed at to minimise the damage to trees and shrubs and soil cover.

Note: In order to comply with the laws and regulations of Ukraine, in particular "The Rules of Final Timber Harvest", the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers "On Approval of the Rules of Final Timber Harvest in the Mountain Forests of the Carpathians" the term "RUBKA" is used in this standard. Its synonym, which also finds a place in the practice of forestry in Ukraine and can be used in the assessment in accordance with this standard, is the term "RUBANNYA".

8.2.5 Organisation shall strictly avoid the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated places and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during forest management operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place and workers shall be trained to use these procedures.

8.2.5.1 The use of forestry lands for the establishment of legal landfills is not allowed without prior change of their designated purpose.

8.2.5.2 Precautionary measures shall be taken to prevent littering of forests.

8.2.5.3 Means for garbage and inorganic waste collection shall be available at work forest sites.

8.2.5.4 Inorganic wastes shall be utilized in an environmentally-responsible manner or reused where possible.

8.2.5.5 Absorbent shall be provided at the work sites to prevent the pollution of soil and / or water bodies with fuels and lubricants, and workers shall be trained to use it.

8.2.6 Integrated pest management, appropriate silviculture alternatives and other biological measures shall be preferred to minimise the use of pesticides.

8.2.6.1 Alternative silvicultural or biological methods shall be preferred if the same effect is achieved in case of pesticides using.

8.2.6.2 The pesticide application strategy shall be developed in the Organization.

8.2.6.3 In order to achieve the greatest effect, the application of pesticides shall be

carried out taking into account the appropriate period of time, seasonality and climatic conditions.

8.2.6.4 In case of pesticides application in forest the preventive informing of population shall be carried out.

8.2.6.5 When biological control agents are applied, their application shall be clearly monitored, documented and evaluated for undesirable environmental effects and reverse effects.

8.2.7 Any use of pesticides shall be documented and monitored.

8.2.7.1 Regular documented monitoring of the name, quantity, dosage, and timing of pesticide use shall be performed.

8.2.8 WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited in all cases, except where no other effective means are available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides is defined in this standard.

8.2.8.1 The use of WHO type 1A and 1B pesticides is permitted in exceptional cases if:

- there are no other alternative methods and means;
- expert conclusion was obtained for this purpose;
- the effect of their use outweighs the undesirable environmental or social consequences.

8.2.9 Pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.

Note: “Pesticides banned by international agreements” are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

8.2.10 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment by trained personnel.

8.2.10.1 All pesticides shall be used in accordance with the instructions for their application or in accordance with best existing national practices.

8.2.10.2 Special personal protective equipment shall be used during pesticides application taking into account the risk assessments.

8.2.10.3 All personnel involved in the pesticides application of shall be appropriately trained.

8.2.10.4 All workers involved in pesticide application shall undergo the periodic medical examinations based on risk assessments.

8.2.11 Where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment. Fertilizer use shall not be an

alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.

8.2.11.1 Fertilizers should be used only in plantations, permanent forest seed plots, nurseries and greenhouses and in the case of plantation cultivation of non-timber forest products.

8.2.11.2 When applying fertilizers, their types, fertilizer rates, frequency and place of application shall be be documented.

8.2.11.3 The undesirable environmental and social consequences of fertilizers application shall be assessed.

8.3 Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)

8.3.1 The capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis shall be maintained during planning and implementation of management activities.

8.3.1.1 All planned economic activities shall be financially backed, economically sound and environmentally and socially oriented.

8.3.1.2 Forestry and logging operations shall not lead to deterioration of water protection and protective function of forests.

8.3.2 Sound economic performance shall be pursued, taking into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.

8.3.2.1 The management activity shall be focused on the multi-purpose use of forest resources, which would include the use of timber products, minor forest products, recreational opportunities of forests.

8.3.2.2. Market trends shall be taken into account during logging.

8.3.3. Management, harvesting and regeneration operations shall be carried out at a time, and in a way, that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to soil and retained stands and trees.

8.3.4.1. Measures, the delay of which will lead to the loss of the forest's inherent functions shall be implemented first of all.

8.3.4. Harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested products.

8.3.4.1. The total average change in stock and actual logged timber volumes shall be systematically analyzed and reported in order to compare them to ensure the long-term sustainable level.

8.3.4.2. Basic forest inventory and management planning shall be carried out at least

once every ten years.

8.3.4.3. Volumes of commercially harvested non-timber products shall not exceed the approved in accordance with the established procedure limits on the special use of forest resources during the harvesting of minor forest products.

