

PEFC RUSSIA Forest Certification System

FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

2015

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FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Effective date _____ 201__

Introduction

The Standard sets out PEFC RUSSIA certification system requirements for forest management.

The requirements of this standard are based on legislation and normative documents currently in force in Russia. The requirements set out by the standard comply with the requirements of the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC), the main principles of Rio 20+ final document, and provisions of international acts ratified by the Russian Federation.

Owing to the fact that legislative and normative documents are constantly updated, the updated values, norms, lists of objects, exceptions and other norms shall be taken into account when applying the standard.

1. Scope

1.1 The Standard shall be applicable throughout Russia.

1.2 The Standard shall be applied by PEFC RUSSIA notified certification bodies for voluntary certification, i.e. assessment of forest management for compliance with PEFC RUSSIA forest certification system requirements.

1.3 The Standard is also applicable for self-control of forest management activities by applicants and forest-related organizations.

2. Effective date

This Standard shall come into effect from the date of its publication.

3. Normative references

RULES AND PROGRAMME FOR PEFC RUSSIA STANDARDS SETTING, REVIEW AND APPROVAL (2015).

4. Terms and definitions

Afforestation. Afforestation includes forest cultivation on non-forest lands within forest fund lands (swamps, reclaimed lands, former crop lands, gullies and other), creation of protective forest belts on crop lands, industrial and transport lands, water resource lands and other land categories, creation of forest stands in the course of reclamation of lands

disturbed by industrial operations as well as forest stands in recreational areas and other categories.

Annual allowable cut (AAC). The annual quota of timber removal for commercial and protective forests ensuring multi-purpose, rational, continuous, sustainable use of forests based on established cutting ages, conservation of biological diversity, water preservation and protective and other benefits of forests.

Applicant. Individuals and legal entities with use and management rights to forest fund plots whose forest management is being certified and/or owners of enterprises harvesting and/or processing forest products whose chain of custody is being certified.

Biological control agents. Living organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other living organisms.

Biological diversity. Variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Certification. The form of verification carried out by a certification body for the purpose of identifying compliance of the applicant with the technical regulations, standards' provisions or terms of contracts.

Chain of custody. All changes in the ownership of timber and products thereof taking place during harvesting, transportation, handling and sale of timber and products thereof through the chain of supplies "from forest to end use: or "from producer to consumer".

Clear cutting. A cutting removing forest stands on corresponding lands and land plots and leaving individual trees and bushes or groups of trees and bushes.

Commercial forests. Forests subject to development with the purpose of sustainable and maximum effective harvest of high-quality timber and other forest resources and products based thereon provided that forest benefits are preserved.

Criterion. A means of judging whether or not a Principle has been fulfilled.

Cutting area. A forest plot allotted for timber cutting.

Declining species. Taxa and populations continuously declining in abundance which provided they are exposed to factors entailing their decline in abundance may move to a threatened species category in the short-term perspective.

Ecological expertise (EE). A procedure to assess that documents and (or) documentations justifying forestry and other activities planned in connection with the sale of the object of ecological expertise conform with environmental requirements set out by technical regulations and legislation in the area of environmental protection in order to prevent adverse effects of such activities on the environment.

Ecosystem. Entitative part of natural environment having spatial-territorial boundaries within which animate (plants, animals and other organisms) and inanimate elements interact as a one functional unit and are interrelated through substance and energy exchange.

Edible forest resources. Wild fruits, berries, nuts, mushrooms, seeds, birch sap and similar forest resources, harvested in accordance with the forest laws.

Endangered species. Species continuously declining in abundance which may move to a threatened species category in the short-term perspective.

Environmental impact assessment (EIA). A type of activity aimed to identify, analyze and record direct, indirect and other consequences of impact of planned economic or

other activity on the environment for the purpose of making a decision whether it can be carried on or not.

Forest inventory. Activity including:

- 1) design of lesnichestvos (forestry production units) and forest parks;
- 2) design of commercial forests, protective forests, reserved forests and specially protected parts of forest;
- 3) design of forest plots;
- 4) on-site marking of boundaries of forestry production units, forest parks, commercial forests, protective forests, reserved forests and specially protected parts of forest and forest plots;
- 5) forest taxation (identification, recording and assessment of qualitative and quantitative characteristics of forest resources);
- 6) design of forest guard, protection and regeneration measures.

Forest inventory plan. A document drawn up on the basis of forest inventory performed.

Forest lands. Lands covered and uncovered with forest vegetation, designed for regeneration thereof (cutovers; burnt areas, open forests, lawns and other) and non-forest land designed for forestry (glades, roads, bogs and other).

Forest management. The management system and structure and planning operations aimed at maintenance and use of multiple forest functions in accordance with the current legislation and other enacted norms.

A system composed of the following components: strategy and tactics, planning and monitoring, implementation and practice, control and corrective measures, as well as assessment of management with the aim to improve forestry practices by regular measurement and assessment of a set of indicators selected for a certain area and adjustment of forecasts, activities and plans to incorporate this information. The sustainability of the system is determined by the following elements: structure, responsibility, instructions, procedures, processes operating within the time framework set in the plans.

Forest users. Individuals and legal entities using forests in the manner set out by the forest laws.

Genetically modified organism (GMO). Biological organisms which have been induced by various means/methods to consist of genetic structural changes including any living organism having a new combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

Indicator. A reflection of the process development or a state of the object under observation, its quantitative or qualitative characteristics, in the form convenient for understanding. Requirements for the process or state of the object under observation, its quantitative or qualitative characteristics.

Indigenous small-numbered peoples (hereafter small-numbered peoples). Peoples living in the North, Siberia and Far East on the territories of traditional settlement of their ancestors, preserving the traditional lifestyle, economic and trade methods, of a population less than 50,000 people identifying themselves as an independent ethnic communities including representatives of other ethnic communities not related to small-numbered peoples but living permanently in the living area of these peoples and traditionally using the nature used by small-numbered peoples.

Land conversion. A documented change of the category of forest fund lands (e.g. from forest fund lands to other-use lands).

Landscape. A part of the territory (in the sense as it is perceived by the local population) whose characteristic features result from the action or interaction of natural and (or) human factors.

Lease agreement. An agreement on lease of a government or municipality-owned forest plot concluded under the Civil Code of the Russian Federation. According to the agreement, the lessor provide the leaseholder with a forest plot for one or several purposes.

Lease fee. Fee for use of forests under a lease agreement for forest areas which are the state or municipal property.

Local population. People residing within the boundaries of the territory (area) in question and using certain settlements as places of permanent or seasonal residence.

Monitoring. An integrated system of observation, assessment, forecasting and dynamics of the condition of objects. It includes forest monitoring, in particular, forest pathology monitoring, hunting resources and their environments monitoring, social monitoring and protective and protected forests monitoring.

Non-timber forest resources. Stumps, birchbark, tree and bush bark, brushwood, woody forage, spruce, fir and pine branches, spruce and other coniferous tress used as new year trees, moss, forest layer, bulrush, reed grass and other forest products, harvested and collected in accordance with the forest laws.

Pesticides. Chemical or biological agents used for fighting plant pests and diseases, weed plants, pests attacking stored agricultural products, household pests and animal external parasites, as well as plant growth control, pre-harvest leaf removal (defoliant) and pre-harvest plant drying (desiccants).

Plantations. Relatively large areas covered by artificial plantations created for accelerated cultivation of wood with planned technical characteristics as an end product. Economic and technical indicators are a priority in plantation growing¹. Areas of natural forests with intensive thinning regime or other activities aimed at changes in their structure for the purpose of growing commercial timber of definite sorts are considered plantations.

Principle. A guiding rule or basis.

Procedure. An established manner of proceeding or performing activity. Procedures may documented or non-documented.

Protective forests and protected forest plots. Forests and parts thereof having high conservation value and performing environment-forming, water-preservative, protective, sanitary, recreational and other useful functions, determined and identified and in accordance with the forest law.

