

March 2016

## PEFC Conformity Assessment

Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS)  
Forest Plantation Standard





## Client

Name	PEFC Council
Contact person	Mr. J. Vlieger and Mr. M. Berger
Address	Case Postale 636 CH-1215 Genève 15 Switzerland
Telephone	+41 22 799 45 40
Fax	+41 22 799 45 50
Email	<a href="mailto:michael.berger@pefc.org">michael.berger@pefc.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.pefc.org">www.pefc.org</a>

## Form international B.V.

Contact person	Mr. R. de Wolf
Address	Bevrijdingsweg 3 8051 EN Hattem Netherlands
Telephone	+31(0) 384448990
Fax	+31(0) 384448991
Email	<a href="mailto:info@forminternational.nl">info@forminternational.nl</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.forminternational.nl">www.forminternational.nl</a>
Authors	Mr. R. de Wolf, Mrs. C. Naaijen, Mr. A. Polinder
Document version	1
Date of document	17 March 2016
Reference	PEFC.CA.MTCS Forest Plantations_RW



## Contents

<b>Acronyms .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1. <i>Form international.....</i>	6
1.2. <i>Scope of the assessment.....</i>	6
1.3. <i>Documents and resources used .....</i>	6
1.4. <i>Methodology adopted .....</i>	7
1.5. <i>Assessment process.....</i>	8
1.6. <i>Report structure.....</i>	9
<b>2. Recommendation.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3. Summary of the Findings.....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1. <i>Overall.....</i>	11
3.2. <i>Structure of the System .....</i>	11
3.3. <i>Standard Setting Procedures and Process .....</i>	11
3.4. <i>Forest Management Standard .....</i>	11
<b>4. Structure of the MTCS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
4.1. <i>Introduction forest sector Malaysia .....</i>	12
4.2. <i>MTCC and MTCS .....</i>	12
<b>5. Standard Setting Process .....</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1. <i>Analysis .....</i>	13
5.2. <i>Results .....</i>	14
5.2.1. <i>Non-conformities .....</i>	14
5.2.2. <i>Selection of conformities.....</i>	15
<b>6. Forest Management Standard.....</b>	<b>18</b>
6.1. <i>Analysis .....</i>	18
6.2. <i>Results .....</i>	19
<b>Annex 1 PEFC Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Annex 2 Results of Stakeholder Survey.....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Annex 3: Panel of Experts Comments.....</b>	<b>98</b>



## Acronyms

CB	Certifying Body
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
dd	de dato / dated
FPMU	Forest Plantation Management Unit
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITTA	Institut Teknologi Tun Abdul Razak (University)
MC&I	Malaysian Criteria and Indicators
MTCC	Malaysian Timber Certification Council
MTCS	Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme
N.A.	Not applicable
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PEFCC	PEFC Council
PoE	Panel of Experts
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SRC	Standards Review Committee
SSRC	Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society Malaysia Programme



## 1. Introduction

With the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC), national schemes for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) are brought under the umbrella organisation PEFC by endorsing the national scheme after a positive evaluation. Every five years, the endorsed national schemes need to be revised after which an independent consultant assesses whether the revised scheme conforms with the PEFC Council (PEFCC) requirements.

This report presents the results of the evaluation of the Forest Plantation Standard (hereafter referred to as the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2) of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) against PEFCC requirements for forest certification schemes. The MTCS was first endorsed by PEFCC in 2009, and re-endorsed in 2014. These endorsements did not include the forest management standard for plantation forests. This standard followed a separate process and was first endorsed by PEFCC in 2012. The revision took place from December 2012 to December 2014. The application for PEFC re-endorsement was submitted in February 2015. PEFCC appointed Form international (Form) as the independent assessor to carry out the assessment. This assessment report will be the basis for the PEFCC's decision, and provides a recommendation to the PEFC Board on the formal endorsement of the MC&I Forest Plantation Standard.

### 1.1. Form international

The assessment benefited from Form's specific experience and expertise in certification and SFM. Form has implemented many studies in which national or international certification standards were analysed against another standard or scheme, for example against FSC and Keurhout. Moreover, Form has carried out conformity assessments for PEFC, such as the standards of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA and Canada.

The conformity assessment team consisted of Mr. Rutger de Wolf, Mrs. Christine Naaijen and Mr. Andries Polinder (Forestry Experts and Registered PEFC Assessors).

### 1.2. Scope of the assessment

The scope of this assessment was to assess the conformity of the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 and its standard setting process with the PEFC standards and system requirements as presented in PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.