8.3.5. Adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.

8.3.5.1. During constructing roads, skid tracks, bridges, timber loading sites, and other infrastructure, all requirements for erosion prevention and environmental impact minimization shall be met.

8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems

8.4.1 Management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve and enhance biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.

8.4.1.1 Management plans shall include materials on the conservation, maintenance and appropriate enhancement of biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.

8.4.2 Inventory, mapping and planning of forest resources shall identify, protect, conserve or set aside ecologically important forest areas; specific measures shall be planned for protection and / or conservation of these areas.

Note: This does not prohibit forest management activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.

8.4.2.1. Management plans shall include data on existing ecologically important forest areas.

8.4.2.2. Ecologically important forest areas shall be marked on cartographic materials.

8.4.2.3. Management plans shall contain the lists of conservation measures and the lists of restrictions on the implementation of management activities for each identified ecologically important area.

8.4.3 Protected, threatened and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.

Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements.

8.4.3.1 The Organization shall not use for commercial purposes and trade in plant and animal species listed in the CITES Appendices, protected or threatened species and endangered species.

8.4.3.2 The Organization shall have the list of habitats of protected and endangered species of plants and animals within the forestry area of the Organization.

8.4.3.3 Protected zones of the habitats of protected plant and animal species, threatened species and endangered species shall be marked on the cartographic materials of the Organization.

8.4.3.4 During the planning and implementing of management activities, the Organization shall take into account the existing habitats of protected plant and animal species, threatened and endangered species.

8.4.3.5 The Organization, with the involvement of stakeholders and experts, shall develop the effective measures on habitat conservation for protected species and threatened species and endangered species within the Organization's area and ensure that these measures are properly implemented in practice.

8.4.3.6 The Organization shall take measures to prevent illegal hunting, as well as the trapping and collection of protected species, threatened species and endangered species.

8.4.4 The successful regeneration shall be ensured through natural regeneration or planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.

8.4.4.1 Management plans shall contain the planned quantities of reforestation works and methods of their implementation (natural regeneration or artificial reforestation), sufficient to ensure the quantity and quality of forests.

8.4.4.2 The Organization shall ensure the successful reforestation to the required extent by the specified time.

8.4.4.3 Natural regeneration shall be preferred for regeneration compared to artificial reforestation, (unless forest site conditions don't contribute to the natural regeneration of forests).

8.4.5 Native species that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred for reforestation and afforestation. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.

Limited use of introduced species to assess their impact is possible only under the guidance and control of research institutions.

Note: CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction, and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species are recognised as guidance for avoidance of invasive species.

8.4.5.1 Species selected for reforestation and afforestation shall comply with forest site conditions and be predominantly aboriginal species of local origin.

8.4.5.2 Introduced species shall not be cultivated in the forest except where severe

forest site conditions (including generated by climate changes) don't allow to apply aboriginal species.

8.4.5.3 Introduced species shall only be used if there is conclusive documented evidence (practical experience and / or research results) of the verifiability of such species. Limited use of introduced species to assess their impact is possible only under the guidance and control of research institutions.

8.4.5.4 The Organization shall develop and implement effective measures to monitor and control the expansion of invasive introduced species detected within the Organization's area.

8.4.5.5 The plantations of introduced species shall be established only on areas allocated for afforestation.

8.4.6. The afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.

8.4.6.1 The organization shall identify forest areas suitable for reforestation, where forest cover has been lost due to abiogenic and biogenic factors and due to anthropogenic activities as well as non-forest areas, the afforestation of which will improve or restore ecological connectivity.

8.4.6.2 The organization shall ensure the successful and timely re/afforestation of the areas referred to in 8.4.6.1.

8.4.7 Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.

Note: The restriction on the usage of genetically-modified trees has been adopted by the PEFC General Assembly based on the Precautionary Principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically modified trees indicates that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to, or more positive than, those presented by trees genetically improved by traditional methods, no genetically-modified trees will be used.

8.4.7.1 Genetically modified organisms shall not be used.

8.4.8 The diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures and the diversity of species such as mixed stands shall be promoted, where appropriate. The practices shall also aim to maintain or restore landscape diversity.

8.4.8.1 During reforestation planning, the establishment of mixed stands in forest site conditions favourable for their growth shall be preferred.

8.4.8.2 The Organization shall facilitate the transition to stripped-coupe and/or non-clear cutting (shelterwood or selective in suitable forest site conditions with favorable species composition).

8.4.8.3 During planning of harvesting (final) cuttings, the application of non-clear cutting systems shall be preferred in suitable forest site conditions with favorable species composition.