Rare species. Taxa and populations which are small in number and occur in a limited area or scattered across vast areas.

¹Thereupon, forest species do not belong to plantations since the basis for their creation and growing is restoration of forest vegetation typical for this landscape. Ecological, forestry and recreational purposes are a priority in growing forest cultures.

Report. Data, information about company's activities for a specified period of time presented in a specified form.

Reserved forests. Forests in which timber harvest is not planned to be performed in the next twenty years.

Sample representative forest plots are forest plots representing natural (or close to natural) forest ecosystems in different groups of forest growth conditions relevant for a particular territory.

Selective cutting. Cutting a part of trees and bushes on certain lands or land plots.

SMU. Short term for Species management unit. A management unit of the forest fund which is an aggregate of forest stands and forest-uncovered lands of a forest enterprise having one prevailing species and common management objective.

State monitoring of game resources and their habitats. A system of regular surveillance of:

- 1) number and distribution of game resources, their location within the habitat, condition of game resources and change dynamics per species;
- 2) condition of habitats of game resources and hunting areas.

State Game Management Unit Register. A systematized corpus of documented information about game resources, their use and conservation, hunting areas, hunters, legal entities and individual entrepreneurs operating in the area of game management.

Supplier. An enterprise or producer supplying goods or services.

Threatened species. Taxa and populations which have depleted critically in number so that they are likely to disappear in the short-term perspective.

Water protection zone. Territories adjacent to sides of seas, rivers, springs, channels, lakes, water reservoirs that have special regime of management and other activities to prevent pollution, littering, silting of said bodies and depletion of their waters bodies as well as to preserve habitats of aquatic biological resources and other fauna and flora species.

Traditional nature use by indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation (hereafter "traditional nature use"). Traditional ways of use of fauna and flora and other natural resources ensuring sustainable nature use exercised by indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation.

Violation. Intentional or unintentional act contradicting with the law, effective rules and regulations.

Work plan. A list of measures to achieve the goals set for a specified period of time: short-term (up to 1 year), middle-term (up to 3 years), long-term (over 10 years).

5. Requirements to forest management system

5.1 The forest management system shall adhere to principles of sustainability in economic, ecological and social spheres and ensure:

- compliance with the legislation and international obligations of the Russian Federation (RF);
- rational and efficient forest management;
- conservation of biodiversity, viability of forest ecosystems and forest functions;

- identification, conservation and maintenance of protective forests and specially protected forest plots;
- observance of the rights of workers, local population and indigenous peoples;
- planning of operations and monitoring of forest management.

5.2 The need to comply with the requirements of these principles by forest management is prescribed by the current legislative, methodological and normative documents.

5.3 The principal requirements are revealed in the criteria and detailed in the indicators.

5.4 Forest management system functioning with:

- a) absence of the core documents;
- b) regulatory violations in planning and activities having cumulative adverse effects on people and the environment;
- c) negative conclusions drawn by independent experts with regard to the environmental impact assessment of the applicant;
- d) evidence of deliberate misrepresentation of representatives of supervising bodies shall be unambiguously interpreted as non-complying with the requirements of this standard.

5.5 Issuance of a PEFC RUSSIA certificate to the applicant is conditioned on the positive results of the assessment.

6 Principles, criteria and indicators of PEFC RUSSIA forest certification

Principle 1. Compliance with laws and international obligations of the Russian Federation applicable to forest management including forestry practices; nature and environment protection; protected and endangered species; title, lease and use rights to the lands held by indigenous peoples; industrial health and safety rules; tax and loyalty payment.

Criterion 1.1. *Forest management shall comply with federal laws and laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation.*

- 1.1.1. Requirements of the Russian legislation are complied with during incorporation and registration of the applicant.
- 1.1.2. Documents on official foundation and registration of the applicant are available.
- 1.1.3. Laws and subordinate acts of the Russian Federation and its subject regulating forestry relations are available.
- 1.1.4 A system of monitoring and timely update of the existing federal legislative framework and that of the subjects of the Russian Federation is available.
- 1.1.5. A procedure for making personnel aware on the contents of the legislative base is available.
- 1.1.6. A system for identifying violations of forest legislation and related laws is available.

1.1.7. Documents such as orders, instructions, guidelines, reports on identified incompliances are available.

1.1.8. Timely corrective measures are taken to eliminate the causes and to mitigate the negative impacts of non-conformance with forestry legislation and related laws.

1.1.9. Orders, instructions and guidelines on elimination of causes and mitigation of consequences of violations of the law are in place.

1.1.10. A system for recording acts (including acts of comprehensive state audit), protocols of violations of environmental, forest and water legislation, is in place.

Criterion 1.2. All kinds of imposed payments, duties, assignments, taxes and other charges shall be paid.

1.2.1. The applicant has the list of all applicable and legally prescribed payments, duties, assignments, taxes and other charges with due dates.

1.2.2. There is evidence of timely payments.

1.2.3. Documented proof issued by the tax authority of no outstanding payments, duties, assignments, taxes and other charges is available.

Criterion 1.3. The current labor and social legislation ensuring employment guarantees and social obligations to workers shall be complied with.

1.3.1. The texts of legislative acts and occupational safety rules are available at the enterprise.

1.3.2. The occupational safety regulations are available at the enterprise.

1.3.3. Records of briefings on labor protection and job safety are maintained.

1.3.4. The management of the applicant demonstrates that it knows the contents of the Labor Code and related acts.

1.3.5. The personnel of the applicant demonstrates that it knows the contents of the Labor Code and related acts.

1.3.6. There are wage level agreements, the workers are aware of them.

1.3.7. There agreements between the employer and employees with provisions for fulfilling labor guarantees and social obligations are signed.

1.3.8. There is evidence of no violations of labor guarantees and social obligations in relation to workers.

1.3.9. The applicant does not use forced, compulsory labor of foreign citizens and persons without citizenship not registered according to the established procedures.

Criterion 1.4. Rights of legal entities and individuals pertaining to operating management and forest management shall be defined.

1.4.1. There are available duly documented tenure and use and lease rights to forest resources, the term of which is not less than the validity period of the certificate.

1.4.2. The applicant recognizes legal rights to the forest fund plots.

1.4.3. The forest manager respects the legal rights to the forest plots.

1.4.4. The resolution procedure for disputes over tenure claims and use right to forest resources is in place.

1.4.5. A procedure for processing complaints and resolution of disputes over forest management between timber companies and local communities are in place.

1.4.6. There are no outstanding disputes over tenure rights to forest plots or such disputes are being resolved within legal framework as of the date of certification.

1.4.7. There are no outstanding disputes over use rights to forest plots or such disputes are being resolved within legal framework as of the date of certification.

1.4.8. The records of PEFC RUSSIA forest management certificates and/or certificates issued by recognized forest certification systems operating in the Russian Federation are maintained.

1.4.9. As of the date of forest management certification, acute disputes over forest management between logging companies and local population are absent or are being resolved on the legal basis.

1.4.10. The boundaries of forest plots are well-defined on maps and on site.

1.4.11. The information on owners and users operating on adjacent territories is available.

1.4.12. The forest plot transfer was public, the local population is informed about it, information about tender for tenure and use rights to forest plots is available.

Criterion 1.5. *Forest management shall ensure proper protection of forest plots from illegal operations such as illegal cutting, illegal land use, illegally authorized fires and other illegal activities.*

1.5.1. Absence of illegal and unsanctioned allotment or seizure of lands by the applicant.

1.5.2. Absence of unauthorized activities of the applicant.

1.5.3. An appropriate registration and control system of all users entitled to carry out operations (activities) on the applicant's area designed for certification.

1.5.4. Absence of illegal logging carried out by the applicant.

1.5.5. A system of measures to reveal and prevent unauthorized activities such as illegal cuttings, illegal land use, illegally authorized fires and other illegal activities in the applicant's area designed for certification is in place.