### 1.3. Documents and resources used

Various documents and resources were used in this conformity assessment. The documents received from MTCC are shown in table 1.1. Table 1.2 lists the PEFCC



documents that were used during the assessment. Besides these documents, the website of MTCC ([www.mtcc.com.my](http://www.mtcc.com.my)) was consulted during the assessment.

*Table 1.1 Documents used for the conformity assessment*

#	Title
1	MC&I Forest Plantation.v2: Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Plantation Management Certification
2	Summary of Changes in the MC&I Forest Plantation.V2
3	Report on Review of MC&I (forest plantations) and development of MC&I Forest Plantation.v2
4	Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&I Forest Plantation.v2
5	Other documentation and evidence related to the standard setting process (records)
6	PEFC Standard and System Requirements Checklist elaborated by MTCC
7	Additional clarifications provided by MTCC during the Assessment process
8	Environmental Quality Act 1974
9	Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994
10	Wildlife Conservation Act 2010
11	Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997
12	Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998
13	Wild Life Protection Rules 1998

*Table 1.2 The PEFC Council Technical documents used in this Assessment.*

#	PEFC Council document	Date
1	PEFC GD 1007:2012: Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision	16 November 2012
2	PEFCC TD Annex 1: Terms and Definitions	27 October 2006
3	PEFCC TD Annex 7: Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Schemes and their Revisions	5 October 2007
4	PEFC ST 1001:2010 Standard Setting – Requirements	26 November 2010
5	PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements	26 November 2010
6	PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist	6 May 2014
7	PEFC IGD 1007-03:2012 The Assessment Report	16 November 2012
8	PEFC Secretariat's clarification concerning the content of the assessment report (clarification 30/10/12).	30 October 2012

#### 1.4. Methodology adopted

The work consisted of a desk study in which an evaluation of the conformity was conducted. The assessment enabled the assessor to identify any missing information, similarities and differences between the MTCS and the PEFC standards and system requirements. The assessment consisted of:



**a. Assessment of the standard setting process**

This aspect is evaluated on the basis of PEFC ST 1001:2010 Standard Setting - Requirements. The checklist (part I of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012) has been used to assess the compliance of the revision process of the MC&I Forest Plantation Standard with the demands of PEFC concerning the standard setting process. As MTCS's standard setting procedures were already assessed and endorsed by PEFC in 2014, the current assessment only assessed the compliance of the standard setting process itself.

To assess the process, the Report on Review, additional evidential records and results of stakeholder consultations are used to evaluate compliance of the process.

The PEFC conducted an international public consultation, and a stakeholder survey was held by Form international through questionnaires that were sent out to members of the Standards Review Committee (SRC) and stakeholders that participated in the stakeholders meetings.

**b. Assessment of the sustainable forest management standard**

The MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 compliance with PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management was assessed based on part III of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.

**c. Other aspects regarding functions and efficiency of the scheme**

The functions were evaluated on the basis of the description and analysis of these functions, as indicated in the information obtained and correspondence with MTCC.

The report is written in line with the guidelines of the PEFC, PEFC GD 1007-03:2012 for the content of an assessment report, and the additional PEFC's clarification of 30 October 2012.

## 1.5. Assessment process

The assessment process consisted of the following steps:

### 1. Public consultation

The international public consultation was held from 19 February 2015 to 20 April 2015. No comments from the public were received by PEFC.

The assessor's national stakeholder consultation was held from 13 May 2015 to 25 May 2015. Form sent out questionnaires to all stakeholders that were members of the SRC and additional stakeholders that participated in public consultation meetings during the revision process. In total about 150 questionnaires were sent out and 11 responses were received by the assessor.





## **2. Technical desk study**

The technical desk study was carried out on the MTCS documentation. It comprised of a review of the documentation and a verification of the standards and system requirements checklist. During the assessment additional information was requested from MTCC.

## **3. Elaboration of draft report**

The draft report was sent to MTCC and PEFCC on 1 June 2015.

## **4. Elaboration of final draft report**

Based on the responses and additional references and clarifications to the draft report, a final draft report was developed and sent to PEFCC on 29 June 2015.

## **5. Review of the final draft report**

Before sending this report to the Panel of Experts, it was further discussed between the PEFC Technical Unit and MTCC. Based on these discussions, additional review was requested from Form, after which the report was sent to PEFC's Panel of Experts. Members of PEFC's Panel of Experts contributed to the final report by providing Form with their feedback and comments, which were received on 3 December 2015.

## **6. Final analysis and reporting**

The final report was elaborated taking into account the comments from Panel of Experts members and was sent to the PEFCC on 14 December 2015. An additional review was conducted in March 2016 after which a second final report was elaborated and sent to the PEFCC on 17 March 2016.