8.4.8.4 Harvesting (final) cuttings, as well as thinning and sanitary cuttings shall promote the growing of mixed stands in appropriate forest site conditions.

8.4.8.5 Thinning and sanitary cutting shall ensure the gradual renewal and formation of native forest ecosystems.

8.4.8.6 Associate aboriginal tree species shall not be completely removed during thinning and sanitary cuttings.

8.4.9 Traditional management practices that establish ecosystems valuable for biodiversity conservation and nature protection on appropriate sites shall be supported, where appropriate.

8.4.9.1 Planning and implementation of harvesting (final) cuttings, thinning and sanitary cuttings, artificial and natural reforestation shall be aimed at the establishing of native forest ecosystems from aboriginal tree species that meet forest site conditions and perform the biodiversity conservation and / or environmental protection functions.

8.4.10 Any logging shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to maintain or improve biological diversity

8.4.10.1 Any logging shall be conducted in a way that does not cause soil erosion, damage to remaining trees, and exclude the possibility of negative impact on the condition of forests and water bodies.

8.4.10.2 Any logging shall be carried out using the technologies that ensure the conservancy of the remaining trees and undergrowth.

8.4.10.3 Technological charts for logging of cutting site shall contain the section listing the biodiversity-valuable objects identified within the cutting site and practical measures to maintain or improve the condition of such objects.

8.4.10.4 Erosion control measures (arrangement of fascines and wicker fences, earth embankments, drains, leveling of depressions on skid tracks), clearing of watercourses from logging residues, repairing of the damaged access roads shall be carried out.

8.4.11 Infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.

8.4.11.1 Information on planning, design and construction of infrastructure facilities shall be publicly available.

8.4.11.2 Documentation for the construction of infrastructure facilities shall be agreed with the relevant state authorities.

8.4.11.3 The design of infrastructure facilities shall be carried out by institutions and enterprises that have the appropriate state-approved permits from authorized state institutions to perform such work.

8.4.11.4 The Organization shall assess and document the potential extent of damage to ecosystems, especially to rare or vulnerable ecosystems and genetic reserves, habitats of endangered species or other key species before commencing design work for the construction of the infrastructural facility. If there is the risk of significant damage - the location of infrastructural facility shall be changed.

8.4.12 With due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to control the pressure of animal populations on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.

8.4.12.1 The organization shall initiate the obtaining of necessary permits and promote regulation measures or regulate the number of animal populations that adversely affect on reforestation successfulness, stand growth and biodiversity to the scientifically based level.

8.4.12.2 The Organization shall take measures to protect forests established in the process of reforestation or afforestation from damage by animals.

8.4.13 Standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding ecosystems.

8.4.13.1 To ensure the preservation of biological diversity during clear cuttings, the following elements of forest ecosystem (or their parts) shall be left standing, unless their removal is justified by labour protection, safety reasons or negative implications for adjacent forest sites:

- separate clumps of trees with the presence of viable undergrowth, rare plant species, bird's nests and other biodiversity elements;
- very old and hollow trees;
- standing deadwood, windthrown trees and snags;
- endemic and rare tree species.

8.4.13.2 The elements of forest ecosystem (or their parts) that are planned to be left during clear cuttings shall be indicated in the technological charts for logging of cutting site.

8.5 Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)

8.5.1 Protective functions of forests for society, such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.

8.5.1.1 The organization shall maintain and enhance the protective functions of

forests by identifying such forests, planning and implementing appropriate measures (see also 8.5.2).

8.5.1.2 The organization shall contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of carbon sequestration in forest ecosystems (primarily in trunk timber).

8.5.1.3 Both aboriginal and introduced tree species may be used during the establishment or regeneration of soil conservation and water protection forests in unfavorable forest site conditions, provided that measures shall be taken to monitor and control [prevent] the expansion of potentially invasive introduced species.

8.5.2 The areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be mapped, and forest management plans and operations shall ensure the maintenance or enhancement of these functions.

8.5.2.1 Management plans shall contain data about forest areas performing protective functions that were identified during the inventory .

8.5.2.2 Forest areas performing protective functions shall be marked on cartographic materials.

8.5.2.3 Management plans shall contain the lists of management activities to maintain or enhance the protective functions of forest areas of the appropriate designated purpose.

8.5.3 The special care shall be given to forestry operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Techniques applied and the machinery used shall be suitable for such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations on these areas.

8.5.3.1 The organization shall comply with the established requirements for the implementation of management activities to maintain the erosion-preventive functions of forest areas of the appropriate designated purpose.