1.5.6. A system of measures to prevent negative impacts of activities on adjacent territories is in place.

1.5.7. In case of illegal and unauthorized acts, relevant measures are taken in accordance with the applicable legislation.

1.5.8. Conversion of forests to other types of land use (except building forest infrastructure) including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:

a) is carried out on the basis of decisions of authorized government bodies in accordance with area development plans approved at the federal, regional or municipal levels upon consultations with materially and directly interested stakeholders in order to receive long term environmental, economic and social benefits; and

b) entails a small proportion of forest type not more than 5% of the certified area; and

c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems, areas of cultural and social significance, key habitats of threatened species and other protected areas.

1.5.9. Conversion of abandoned agricultural lands and treeless lands into the forest lands is carried out in cases whenever it can improve the economic, environmental, social and/or cultural value of the area.

Criterion 1.6. Provisions of international Conventions and agreements ratified by Russia shall be observed.

1.6.1. Texts of Conventions² ratified by the Russian Federation, as well as resolutions of Helsinki and Montreal processes, materials of Lisbon and Vienna Conferences on Sustainable Forest Management are available.

1.6.2. The workers are made aware of the requirements of forest certification standards relating to their duties.

1.6.3. Compliance with the provisions of international Conventions and agreements ratified by Russia is included in the applicant's plans.

1.6.4. Forest management is in compliance with the international Conventions and agreements ratified by Russia.

1.6.5. Listings (Red Books) of rare, threatened and endangered flora and fauna species of the Russian Federation and those of subject of the Russian Federation where forest certification is conducted are available.

1.6.6. Applicant has made a list of flora and fauna species as well as areas falling under the ratified Conventions.

1.6.7. The maps of identified habitat/vegetation of animals and plants, as well as areas falling under the effect of ratified Conventions are compiled.

²Conventions of the International Labor Organization 29, 87, 98, 105, 110, 111, 138, 182 Convention on International Trade of Endangered Flora and Fauna Species (CITES), Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Water and Wetland of International Value as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Agreement), Convention on International Trade in Tropical Timber (ITTA).

1.6.8. Plants and animals existing on the applicant's territory stipulated by ratified Conventions are taken into account when planning operations are present.

Criterion 1.7. *The legislation concerning environmental issues of forest management shall be complied with.*

1.7.1. All personnel shall be acquainted with environmental legislation regulating forest management.

1.7.2. There is no violation of the current federal and local legislation as well as administrative requirements by the applicant.

1.7.3. Corrective measures shall be taken in the event of any conflict between federal laws and subordinate acts or local legislation.

1.7.4. Measures regarding identified disparity in environmental legislation regulating forest management shall be agreed upon consultations with interested parties.

Principle 2. Planning of operations and monitoring of forest management

Criterion 2.1. *Forest management shall be planned in accordance with the principles and criteria of sustainable forest management*

2.1.1. The applicant shall have long-term and medium-term plans implemented after the execution of short-term plans.

2.1.2. The forest management plans shall aim to maintain or strengthen the forests and other lands under forest and to improve the quality of economic, environmental, cultural and social values of forest resources including soil water resources using a full range of relevant services and tools helping to plan the land use and nature conservation.

2.1.3. The forest management plans shall aim to maintain and improve health and viability of forest ecosystems and restore the degraded forest ecosystems when this may be reached using forestry methods.

2.1.4. The forest management plans shall indicate the ways and means for minimizing the risk of degradation of, and damage to the forest ecosystems.

2.1.5. The forest management plans shall include: a cycle composed of inventory, planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment as well as relevant assessment of social, environmental and economic impact of forestry operations.

2.1.6. The forest management plans shall demonstrate constant improvement with the purpose of minimization or prevention of the negative impact.

2.1.7. The scale of forest resources inventory and mapping shall correspond to the local and national conditions.

2.1.8. The forest management plans are worked out and updated regularly in accordance with the current legislation, existing land and forest use plan for the forest plot.

Note: The forest management plan should be updated in case of the decision of authorized government bodies to withdraw lands from the applicant's territory.

2.1.9. The applicant implements short-term plans.

2.1.10. The applicant has information about forest resources, environmental restrictions, status of land user and land owner, socio-economic conditions and description of adjacent lands.

2.1.11. The forest management plan provides implementation of the following measures:

- a) preventive measures as to forest protection and guard;
- b) measures to protect forests from fires; including supply of technical means for fire detection and extinction;
- c) measures to protect forests from insects, diseases and other pathological factors.

2.1.12. The forest management plan shall be composed of the following sections:

- a) description of current condition of the forest management unit;
- b) long-term goals of forest management;
- c) description of used forest resources, environmental restrictions, regulation on land use and title, socio-economic conditions, as well as information about adjacent lands;
- d) location of forest resources including protected species and SPA boundaries;
- e) planned forestry operations;
- f) annual allowable cut and selection of species to be harvested including justification of the acceptable volume of harvest of non-timber forest products, where applicable.

Note: The acceptable volume of harvest of non-timber forest products shall be determined in cases when forest management provides for the scale of commercial use of non-timber forest products that may affect the long-term sustainability of the non-timber forest products.

- g) description of the system of forest management plan upgrading incorporating the data obtained by monitoring;
- h) environmental measures;
- i) plans to identify and protect rare and endangered species as well as species included in the federal and regional Red List Books of flora and fauna species;
- j) maps depicting the main forest resources including protected areas and planned forestry operations as well as land title;
- k) measures to preserve and maintain protective forests and specially protected forest areas;
- l) measures to preserve and enhance the biological diversity;
- m) monitoring of growth and forest stand dynamics;
- n) substantiation of forestry system applied for forest resources use, reproduction, protection and guard, appropriateness of used techniques and equipment;
- o) measures to exercise the rights and guarantees of workers and local population.

2.1.13. A summary of forest management plan including information about the planned forestry operations according to the intensity and scale of forest management shall be publicly available.

Note: A summary may omit confidential, commercial or personal and other information considered confidential in accordance with the national legislation or with the purpose of protection of cultural facilities or sensitive natural resources.

2.1.14. The measures to protect and maintain the functions of protective forests and specially protected forest plots are planned in accordance with the monitoring procedures.

2.1.15. The measures to exercise the rights and guarantees of workers and local population are planned.

2.1.16. The admissible volume of sustainable forest use ensuring the maintenance of the quantity and quality of forest resources in the long and medium perspective are determined on the basis of the balanced harvest/increment ratio and mainly techniques used to minimize direct and indirect damage to forest, soil and water resources.

Note: The permissible limits of sustainable use of forest resources must be reviewed in case of the decision of authorized government bodies to withdraw lands from the applicant's territory, if this withdrawal affects these limits.

2.1.17. The annual allowable cut is calculated for each lesnichestvo and forest park, separately for commercial and protective forests (for softwood and hardwood forest types) the annual allowable timber harvest being distributed between the dominating species.

2.1.18. The annual allowable cut is calculated separately for clearcuts, selective cuts in dead or damaged mature and overmature stands, medium-aged, maturing, mature, overmature stands, forest care (except 1-age-class young stands) on the basis of inventory data, data from the state forest register and special purpose forest examinations.

Criterion 2.2. Economic feasibility (efficiency) of planned operations shall be ensured in view of market.

2.2.1. The applicant has the operational plan and budget for the current fiscal year.

2.2.2. The applicant makes investments to support or increase forest productivity.

2.2.3. The applicant conducts market research of forest products.

2.2.4. The applicant calculates profits and losses periodically by types of economic activity.

2.2.5. The applicant has a financial plan, providing funds for forestry and forest protection operations.

2.2.6. The applicant regularly reviews plans based on ecological and social-economic changes as well as financial possibilities.

2.2.7. Any changes in allocation of funds for forestry and forest protection operations shall be justified.

Criterion 2.3. Assessment and coordination of all planning procedures regulating forest management shall be conducted according to legislation.