### **1.6. Report structure**

Chapter 2 gives an explicit statement in the form of a recommendation as to whether or not the Board of Directors of PEFC should adopt the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2. In chapter 3, a summary of the findings is presented. Chapter 4 gives an overview of the key structures of the scheme, followed by the results of the assessment of the standard setting process in chapter 5. The assessment of the forest management standard is presented in chapter 6. The standards and system requirements checklist is enclosed in Annex 1. Results of the stakeholder survey are presented in Annex 2, and the Panel of Experts Comments is enclosed in Annex 3.



## 2. Recommendation

Based on the results of this conformity assessment, Form international recommends the PEFC Board of Directors **to re-endorse the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2**. No non-conformities are found in the Forest Mangement Standard, in relation to plantation forests.

In relation to the standard-setting process, one (1) non-conformity is found, which did not undermine or damage the standard revision process.



## 3. Summary of the Findings

### 3.1. Overall

This assessment only covers the Forest Plantation Standard of the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) and the process for the revision of this standard. No non-conformities were found in the standard itself, but 1 non-conformity was found in the standard revision process, which is classified as minor. The following paragraphs present the general findings of each section.

### 3.2. Structure of the System

The Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) started operation in 2001 as a voluntary national timber certification system. The scheme contains both a standard for natural forests, and a standard for forest plantations. The standard for natural forests was re-assessed in 2014, the standard for forest plantations is assessed in the current assessment. The MTCS was first endorsed by PEFC in 2009, and its forest plantation standard in 2012.

### 3.3. Standard Setting Procedures and Process

The Report on Review is a complete, clearly structured document that gives a good overview of the revision process. The process was conducted according to the standard-setting procedures and the respondents of the stakeholder survey had no complaints about the process and their opportunities to contribute to the revision process. However, there was 1 non-conformity found, which is classified as minor:

- Criteria 5.3 d): The announcement letter did not include an invitation to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process; It should however be noted that the Standard Setting Procedures were attached to the announcement letter and that some comments were received and correctly discussed during the first meeting of the SRC. It is therefore concluded that this non-conformity did not damage or undermine the standard setting process and does not need further action.

### 3.4. Forest Management Standard

The MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standard is a well-structured and, in general, well-auditable standard which is clearly structured in 10 principles. These principles are subdivided in criteria, indicators and verifiers. Where appropriate the regional-specific distinctions are further elaborated in the verifiers. A separate document contains guidelines for interpretation of the standard. It should be noted that this guideline document, which is used in the conformity assessment, is not referred to in any of the other Scheme documents, nor in “The Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) and Its Implementation Arrangement (MTCS 8/2015)” which lists all the applicable certification standards and procedures.

No non-conformities are found in the Forest Management Standard.



## 4. Structure of the MTCS

### 4.1. Introduction forest sector Malaysia

Forests cover over 18.48 million hectares in Malaysia, making up 56 % of the land area. Of these forests, over 14.6 million hectares are designated as Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF). The remaining 20% of forests are stateland and alienated forests or national parks, wildlife and bird sanctuaries.

A Forest Plantation Development Programme was launched in 2005, which aimed at the establishment of 375,000 ha of forest plantations by 2020. Up to December 2014, a total of 97,984.31 ha of forest plantations have been developed under this program, which is mainly focused on planting Rubberwood (*Hevea brasiliensis*) and *Acacia mangium*. Other additional species promoted include Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Sentang (*Azadirachta excelsa*), Khaya (*Khaya ivorensis* / *Khaya senegalensis*), Kelempayan/Laran (*Neolamarckia cadamba*), Batai (*Paraserianthes falcataria*); Binuang (*Octomeles sumatrana*), and *Eucalyptus spp.*

### 4.2. MTCC and MTCS

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) was established in October 1998 as an independent organisation with the aim to develop and operate a Forest Certification Scheme for the Malaysian forests. The Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) started operation in 2001 as a voluntary national timber certification system. The scheme contains both a standard for natural forests, and a standard for forest plantations. The standard for natural forests was re-assessed in 2014, the standard for forest plantations is assessed in the current assessment.

The MTCS was endorsed by PEFC in 2009, and its forest plantation standard in 2012. MTCS was the first tropical timber certification system in Southeast Asia to be endorsed by PEFC.



## 5. Standard Setting Process

This chapter presents the non-conformity and observations found in the Standard Setting Process. There was 1 non-conformity found, which was classified as minor non-conformity. Standard Setting Procedures were not assessed, as these were assessed and endorsed in 2014. The Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist related to the Standard Setting Procedures and Process can be found in Annex 1 part I, which presents all the conformities, non-conformity and related references.

