

Swedish FSC Standard for Forest Certification

Draft for endorsement, English version

Endorsed by the Board of Directors of FSC Sweden, 14th of november, 2006.

CRITERION 8.4

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

IND:

8.4.1: Management, plans and instructions are evaluated and, if required, revised in compliance with monitoring results.

VER:

Planning documentation, routines, monitoring results, field inspection

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.

IND:

8.5.1: The landowner, or by him appointed representative, see to it that summarizing results of monitoring procedures are made available within reasonable time.

VER: Monitoring results

PRINCIPLE 9: MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

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.

High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) are defined in the international glossary as follows:

High Conservation Value Forests: High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:

a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant :

- concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or*
- large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance*

b) forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems

c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control)

d) forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in co-operation with such local communities).

In Sweden the "high conservation value forests" include areas such as:

- Forest areas of national interest and/or of recognized nation-wide significance, with a concentration of key habitats and/or habitats for red-listed species outside defined key habitats.*
- Forest areas adjacent to mountains and situated at altitudes above the nature conservation boundary (the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, 1988, ISBN 91-558-5201-7).*

- Protective forests according to §15 in the Swedish Forestry Act and forests within conservation zones for sources of water supply.

Any other forest that may fall under the concept of "high conservation value forests" is dealt with in other parts of this standard.

CRITERION 9.1

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

IND:

9.1.1: The landowner investigates the possible presence of forest areas with high conservation values.

VER:

Planning documentation

CRITERION 9.2

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

IND:

9.2.1: See Indicator 4.4.1

CRITERION 9.3

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

IND:

9.3.1: Landowners/landowners' representatives associated with areas with high nature conservation values, maintain the specific values of these areas by directing for instance conservation measures towards them.

9.3.2: Primarily due to climatic and topographical conditions, coniferous forests in areas adjacent to mountains have special features distinguishing them from other inland forests. Forests in areas adjacent to mountains are comparatively unaffected by forest management, they often hold high biodiversity values and are of significant importance to reindeer husbandry as well as having an intrinsic value in the total areal magnitude of habitat connectivity. The continuity of these fragile forests is here and there broken by areas affected by previous management. The extent of this impact diminishes towards the altitudinal limit for productive forest land.

The potential for forest management in forest areas adjacent to mountains is, however, of great importance in terms of securing the employment and support of the local population, and with this, the economy of local communities. Certified forest management in areas adjacent to mountains ensures that the high biodiversity values are not endangered, that the needs of reindeer husbandry are respected, and that the local population can feel secure as regards ongoing utilization of forest resources.

A landowner carrying out forest management above the nature conservation boundary (the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, 1988, ISBN 91-558-5201-7) will, on application, be awarded FSC certification provided the landowner undertakes to comply with the guidelines 1-3 set out below, in addition to applicable parts of the general FSC Criteria.

Landowners who declare in writing that they do not intend to carry out forest management activities above the nature conservation boundary, or any future revision of this boundary, are considered to comply with the certification requirement. The above guidelines apply in relation to the 1988 nature conservation boundary until motives for revising the boundary are presented in documentation. A revision shall then be done in a local process of consensus, and the guidelines 1-3 shall after that apply in relation to the revised boundary.

1. Areas of virgin-type forests according to the FSC main Criteria* are exempt from forestry measures unless the objective of the activity is to promote the natural biodiversity. All other kinds of key habitat are also included in this category.

**(For forest areas adjacent to mountains, the specific definition of virgin-type forest is as follows): No, or occasional felling stumps, a continuity of old windthrows, an abundance of wood fungi such as Fomitopsis rosea, Amylocystis lapponica, and Phlebi centrifuga, and an abundance of large windthrows, often 15-20 per hectare. Diverse age structure and pronounced stratification. Plenty of natural stumps and dead standing trees.*

2. Other forests of significance for biological diversity, located in strips or enclaves adjacent to areas of virgin-type forests and forming a natural integrated unity with these areas, belong to Category 1 and are exempt from all forestry measures except those with the objective of promoting natural biodiversity. *(Definition: Evident signs of dimension felling. A moderate frequency of old windthrows and sparse or isolated occurrences of the fungi listed above. Often diverse age structure and stratification. Sparse dead standing trees).*

Other areas of Category 2 may be managed by selective felling and intensified nature conservation measures, where this is required for maintenance of the local forest industry, and thus for employment and economy of the local communities.

3. Forest areas that are neither of Category 1 nor 2 may continuously be used in accordance with other parts of the Standard, however with the exceptions mentioned below. Areas of this category are primarily recently managed areas or other severely affected areas with broken continuity.

Exceptions in forest areas adjacent to mountains

Due to the special management required in areas of Category 2, the Indicators stating that 5% of the area is exempt from management (6.4.2) and that 5% of the area is broad-leaf tree-dominated stands (6.3.8) do not have to be complied with within forest areas adjacent to mountains as per Indicator 9.3.2.

9.3.3: Protective forests (according to the Swedish Forest Agency's terminology) are utilized in accordance with §15 and §16 in the Swedish Forestry Act. Forests within nature conservation zones for sources of water supply are utilized in accordance with existing regulations.

VER:

9.3.1-2: Planning documentation, field inspection

9.3.3: Field inspection, felling permits, map and regulations from the county administrative board or from the municipality.

CRITERION 9.4

Annual monitoring shall be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the relevant nature conservation attributes.

IND:

9.4.1: In order to enable evaluation, the landowner/landowner's representative annually compiles all measures taken to maintain or enhance relevant nature conservation values in "high conservation value forests".

VER:

9.4.1 Planning documentation, results of evaluations