2.3.1. Updated inventory materials, forest development plan, forestry regulation are available.

2.3.2. The applicant conducts environmental impact assessment of forest management including plantation management according to scale and intensity, including harvest.

2.3.3. Environmental impact assessment, assessment and coordination of forest inventory materials, forest development plans with regard to rare (protected) forest resources involved in economic activity are carried out.

2.3.4. The applicant takes into account results of environmental impact assessment when implementing plans.

2.3.5. The forest management plan shall aim to maintain and enhance the protective functions of forests valuable for the society, such as protection of infrastructural facilities, prevention of soil erosion, water resources protection and protection against adverse impacts of water resources such as floods and avalanches.

Criterion 2.4. Timely monitoring of forest resources and forest management assessment shall be ensured, its results shall be considered during the planning process.

2.4.1. Annual monitoring of condition of forest stand, volumes and intensity of forest management is conducted.

2.4.2. Record, control and assessment of changes in ecological functions and values of the forest are conducted.

2.4.3. The sanitary condition and viability of forests shall be regularly monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors which may affect the sanitary condition and viability of forest ecosystems such as pests, diseases, excessive grazing and excessive timber stock, fires and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or agricultural operations.

2.4.4. During forestry operations information is collected and assessed by the following indicators:

- actual/rated timber harvest ratio;
- ratio of areas of clear and selective cuttings and the dynamics of this indicator;
- forest areas and the share of economically valuable species;
- volume of removed forest products;
- dynamics of mean annual increment;
- scale of reforestation;
- species, age and yield class structure of forests;
- protected areas by category;
- volumes of biotechnical operations;
- volumes and types of forest protection and conservation measures;

- dynamics of changes in composition of protected species;
- environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other forestry operations;
- aggregate expenditure on forest management.

2.4.5. Certification bodies and controlling organizations have access to documentation enabling to monitor flows of forest products from the place of origin to sales (chain of custody).

2.4.6. The system of registration of all produced and sold forest products is introduced.

2.4.7. All sold certified products shall be accompanied by the following information:

- product type;
- product volume;
- place of harvesting/production;
- date of harvesting/production;
- certificate number issued by PEFC;
- customer information;
- date of change of custodianship.

2.4.8. The planning shall take into consideration the changes in socio-economic conditions.

2.4.9. An annual monitoring program covering forest condition, volume of harvest and intensity of forest management is in place.

2.4.10. There is a report on annual monitoring of forest estate, volume of harvest and scale of forest management.

2.4.11. The procurement policy is in place.

2.4.12. The enterprise keeps records of suppliers.

2.4.13. The enterprise registers customers.

2.4.14. The enterprise has its own scheme of supply.

Criterion 2.5. *Appropriate methods of monitoring shall be used to ensure comparable results and assessment of changes.*

2.5.1. The applicant conducts monitoring using a unified documented methodological system.

2.5.2. Methods of monitoring and operation control are included in the forest management plan.

2.5.3. Methods of monitoring and operation control are applied.

2.5.4. Specially trained personnel are appointed for monitoring and operation control.

2.5.5. Records and/or reports on forest monitoring and operating control are in place.

Criterion 2.6. Revision of short-, medium- and long-term plans shall be carried out based on monitoring results.

2.6.1. The applicant performs analysis of results of different audits of its activity.

2.6.2. Monitoring and operation control results are incorporated into implementation and revision of forest management plans on the basis of reports.

2.6.3. Current plans are adjusted based on monitoring and operation control results.

Criterion 2.7. General public shall be provided with summary information on planned operations and monitoring results.

2.7.1. The applicant provides all interested parties with summaries of monitoring and operation control results.

2.7.2. The applicant reviews public inquiries related to monitoring and operation control results.

2.7.3. The applicant shall publish a summary of its operations in the mass media.

Principle 3. Rational and efficient forest management

Criterion 3.1. Management and economic activity of the applicant shall be conducted in accordance with principles of sustainable forest management

3.1.1. A declaration of commitment to principles and criteria of sustainable forest management is available.

3.1.2. Persons with certain functions responsible for sustainable forest management are appointed.

3.1.3. The applicant shall clarify the principles and criteria of sustainable forest management to the applicant's workers, subcontractors and forest users.

3.1.4. The applicant's specifications and instructions are consistent with Principles and criteria of sustainable forest management.

3.1.5. The management and personnel in their professional activity comply with specifications and instructions reflecting sustainable forest management principles.

Criterion 3.2. The rates of harvested forest products (timber, non-timber forest products) shall not exceed the levels that can be permanently sustained.

3.2.1. The forestry operations shall follow the goal of maintaining or reaching the forest stock that would be economically, environmentally and socially desirable.

3.2.2. A system for recording harvested forest resources is in place.

3.2.3. Timber harvest volumes for each species management unit do not exceed the sustainable harvest rate.

3.2.4. Volumes of annual harvest of non-timber forest products do not exceed the allowable sustainable harvest rate.

3.2.5. When non-timber forest products use including hunting and fishing is recorded in the area controlled by the applicant and included in forest management plan, it shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.

3.2.6. The harvested timber and non-timber products shall not exceed the rates that may be sustained in the long-term perspective, harvested forest products shall be used optimally.

Criterion 3.3. *Productivity and commercial value of forests shall not decrease.*

3.3.1. Records of harvested timber and produced forest products by volume, species and grade are maintained.

3.3.2. A plan of silvicultural operations (reforestation, protection and conservation of forests, forest tending, biotechnical works, etc.) is in place.

3.3.3. Reforestation, tending and timber harvest shall be made in due time and manner not affecting the productive capacity of the forest plot, for example, by preventing the damage to the remaining stand, trees and forest soils as well as by applying appropriate systems.

3.3.4. Forestry operations are performed as scheduled.

3.3.5. Silvicultural operations are carried out according to the forestry regulation.

3.3.6. Silvicultural operations are of proper quality.

Criterion 3.4. *Applicant's activities shall be based on multiple forest products and services.*

3.4.1. Forest management plan shall include section for registering multiple forest functions and uses.

3.4.2. The forest management plan shall aim to maintain the forests' ability to produce a list of timber and non-timber products and services without forest depletion.

3.4.3. The applicant has worked out and adopted a policy for sustainable forest management including support of production of commercial and non-commercial forest products and services.

3.4.4. The applicant keeps records of all produced forest products and provided services.

3.4.5. Market research conducted for studying market trends and competitiveness of forest products and services.

3.4.6. The forest management plans aim to reach reasonable economic indicators taking into account any available market research, opportunities of expanding into new markets and economic activities covering all forest products and services.

3.4.7. The applicant has a perspective plan for enlarging the range of produced forest products and provided services.

3.4.8. The applicant explores possibilities for producing a wide range of forest products (timber and non-timber) and types of forest use, including collateral forest use, cultural or recreational purposes, ecological, educational, tourist and sports activities.

3.4.9. Forestry operations shall maintain and enhance the forest resources and encourage the diversification of products and services in the long-term perspective.

Criterion 3.5. *Sufficient funding of operations for maintaining economic, ecological and social aspects of economic activity shall be ensured.*

3.5.1. The applicant's activity is economically profitable.

3.5.2. The financial plan provides the resources for maintaining economic, ecological and social aspects of economic activity.

3.5.3. The budget provides sufficient resources for maintaining economic, ecological and social aspects of economic activity.

3.5.4. The applicant uses an accounting system complying with the requirements of the law of the Russian Federation.

3.5.5. The applicant exercises control over expenses.

3.5.6. Resources allocated for maintaining economic, ecological and social aspects of economic activity were spent according to the Financial plan and Budget.

Criterion 3.6. Clearcutting operations shall be justified with regard to environmental impact.

3.6.1. There is an expert opinion and documents confirming agreed clearcut plan (including sanitation cutting), stipulated by the law.