### 5.1. Analysis

In general, the standard setting process was conducted very well. The Report on Review is a complete, clearly structured document that gives a good insight and overview of the revision process. Stakeholders were provided with many options to contribute to the content of the forest plantation standard: in total three rounds of public stakeholder consultations were conducted and three regional meetings. The records (minutes) used for this assessment were elaborate and accurate and the MTCC website contains broad and elaborate information on the review process and underlying documents, which indicates an open and transparent information provision.

It is observed that for the stakeholder identification only organizations were identified that represent certain groups. E.g. no individual companies or persons were identified. It is assumed that many of these organizations and unions operate at national or state level and therefore represent the issues of the individual stakeholders or smaller stakeholder groups.

No complaints on the process were received in responses to the stakeholder survey and respondents were generally very positive on the process and the outcome of the process. Annex 2 provides further elaboration on the outcome of the stakeholder survey.

One non-conformity was found, which is classified as minor: the invitation letter to stakeholders did not contain an invitation to comment on the standard setting process. However, some comments were received and correctly discussed during the first meeting of the SRC. It is therefore concluded that the non-conformity did not damage or undermine the standard setting process and does not need further action.

Furthermore, 1 observation was identified:

- Criteria 5.11 (The standardising body shall formally approve the standards/normative documents based on evidence of consensus reached by the working group/committee): No reference was found that the adoption of the revised standard by the MTCC Board was based on evidence of



consensus reached by the SRC. The Assessor however concludes that it worked well in practice, as consensus was reached in the SRC, and the minutes of the Board of Trustees do not suggest any changes made to the standard version agreed upon by the SRC.

## 5.2. Results

Below, the non-conformity is presented, followed by a selection of conformities that to the opinion of the assessment team are critical issues and/or illustrative examples of the Standard Setting Process. The non-conformity and conformities start with the requirement (text in a block), followed by references providing the evidence for conformity with the requirement (normal and/or bold text), clarification by the assessor (italic text) and closed with a statement on the conformity.

### 5.2.1. Non-conformities

5.3 The announcement and invitation shall include:

d) an invitation to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process

#### **Explanation provided by the MTCC:**

“MTCC acknowledges that there has been an oversight in this aspect where it was not made clear in the announcement letter that comments were also invited on the scope and the process that had been laid out in the letter. Nevertheless, comments were received by stakeholders on the process and the comments were dealt with through consultation with the members of the standard review committee at its first meeting (see elaboration in the following comment on Item 5.4). MTCC will make effort to ensure that this aspect will be complied with in the upcoming review of the MC&I(Natural Forest) standard, expected to begin at the fourth quarter of 2015.”

*No reference was found in the announcement letter, nor on the MTCC website that stakeholders were invited to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process. It should however be noted that the Standard Setting Procedures were attached to the announcement letter and that some comments were received and correctly discussed during the first meeting of the Standards Review Committee (SRC).*

Does not conform – minor



## 5.2.2. Selection of conformities

4.4 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group/committee responsible for standard-setting activities.

### **Report on Review of MC&I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&I forest plantation.v2:**

“4.1.2 (...) a multi-stakeholder Standards Review Committee (SRC) was established to serve as the “Working Group/Committee” and have the overall responsibility for the review of the MC&I(Forest Plantations).

4.1.3 The process to form the SRC was initiated through a letter dated 29 January 2013 which was sent to all stakeholder groups by post and e-mail.”

#### **Letter on the formation of SRC, dd 29 January 2013:**

“As informed in our earlier announcement on the above matter, a Standards Review Committee (SRC) will be formed to carry out the review of the MC&I (Forest Plantations), in accordance with the Process and Proposed Timelines for the Review of MC&I (Forest Plantations).”

#### Does conform

5.5 The work of the working group/committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:

b) all members of the working group shall be provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts,

### **Report on Review of MC&I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&I forest plantation.v2:**

“4.3.3 The general comments were considered by the SRC and the responses to these comments prepared by the secretariat were circulated to the SRC members for finalisation and confirmation along with the comments of the meeting. Specific comments on the Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers of the MC&I(Forest Plantations) were extensively discussed and the outcome incorporated into the Enquiry Draft 1 of the MC&I(Forest Plantations).

4.5.3 The Meeting considered the general and specific comments on the Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers of the Enquiry Draft 1 of the MC&I(Forest Plantations) and the outcome were incorporated into the Enquiry Draft 2 of the MC&I(Forest Plantations) which was subsequently circulated to relevant stakeholders for further comment during the regional stakeholder consultations.”