8.5.3.2 Thinning and sanitary cuttings shall be carried out in ways that minimize the risk of soil erosion (see also 8.4.10).

8.5.3.3 Technologies, machines and mechanisms that provide the least soil disturbance / deterioration of their water-physical characteristics and prevent erosion processes on logged areas shall be used during logging.

8.5.3.4 Technological charts for logging of cutting site shall contain the section with the list of erosion control measures performed during and after logging.

8.5.3.5 After the end of logging the erosion control measures shall be performed on erosion threatening parts of the logging area.

8.5.4 The special care shall be given to forestry operations in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or

inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided. Downstream water balance and water quality shall not be significantly affected by the operations.

8.5.4.1 The organization shall comply with the established requirements for management activities to maintain the water protection functions of forest areas.

8.5.4.2 Skidding tracks shall not be laid closer than 20 meters from permanent and 10 meters from temporary watercourses, in the sources of rivers and around them.

8.5.4.3. The measures to minimize the littering of watercourses with logging residues shall be carried during logging. After logging the watercourses shall be cleared from logging residues (see also 8.4.10.4).

8.5.5 The construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.

8.5.5.1 The designing, construction and exploitation of forest roads, bridges, timber loading sites and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. (see also 8.4.11).

8.5.5.2 Forest road drainage systems shall be maintained in working condition.

8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions

8.6.1 The forest management planning shall aim to respect all socio-economic functions of forests.

8.6.1.1 Planning materials shall aim to maintain all socio-economic functions of forests.

8.6.1.2 Planned activities shall ensure that forests perform forest functions which are important for the local population.

8.6.2 The adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided, taking into account respect for ownership rights, safety and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.

8.6.2.1 The organization shall ensure free access of the population to forests for recreational purposes. Access to forests is restricted only during the fire-hazardous period, to areas where logging is carried out, to protected areas of nature reserves, as well as in other cases provided by the legislation of Ukraine.

8.6.2.2 The organization shall agree with the hunting areas users the places for

construction of fenced area and other objects related to hunting management, in order to ensure free and safe access of the population to forests for recreational purposes.

8.6.3 The sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the needs of local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.

8.6.3.1 The organization together with local communities shall identify areas of specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities.

8.6.3.2 Areas of specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities shall be mapped.

8.6.3.3 The organization together with local communities shall identify measures for the protection of such areas and possible management measures that will contribute to the preservation of such areas, the sanitation and land improvement.

8.6.4 The management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area, where appropriate supported by engagement with local communities.

8.6.4.1 The Organization shall keep up-to-date information on local communities within or adjacent to the forest management area and on cooperation with them.

8.6.4.2 The organization shall manage taking into account the need for long-term health and well-being of local communities.

8.6.4.3. In case of causing damage to local communities, the Organization shall have a mechanism in place to resolve such conflict and redress, and apply it effectively.

8.6.5 The best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners/users, NGOs, local communities. Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be encouraged.

8.6.6 The management shall give due regard to the role of forestry in local economies. Special consideration shall be given to new opportunities for training and employment of local people.

8.6.6.1 Organization shall identify the list of resources and ecosystem services that can strengthen and diversify the local economy.

8.6.7 The forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.

8.6.7.1 In order to obtain scientific data to ensure sustainable forest management, the Organization should cooperate with scientific institutions (for example, by concluding

economic contracts for research or advisory services) and / or in various ways to support research within the Organization.

9. Performance evaluation

9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation

9.1.1. The monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.

9.1.2. The health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.

9.1.3. Where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.

9.1.4. The working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.

9.2 Internal audit

9.2.1 Objectives

The internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system:

a) conforms to

- the organisation’s requirements for its management system;
- the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard;

b) is effectively implemented and maintained.

9.2.2 Organisation

The organisation shall:

a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;

b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;

c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;

d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;

e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.

9.3 Management review

9.3.1 The annual management review shall at least include:

a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;

b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system;

c) information on the organisation’s performance, including trends in:

- nonconformities and corrective actions;
- monitoring and measurement results according to the indicators from Annex B;
- audit results;

d) opportunities for continual improvement.

9.3.2 The outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.

9.3.3 The documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.

10 Improvement

10.1 Nonconformity and corrective actions

10.1.1 When a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:

a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:

i. take action to control and correct it;

ii. deal with the consequences;

b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by:

i. reviewing the nonconformity;

ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity;

iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;

c) implement any action needed;

d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;

e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.

10.1.2 The corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.

10.1.3 The organisation shall retain documented information during two certification cycles as evidence of:

a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;

b) the results of any corrective action.