3.6.2. Clear cutting is accompanied by necessary reforestation measures.

3.6.3. Clear cutting is performed within the planned time schedule.

3.6.4. Clear cutting is performed in accordance with the forest laws.

3.6.5. Certificates of inspections of harvest sites are in place.

3.6.6. The applicant develops a strategy and program of introducing selective cutting.

3.6.7. Selective cutting shall be applied, if appropriate, depending on stands conditions for ensuring preservation of forest ecosystem on cutting sites.

Criterion 3.7. Wood loss during logging, hauling and preliminary processing shall be recorded, assessed and prevented.

3.7.1. Available plan of production modernization and introduction of advanced low-waste methods of harvesting and processing of timber and non-timber forest resources.

3.7.2. The applicant ensures introduction of advanced low-waste methods of harvesting and processing of timber and non-timber forest resources.

3.7.3. The applicant keeps record of manufactured products, wood waste and losses.

3.7.4. The applicant does not exceed established rates of waste and loss.

3.7.5. All types of harvested industrial wood and residuals are processed when it is economically and technically justified.

3.7.6. Wood waste is subject to recycling unless it does not contradict fire safety regulations and ecological requirements.

Criterion 3.8. A proper infrastructure such as roads, skidding trails or bridges required for effective supply of products and services with minimum environmental disturbance shall be planned, created and maintained.

3.8.1. The plan for harvesting and forestry operations and road construction shall contain provisions for removal of production waste, operation of machines and equipment waste.

3.8.2. The applicant complies with relevant norms regulating harvesting and forest road construction, as well as hydrotechnical structures including bridges.

3.8.3. The harvesting operations use environmentally friendly techniques designed to minimize environmental impacts.

3.8.4. Harvesting, construction, employment of machinery and equipment do not pollute the adjacent water reservoirs or their coastal buffer zones.

3.8.5. Designing and construction of roads and bridges is implemented with conservation of natural routes of animal migration creating necessary infrastructure.

3.8.6. Usage of forest roads or hydrotechnical structures including bridges, shall not lead to disturbance or pollution of water reservoirs, waterways, beds of small rivers and streams (including non-perennial).

3.8.7. Prohibition and restrictive road signs shall be installed on (leased) forest plots.

3.8.8. Cutting and road construction do not lead to erosion.

3.8.9. Forest management includes requirements for construction and use of drainage system that prevent inundation and flooding.

Criterion 3.9. Forest management shall be supervised by qualified specialists.

3.9.1. Personnel have appropriate qualifications to perform their duties.

3.9.2. The enterprise has a list of staff members and job descriptions.

3.9.3. A plan for qualification upgrade and re-training of the applicant's personnel is available.

3.9.4. A report of qualification upgrade and re-training of the applicant's personnel is available.

3.9.5. All operations in forest are carried out under the supervision of professionals.

3.9.6. The applicant's economic activity is controlled by government bodies.

3.9.7. The applicant exerts internal control of its forestry operations.

3.9.8. The applicant's forest management shall rely, inter alia, on the results of scientific research.

3.9.9. The applicant contributes to the research and data collection required for the purpose of sustainable forest management, or, if needed, supports scientific research performed by other organizations.

Principle 4. Conservation of biological diversity, viability of forest ecosystems and forest functions.

Criterion 4.1. Genetic, species and ecosystem diversity shall be maintained and improved.

4.1.1. The forest management plan shall aim to maintain, preserve and enhance the biological diversity of the ecosystem, including forest types, species and genetic diversity and, where possible, diversity at the landscape level.

4.1.2. The forest management planning, inventory and mapping shall identify, protect and/or preserve environmentally valuable forest areas with significant concentrations of:

a) protected, rare, sensitive or sample key forest habitats such as riparian zones and wetlands;

b) areas occupied by endemic species and habitats of threatened species identified and included in the reference lists such as:

- the Red Data Books,

- the list of species unliable to harvesting;

c) endangered and protected genetic resources; as well as taking into account

d) landscapes where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance, of global, regional and national importance.

4.1.3. A survey of forest plots for identification of rare, threatened and endangered species as well as species entered into the federal and regional listings (the Red Data Books) has been carried out.

4.1.4. The applicant has information about rare, threatened and endangered species, as well as species entered into the federal and regional Red Data Books that occur on forest plot.

4.1.5. Maps showing location and habitat/vegetation of rare, threatened and endangered species as well as species entered into the federal and regional Red Data Books are available.

4.1.6. Identified rare, threatened and endangered species as well as plant and animal species entered in the federal and regional listings (the Red Data Books), their habitats/vegetation, nesting and feeding areas are protected and considered in all types of forestry activities (including hunting and fishing).

4.1.7. The applicant's workers are informed about the listing and protection practices for rare and endangered species as well as plant and animal species entered in the federal and regional Red Data Books.

4.1.8. Available procedures describing methods and techniques for protecting identified rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species as well as species included into the federal and regional Red Data Books.

4.1.9. Discovered habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species as well as those entered in the federal and regional Red Data Books of plant and animal species are considered in forest management plans.

4.1.10. The inventory of flora and fauna are taken into consideration when allocating areas for harvest.

4.1.11. Harvesting is not executed on the forest plots, which are key habitats for the protected species that can be disturbed by cutting.

4.1.12. Commercial use of protected and endangered plant and animal species shall not be allowed.

4.1.13. Measures to preserve protected and endangered plant and animal species and enhance their populations, where applicable, shall be taken.

4.1.14. The applicant assists in registering areas with rare, threatened and endangered species as well as species entered into the federal and regional Red Data Books as protected.

4.1.15. The applicant restricts forest use in areas where rare, threatened and endangered species as well as species entered into the federal and regional Red Data Books are found.

4.1.16. Traditional forest management systems creating valuable ecosystems such as coppice system on condition its economic viability, shall be maintained.

4.1.17. The applicant adheres to limited forest use provisions for conservation of rare and endangered species as well as plant and animal species entered in the federal and regional Red Data Books.

4.1.18. Practical measures to improve and maintain biological diversity shall be taken.

4.1.19. Measures on maintaining, preserving and improving genetic, species and ecosystem diversity are conducted in accordance with relevant norms and regulations.

4.1.20. To reduce adverse environmental impact of harvesting, it is necessary to leave in quality and allocation to provide biological diversity taking into account potential influence on health and stability of forests and surrounding ecosystems, the following elements of forest ecosystem (or their parts) especially when logging and hauling are not justified by economic or sanitary reasons, essential components of biological diversity shall be preserved, such as, for instance:

- old trees of non-target species;
- ecologically valuable trees;
- seed trees of economically valuable species;
- dead standing trees and windfall;
- hollow trees;
- overmature forest and individual rare tree species.

4.1.21. An assessment of impact of forestry operations on species included in the Red data Books of the RF and subjects of the RF is made.

Criterion 4.2. Representative samples of forests shall be selected and protected in their natural state with special regard for:

- a) preserving biodiversity on genetic, species and ecosystem levels;
- b) sustaining ecological functions of the forest;
- c) regeneration and natural development (succession) of the forest;
- d) supporting natural cycles influencing productivity of resources involved in the economic activity.

4.2.1. Major ecological functions and forest values for representative and/or sample forest plots shall be defined.

4.2.2. Inspection of forest resources for determining sample, representative forest plots has been made.

4.2.3. Summary data about examination of sample and/or representative plots are in place.

4.2.4. A specific protection regime shall be introduced for the identified sample and representative forest plots.

4.2.5. Such identified forest plots are protected in their natural condition.

4.2.6. Forestry operations shall take into consideration all socio-economic functions, especially recreational one, and aesthetic values of forests by supporting representative forest structures and encouraging the growth of perspective trees, groves and other attributes such as colour scheme, flowers and fruits, in the manner and scale preventing serious impact on forest resources and lands.

Criterion 4.3. The sanitary conditions of the forests shall be sustained and improved with regard to natural processes.

4.3.1. The applicant supports forest pathology monitoring with regard to the role of natural processes.

4.3.2. Planning of sanitary measures is based on pathological survey results of the forest.

4.3.3. The plan of sanitary measures is being implemented.

Criterion 4.4. Measures shall be taken to prevent disturbance and degradation of forest ecosystems.

4.4.1. A system of assessing environmental impact appropriate to the scale and intensity of harvest operations and uniqueness of the forest resources (e.g. periodic monitoring of flora and fauna, assessment of erosion and pollution risks) is in place.

4.4.2. All assessment results are taken into account in work planning including preventive measures.

4.4.3. Preventive measures based on assessment of forest ecosystems degradation risk (natural dissimilation, degradation as a result of erosion, harvesting on hillsides, etc.) are taken.

4.4.4. Applied technological processes and technical devices prevent damage to the stands and soil on harvest sites and on adjacent forest areas.

4.4.5. Harvest and collection of non-timber forest resources on the leased territory are under control.

4.4.6. Measures to protect nurseries and young stands are taken.

4.4.7. Taking into consideration the goals of forest management, measures to reduce the impact of animal populations and grazing on forest regeneration, increment and biological diversity shall be taken.

Criterion 4.5. The disturbed forest ecosystems shall be restored (plots with irrevocable damage from fire, pests, diseases, formed quarries, developed harvest sites, used temporary forest roads, branch lines, lanes, etc.).

- 4.5.1. Forest plots disturbed in result of economic activity are identified.
- 4.5.2. A summary report on lands degraded as a result of economic activity is available.
- 4.5.3. Maps of forest resources disturbed as a result of economic activity are available.
- 4.5.4. Work plan provides the restoration of disturbed forest ecosystems in forest areas.
- 4.5.5. The budget of the applicant provides funds for restoration of disturbed forest ecosystems.
- 4.5.6. The applicant carries out restoration of forest ecosystems disturbed in result of economic activity on forest plots.

Criterion 4.6. In reforestation and plantations native prevailing species shall be primarily used.

- 4.6.1. The species composition in forests and on plantations is determined on the basis of forest seed base.
- 4.6.2. For forest reproduction and afforestation, endemic species and local species well adapted to the conditions of the forest plot shall be used, where applicable. Exotic species or varieties may not be used unless they underwent assessment for effect on ecosystem and genetic integrity and the negative impact may be prevented or minimized.

Note: Guiding principles of the Convention on biological diversity on prevention, introduction and reduced impact of exotic species threatening ecosystems, habitats and species shall be considered as a guide for prevention of introduction of invasive species.

- 4.6.3. Exotic species are used only on plantations.
 - 4.6.4. Set-up of plantations is only possible after affirmative ecological expertise.
- Note: The conversion of primary forests to plantations is not permitted.**
- 4.6.5. The forest plantation design and exploitation plans are available.
 - 4.6.6. The use of exotic species on plantations is controlled.
 - 4.6.7. During reforestation, possibilities of natural regeneration are taken into account.
 - 4.6.8. The forest management shall ensure successful reproduction by natural regeneration or, if this is not expedient, planting on the scale sufficient to guarantee the required volume and quality of forest resources.
 - 4.6.9. Natural regeneration is preferred as compared to artificial one.
 - 4.6.10. Forest regeneration and afforestation shall be promoted to improve and restore ecological links.
 - 4.6.11. The applicant shall control the impact of plantation growing on the environment.

Criterion 4.7. Chemical and biological agents are used in accordance with current regulations.

4.7.1 The use of fertilizers is allowed only on the permanent sites of seed bearer trees, plantations, in nurseries, during afforestation of non-forest lands and reforested areas when the necessity of such use is supported by assessments and permits in accordance with legislation.

4.7.2 The use of permitted pesticides and chemicals is strictly controlled and documented.

4.7.3 Instructions and safety guidelines for pesticides and chemicals use are available.

4.7.4 Pesticides are used in cases of emergency and in accordance with norms and regulations of their use as well as safety regulations.

4.7.5 Proper equipment is provided for application of pesticides.

4.7.6 Proper training related to work with pesticides is provided to personnel.

4.7.7 A strategy relying on biological pesticides for pest control methods rather than chemical ones is in place.

4.7.8 The World Health Organization list of prohibited pesticides and chemicals type 1A and 1B and other highly toxic pesticides, groups of chlorocarbons whose derivatives retain biological activity and accumulate in food chains, pesticides prohibited by the international agreement and defined in the 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (as amended) is available.

4.7.9 The use of pesticides type 1A and 1B under WHO and other highly toxic pesticides is prohibited except where no viable alternative is available. The use of pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement is prohibited.

4.7.10 Proper equipment is provided for application of chemicals.

4.7.11 Proper training related to work with chemicals is provided to personnel.

4.7.12 Instructions and safety guidelines including producer's instructions for allowed pesticides and chemicals use are followed.

4.7.13 Biological control agents shall be primarily used in accordance with the rules and regulations.

4.7.14 Genetically modified organisms shall not be applied.

4.7.15 A strategy of refusal from chemical pest control agents is implemented.

Criterion 4.8. Recycling of production and domestic waste accumulated during economic activity shall be ensured.

4.8.1 Available rules and instructions for handling chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic waste, including fuels and lubricants.

4.8.2 Person(s) responsible for disposal, collection and recycling of production and domestic waste, waste associated with machinery and equipment utilization, scrap metal according to the norms of environmental protection is appointed.

4.8.3. Chemicals and their containers, liquid and solid non-organic waste including fuels and lubricants are stored and recycled according to the established regulations.

4.8.4. Waste from machinery and equipment operation is removed from the logging area upon completion of operations.

4.8.5. Non-organic waste and garbage shall not be left.

4.8.6. In the course of operation of machines and equipment, environmentally friendly lubricants and fuel are preferred.

4.8.7. Refueling and oil change in chain saws, machines and equipment shall be performed in specially designated areas with a minimal risk of contamination.

4.8.8. Protection of soil and water is ensured during storage and refilling of fuel and lubricants.

4.8.9. No oil leaks are allowed during harvesting works, road building and forestry works; no forest waste may be disposed without prior sorting.

4.8.10. Places for storage of chemicals, fuel, lubricants and waste are equipped in accordance with safety regulations.

4.8.11. Waste from machinery and equipment, production and domestic waste is duly recycled.

4.8.12. Non-organic wastes and garbage shall be collected, stored in special places and removed using environmentally friendly methods.

4.8.13. Instructions for recycling and storage of chemicals and their containers, liquid and solid inorganic waste including fuel and lubricants, machines and equipment operation instructions are available.

Criterion 4.9. Technological processes, machinery and equipment which do not have adverse impacts on soils and water resources shall be used.

4.9.1. The applicant complies with the norms regulating logging, road construction and other economic activity in the forest.

4.9.2. Machinery and equipment suitable for local conditions which do not have negative impact on soils and water resources is used.

4.9.3. Chemical and other hazardous substances or inappropriate forestry practices affecting the quality of water resources are prohibited.

4.9.4. Artificial burning is prohibited unless it is allowed for the purpose of forest management.

4.9.5. Technological processes recommended and proven on practice for application in the local natural and economic conditions are used.

4.9.6. Appropriate forestry practices suitable for local conditions and tending, timber harvesting and transportation techniques having minimum impact on trees and/or soils, are applied.

4.9.7. Construction of roads, bridges, hydrotechnical structures and other infrastructural facilities shall minimize soil denudation, prevent water bodies from soil contamination and ensure the natural level and functions of water bodies and river beds.

4.9.8. Measures for preventing pollution of water resources are taken.

4.9.9. Planning harvest sites made with regard for natural and industrial conditions: location of protected areas, land form, soil type, hydrological conditions, infrastructure of the previous cutting season, etc.

4.9.10. Instructions impose restrictions on certain operations, for instance: skidding uphill on hillsides, as well as rocky outcrops and ravines, cableway yarding, prohibiting skidding during the seasons when soil is saturated with water, prohibition of skidding on rivers and lakes, logging in protected areas, the number of log-loading sites.