10.2 Continual improvement

The suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system shall be continuously improved.

Annexes

Annex A. Fundamental ILO conventions ratified by Ukraine

Convention	Date of ratification
C29 Forced Labour Convention, 1930	10.08.1956
C87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948	14.09.1956
C98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949	14.09.1956
C100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951	10.08.1956
C105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957	14.12.2000
C111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958	04.08.1961
C138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973	03.05.1979
C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999	14.12.2000

Annex B. Monitoring of processes related to sustainable forest management

This Annex can be used to compile monitoring documentation in accordance with the requirements of the Standard. The list of monitoring items is recommendatory and may be amended or supplemented by the Organization.

The frequency of monitoring reporting determines the minimum term for the reporting documents preparation, and the frequency of monitoring is set by the Organization on the basis of its own management practices, taking into account legal regulations.

Object of monitoring	Subject of monitoring	Periodicity of monitoring reporting	Recommended representative of the management staff responsible for monitoring
1. The health and vitality of forests	The use of forest resources (including ecosystem services)	Annually, Each audit period	Chief Forester
	Parameters of the forestry area by age structure, species composition, timber stocks and areas	Annually, Each audit period	Head of the Forestry Department
	Volumes and condition of reforestation and afforestation	Annually, Each audit period	Head of the Forestry Department, Forest Regeneration Engineer
	Volume of forest use (including non-timber forest products)	Annually, Each audit period	Forestry Engineer, Head of the Forestry Department
	Parameters of hunting species	Annually, Each audit period	Game Manager
	Biotechnical measures	Annually	Game Manager
	Ecologically important forest areas	Annually	Head of the Forestry Department
	Non-native species, including invasive species	Annually	Head of the Forestry Department
	Presence of unauthorized and illegal logging, land grabbing, poaching and illegal forest use and their prevention	Daily Annually	Forest protection and conservation engineer

Object of monitoring	Subject of monitoring	Periodicity of monitoring reporting	Recommended representative of the management staff responsible for monitoring
	Disease and insect outbreak monitoring	Monthly Annually, Each audit period	Forest protection and conservation engineer
	Application of fertilizers and pesticides	Annually	Chief Forester
	Forest fires	Annually, Daily during the fire-hazardous period	Forest protection and conservation engineer
	Erosion processes and erosion control measures within forestry areas	Annually, Each audit period	Forestry engineer, Head of the Forestry Department
	Waste treatment	Annually	Logging engineer, Chief engineer
2. Social sphere	Provision of labor resources	Annually	Chief economist, Head of Human Resources
	Public relations and image	Annually	Chief Forester
	Availability and use of personal protective equipment and workwear, compliance with labor protection and safety requirements, including on areas contaminated with radionuclides	Annually	Safety Engineer
	Presence of corrupt actions and the presence of corruption risks in the staff activities	Annually	Legal adviser
	Compliance with labor legislation	Annually	Legal adviser
	Presence and reasons for complaints and appeals	Annually	Legal adviser

Object of monitoring	Subject of monitoring	Periodicity of monitoring reporting	Recommended representative of the management staff responsible for monitoring
	Staff qualifications	Annually	Head of Human Resources
	Involvement of stakeholders to various management issues	Annually	Chief Forester
3. Economic sphere	Infrastructure development	Annually, Each audit period	Chief Engineer
	Provision with fixed assets	Annually, Each audit period	Chief Engineer
	Provision with financial resources	Annually	Chief Economist
	Promoting to the local economy development	Annually, Each audit period	Chief Economist
	Payment of taxes and fees	Annually	Chief Accountant
	Remuneration	Annually	Chief Accountant
	Expenses on forestry	Annually	Chief Accountant
	Expenses for labor protection measures	Annually	Chief Economist, Safety Engineer

Bibliography

CITIES, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973, as amended.

Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament & of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC.

FAO. 2003. Report of the international conference on the contribution of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management: the way forward. Rome.

FAO (2012), Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

FAO 2015, FRA 2015 Terms and Definitions, Forest Resources Assessment Working Paper 180

FAO 2017, Non-wood forest products in international statistical systems.

FAO 2018, Integrated Pest Management, http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/%20pests/ipm/en, access February 2018.

FAO 2018, Terms and Definitions FRA 2020.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. Island Press, Washington, DC.

Scherr et al. 2013, Defining Integrated Landscape Management for Policy Makers Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) as amended in 2009 United Nations 1948, Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

United Nations 2002, Report of the Conference of the Parties on its 7th session, held at Marrakesh, from 29 October to 10 November 2001, Addendum, Part two.