4.9.11. Requirements for construction and operation of hydrotechnical structures and road drainage systems are taken into account during planning and implementation of forest operations.

4.9.12. Norms and regulations of maintenance and operation of hydrotechnical structures and road drainage systems are observed.

4.9.13. The applicant's personnel are trained to minimize the negative impact on the forest environment and applied the methods in practice.

4.9.14. A person(s) responsible for repair and maintenance of machinery and equipment is appointed.

4.9.15. Logs are not removed by water bodies, waterways, beds of small rivers and streams (including those drying up).

4.9.16. Storage of fuel and lubricants and parking of machinery is not permitted in the water protection zone and on the ice of waterways and water bodies.

4.9.17. Water protection zones for all waterways, water bodies and surface bogs are established.

4.9.18. Maps delineate the boundaries of water protection territories/zones.

4.9.19. Protected territories/zones shall be marked by prohibiting signs and traffic restrictions.

4.9.20. Forestry operations in the water protection zones are carried out in accordance with norms and regulations.

4.9.21. Draining wetlands is performed only for restoration of the natural hydrological regime on the basis of plans approved by an environmental impact assessment.

4.9.22. Regulations for bundling and rafting of wood are followed.

4.9.23. Road building and hydrotechnical structures projects as well as projects covering other economic activities shall be in place.

4.9.24. Cutting area works shall be performed in accordance with the cutting site technological chart.

Criterion 4.10. Hunting and fishing shall be conducted, controlled and maintained at a sustainable level.

4.10.1. Hunting and fishing on the forest plots of the applicant is controlled.

4.10.2. Regulation of wild animal populations aims to preserve biological diversity and sustainable use of the fish and game population.

4.10.3. The applicant has maps of key habitats of specially protected and economically valuable animal species.

4.10.4. Instructions for maintenance of fish and game population are available.

4.10.5. Regulations for protection of animal species are observed.

4.10.6. A plan of measures to enhance and maintain the populations of fauna species is available.

4.10.7. The applicant does not obstruct free access to the leased territories for the purposes of hunting, fishing, mushroom and berry gathering, tourism, etc. except during fire danger periods in emergency situations.

4.10.8. Key habitats of fish and game are duly protected.

4.10.9. Measures to enhance and maintain the populations of fauna species are taken.

Principle 5. Identification, conservation and maintenance of protected forests and specially protected forest plots.Criterion 5.1. Protected forests and specially protected forest plots shall be identified in the forest area of the applicant.

5.1.1. Protected forests and specially protected forest plots shall be identified in the forest area of the applicant.

5.1.2. Responsible workers of the applicant are aware of the value of protected forests and specially protected forest plots and take measures to identify, preserve and maintain them.

5.1.3. The protected forests and specially protected forest plots have been identified at the consulting stage of forest certification.

5.1.4. The applicant's management is aware of the values of protected forests and specially protected forest plots specific for the region.

5.1.5. Practical guidelines for identifying and establishing exploitation regimes of protected forests and specially protected forest plots are available.

5.1.6. The criteria for protected forests and specially protected forest plots delineation are publicly available.

5.1.7. The applicant has maps indicating forest areas with limited use conditions (specially protected areas, specially protected plots, etc.) as well as protected forests and specially protected forest plots that are not part of these areas.

5.1.8. Protected forest areas are indicated on maps.

5.1.9. An action plan for preservation of plots of key importance in terms of environment forming and resource protection shall be available.

5.1.10. Areas performing special and recognized protective functions for the society shall be registered and marked on the map.

Criterion 5.2. Special use regime shall be introduced and implemented for protected forests and specially protected forest plots.

5.2.1. Special use regimes for the identified protected forests and specially protected forest plots are established according to their categories.

5.2.2. Specially Protected Nature Areas (SPNA) and candidate SPNA are excluded from transportation network plans as well as from industrial exploration of natural resources.

5.2.3. Protected forests and specially protected forest plots use conditions stipulate for abandonment commercial (industrial) harvest or harvest which can lead to loss of values of these forests.

5.2.4. Forests of key importance for local population are used in agreement with local population.

5.2.5. The regime of use of protected forests and specially protected forest plots is observed.

5.2.6. The list of attributes of protected forests and specially protected forest plots on the area of the applicant shall be available.

5.2.7. A passport, description and regulation on protected forests and specially protected forest plots shall be available.

5.2.8. Maps indicating the forest plots with limited use (specially protected nature areas and specially protected forests and specially protected forest plots).

Criterion 5.3. The condition of protected forests and specially protected forest plots shall be maintained.

5.3.1. Forest development plan, forestry regulations, lease agreement shall include measures for maintenance and conservation of protected forests and specially protected forest plots.

5.3.2. An approved procedure for monitoring protected forests and specially protected forest plots is in place.

5.3.3. A report on monitoring of protected forests and specially protected forest plots is available and accessible.

5.3.4. A plan for protected forests and specially protected forest plots protection based on results of monitoring is available.

5.3.5. The plan for protection, conservation, restoration and use of protected forests and specially protected forest plots is being implemented.

5.3.6. Forest management operations shall be performed in the manner so that they do not lead to deterioration of protected forests including those in areas adjacent to the area leased by the applicant.

5.3.7. Summary data on Specially Protected Nature Areas (SPNA) and candidate SPNA are excluded from transportation network plans as well as from industrial exploration of natural resources shall be available.

5.3.8. Maps indicating Specially Protected Nature Areas (SPNA) and candidate SPNA are excluded from transportation network plans as well as from industrial exploration of natural resources shall be available.

5.3.9. The procedure for monitoring of protected forests and specially protected forest plots is followed.

5.3.10. A report on monitoring of protected forests and specially protected forest plots shall be available.

5.3.11. A progress report on measures taken to protect, restore and use protected forests and specially protected forest plots shall be available.

Principle 6. Respect for rights of workers, local population and indigenous peoples.

Criterion 6.1. Workers' rights including but not limited to: forming or joining trade unions or organizations and free collective bargaining with the management of the applicant shall be respected.

6.1.1. The management of the applicant makes workers aware of the rights of workers guaranteed by the conventions of the International Labor Organization 87 and 98, Constitution of Russia, Labor Code of Russia and other applicable labor laws.

6.1.2. The management of the applicant respects the rights of workers guaranteed by the conventions of the International Labor Organization 87 and 98, Constitution of Russia, Labor Code of Russia and other labor laws.

6.1.3. One of the applicant's managers is made responsible for ensuring communication between the management and workers.

6.1.4. There are no grievances between workers and the applicant's management.

6.1.5. Relations between the employer and employees are built with regard to requirements of labor legislation, trade union activity, labor agreement, sectoral payroll agreements of the forest sector of the RF and the labor agreement between the employer and employee.

6.1.6. Salaries are paid timely and in full, as well as all the payments prescribed by laws and regulations, sectoral payroll agreements, collective agreements and labor agreements.

6.1.7. ILO Conventions 87 and 98, Constitution of Russia, Labour Code of Russia and other legal acts regulating labour relations shall be available.

6.1.8. The text of industrial payroll agreement shall be available.

6.1.9. Summary data about payments as provided by the law and subordinate acts, industrial payroll agreements, collective and labour agreements shall be available.

Criterion 6.2. There shall be a mechanism for resolving grievances including procedure for providing compensations to local and /or indigenous peoples for loss or damage resulting from the economic activity.

6.2.1. The applicant is informed about neighbouring forest users, local population and indigenous peoples, business partners, stakeholders and mediators.

6.2.2. Periodic consultations with forest users of adjacent forest plots, local population and indigenous peoples, business partners, stakeholders and mediators (e.g. round table discussions) are held.

6.2.3. A procedure for extrajudicial resolution of conflicts arising out of the economic activity is in place.

6.2.4. All complaints of local population, local communities of indigenous peoples are documented, considered and mutually acceptable decisions are taken including compensation for damage or loss (to property, resource and living standards).

6.2.5. The applicant compensates for the damage or loss suffered by the local population and indigenous peoples as a result of the economic activity.

6.2.6. There are no acute disputes between the applicant and other forest managers.

6.2.7. There are no acute disputes between the applicant and local population.

6.2.8. There are no acute disputes between the applicant and indigenous peoples.

6.2.9. Summary data and maps indicating forest managers of adjacent forest plots, local population and indigenous peoples, business partners and mediators shall be available.

6.2.10. The documents made following the joint meetings, consultations, round tables with forest users of adjacent forest plots, local population and indigenous peoples, business partners, stakeholders and mediators shall be available.

Criterion 6.3. Requirements of all applicable laws covering health and safety shall be met.

6.3.1. The texts of laws and provisions regulating the issues of health and safety are available; the workers are made aware of them.

6.3.2. A person responsible for ensuring health and safety shall be appointed.

6.3.3. The applicant has the program (strategy) of ensuring social guarantees for workers and their families including insurance against accidents.

6.3.4. The applicant has the plan for improvement of labor protection, occupational safety and reduction of industrial injuries.

6.3.5. Forestry operations plans take into account the identified health risks and occupational injury risks.

6.3.6. Forestry operations are carried out, reasonable measures are taken to protect workers against risks related to work.

6.3.7. Measures are taken to improve labor protection, occupational safety and reduction of industrial injuries.

6.3.8. The workers shall be made aware of the risks related to their work and measures to prevent such risks.

6.3.9. The applicant shall ensure safe working conditions for the workers, including ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work: it provides personal protection equipment according to the regulations on labor safety and industrial sanitation as well as first aid in cases of accidents.

6.3.10. Regular training in work safety is carried out including occupational safety, labor protection, rendering of first aid, actions in emergency situations, etc.

6.3.11. The applicant ensures health and medical care.

6.3.12. The applicant provides safe equipment (both to its own personnel and contractors' workers).

6.3.13. The use of safe and working equipment shall be monitored by the person responsible for maintaining machines and equipment in safe and working condition.

6.3.14. Job descriptions for persons responsible for maintaining health and safety and keeping machines and equipment in working and safe condition shall be available.

6.3.15. Working stations shall be certified.

6.3.16. An action plan for improvement of health and safety provisions and decrease of occupational injuries is being implemented.

6.3.17. Records of inspection of machinery and equipment in use shall be available.

6.3.18. Statistics on occupational injuries shall be available.

6.3.19. Records on provision of personal protection means shall be available.

6.3.20. Records on training in health and safety issues, including occupational safety, first aid, behavior in emergency situations, etc. shall be available.

6.3.21. During the normal fire season and emergency period, measures to reduce the risk of natural and man-made disasters shall be taken.

Criterion 6.4. The workers shall be offered opportunities for developing professional skills.

6.4.1. The applicant has a program for personnel training and retraining for improvement of professional skills.

6.4.2. The applicant allocates funds for personnel training and retraining for improvement of professional skills.

6.4.3. The program for personnel training and retraining for improvement of professional skills is being implemented.

6.4.4. The applicant provides additional special training on ecological and technical aspects of forest management.

6.4.5. The workers improve their professional skills and/or pass professional retraining.

6.4.6. A report on training and retraining of workers for improvement of professional skills, including additional training covering environmental and technical aspects of forest management.

Criterion 6.5. Legal and customary rights of local population and indigenous peoples shall be observed.

6.5.1. Places of residence and territory of traditional land use of local population and indigenous peoples are identified.

6.5.2. All legal and customary rights of local population and indigenous peoples are defined.

6.5.3. A documented agreement on respecting legal and customary rights of local population and indigenous peoples as well as controlling forest management activities on their lands and territories shall be recorded.

6.5.4. The applicant's operations are in conformity with legal and traditional rights of local population and indigenous peoples for traditional nature use.

Criterion 6.6. Conditions shall be created for preferential employment of local population.

6.6.1. The applicant implements a policy for preferential employment of local population.

6.6.2. There is no recorded evidence of discrimination of local population in employment opportunities.

6.6.3. The applicant implements policy of professional training of new workers employed locally.

6.6.4. The applicant adopted an employment policy, priority employment opportunities for the local population and professional training of new workers from local residents.

Criterion 6.7. Conditions shall be created for economic development of the district, diversification of production and provision of goods and services for local population.

6.7.1. The management of the applicant is aware of the potential forest products and forest services.

6.7.2. The management of the applicant is aware of possible sources of revenue from marketing non-timber forest products and services (tourism, ecotourism, providing its territories for expansion of the food supply of hunting grounds).

6.7.3. The applicant implements its own or participates in a program for diversification of the local economy.

6.7.4. The applicant provides local consumers with information on the mix of products and services.

6.7.5. Forest resources are processed primarily by the applicant or transferred for processing to other refinement facilities, if such exist in the region of procurement and the transfer is economically sound.

6.7.6. The applicant participates in maintenance of social infrastructure of forest settlements and provides assistance to local population.

6.7.7. The applicant explores opportunities for production of multiple forest products (timber and non-timber) and services for local population.

6.7.8. The applicant offers a range of products and services.

6.7.9. The applicant shall have a list of buyers of its timber products.

6.7.10. The applicant has a summary of expenses and profits.

6.7.11. A plan for expansion of the range of products and services is available.

6.7.12. The applicant has a plan or participates in the regional programme for development of forest settlements infrastructure.

Criterion 6.8. Local and indigenous communities shall have a guarantee of participation in decision making related to forest management planning on territories adjacent to the places of their residence.

6.8.1. The forest management plans shall aim to consider multiple forest functions valuable for the society, in particular, the role of forestry in the development of rural areas and new employment opportunities for the population in connection with the social and economic functions of forests.

6.8.2. The applicant informs local population on the process of certification.

6.8.3. Forest management plans shall be agreed upon with local population and indigenous communities.

6.8.4. The applicant holds consultations with local population and other interested parties for assessment of possible social impacts of economic activity.

6.8.5. Local population including indigenous people's communities with legal or customary rights of ownership or use of resources is given an opportunity to participate in planning and control of forest management.

6.8.6. Local population shall have access to information on use of forest resources in the areas in accordance with the national legislation.

Criterion 6.9. The level of forest management shall provide sufficient resources for subsistence, health and welfare of indigenous peoples and local population on applicant's territory shall be maintained.

6.9.1. Indigenous peoples' interests and knowledge regarding forest species and management systems are identified during consultations.

6.9.2. The management of the applicant takes into account all information on possible use of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local population.

6.9.3. The forestry operations shall effectively use the local experience and knowledge, for example, those of local communities, forest owners, NGO and local population.

6.9.4. The process for compensating indigenous peoples for the application of traditional skills and knowledge in the area of sustainable forest and natural resource use shall be documented.

6.9.5. Forest management shall take into account the system of legal, customary and traditional rights as determined in ILO Convention 169 and UN Convention on Indigenous Peoples; any deviations shall not be allowed unless there is a free, prior and informed consent of right holders including the provision on compensation, where applicable.

6.9.6. Indigenous peoples are duly compensated for the application of traditional skills and knowledge in the use of flora and fauna, as well as forest management systems on the basis of agreements between the applicant, local authorities and representative body of indigenous people.

6.9.7. Jointly with indigenous peoples, places of special cultural, ecological, economic and religious significance are identified and regulations for their protection and/or use are approved, including the migration paths of domestic and game animals.

6.9.8. Places of special cultural, ecological, economic, cultural and religious significance, territories of traditional use of natural resources including the migration paths of domestic and game animals are marked on the ground and on the maps.

6.9.9. Approved areas of special historical, cultural, economic, religious and spiritual significance and areas fundamental for meeting the basic needs of the local communities (e.g., health, subsistence) and their management systems shall be protected.