#### **Minutes of the First SRC Meeting, 26 – 28 August 2013:**

“5.1 The Chairperson drew the attention of the Meeting to the documents that have been circulated to the Members prior to the Meeting as follows:

i. Compilation of comments received from stakeholders during the First Public Comment period; and



ii. Working Draft dated 18 July 2013, incorporating the specific comments received from stakeholders.

The Meeting was informed that the deliberations in reviewing the MC&I(Forest Plantations) would be based on these two documents.

5.2 The Meeting noted that the consolidated comments had been organised in two sections – general and specific comments. The Meeting agreed to deliberate on these two items separately, i.e. the general comments first, to be followed by the specific comments. Deliberations on the general comments are documented in Table 1, while deliberations on specific comments on the Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers are documented in Table 2.

5.3 The deliberations resulted in the Enquiry Draft 1 which is attached as Appendix III.”

*Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that all members were provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision of the standard.*

Does conform

5.6 The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:  
d) the public consultation is for at least 60 days,

**Letter Announcement 1st public comment period, dd 8 January 2013:**

“..., we are pleased to inform you that the MC&I (Forest Plantations) will be subjected to its first 60-day public comment period starting from 15 January – 16 March 2013.”

**Email to stakeholders Announcement 2nd public comment period, dd 27 november 2013:**

“The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) as the Secretariat for the Review of the MC&I(Forest Plantations) is hereby putting forward Enquiry Draft 1 of the revised standard for the second 30-day public comment period which will begin from 1 – 31 December 2013.”

**Letter announcement 3rd public comment period, dd. 25 July 2014:**

“In accordance with the Process and Proposed Timelines for the Review of MC&I(Forest Plantations), the Enquiry Draft 3 will now be subjected to a third and final 60-day public comment period beginning from 25 July to 22 September 2014.”

*Three public consultation periods were held of respectively 60, 30 and 60 days, which exceeds the requirement. Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey confirmed that the public consultation period was at least 60 days.*

Does conform





5.6 The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:  
f) a synopsis of received comments compiled from material issues, including the results of their consideration, is publicly available, for example on a website.

*Summaries and compilations of comments, including the comments and decision of the SRC can be found on the MTCC website.*

Does conform

5.8 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of a consensus.

**Minutes of the Fourth SRC Meeting, dd 29 – 31 October 2014:**

“8.2 There being no further amendments to the content and wording of the standard, the Meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the standard as the revised standard for the certification of forest plantation management to replace the current MC&I(Forest Plantations).”

*Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that the decision of the SRC to recommend the final draft for formal approval was taken on the basis of consensus.*

Does conform



## 6. Forest Management Standard

This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standard. No non-conformities were identified. The Standard and System Requirement Checklist for Sustainable Forest Management can be found in Annex 1 part III, which presents all the conformities and related references.

### 6.1. Analysis

The MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standard is a well-structured and, in general, well-auditable standard which is clearly structured in 10 principles. These principles are subdivided in criteria, indicators and verifiers. Where appropriate the regional-specific distinctions are further elaborated in the verifiers.

In general the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standard is clear in its objective to manage the forest plantations in a sustainable manner and in the best possible way. The improvement cycle of inventory, planning, implementation, evaluation and reviewed actions is an important tool used in the standard.

No non-conformities were identified. There are however, 7 observations identified:

- A separate document contains guidelines for interpretation of the standard, and contributes to the conformity with the PEFC standards and system requirements. It should be noted that this guideline document, which is used in the conformity assessment, is not referred to in any of the other Scheme documents, nor in “The Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) and Its Implementation Arrangement (MTCS 8/2015)” which lists all the applicable certification standards and procedures.
- Criteria 4.1.b.: In some cases wording is used like “strive” (clauses 5.1, 5.4 and 6.6), “is preferred” (clauses 10.3 and 10.4) and “may include” (clause 10.3). This wording is not auditable. In clause 10.4 the sentence “already established and proven exotic species” is used, it is however not defined which species these are and therefore remains difficult to audit;
- Criteria 4.1.d.: It would be better if the standard defines record keeping as such to ensure a consistent maintenance and archiving of the relevant records for a longer timeframe;
- Criteria 5.1.2.: Although economic impacts of forest management operations are not explicitly covered by the standard, this is more indirectly covered in, amongst others, the mentioned clauses;
- Criteria 5.2.9.: No exception for toxic pesticides is included for cases where no other viable alternative is available;
- Criteria 5.4.13: Although no specific reference is found with regard to conservation of dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and special rare tree species, the conservation zones and protection areas consist of natural forests,



which in the context of Malaysian forests will obviously contain standing and fallen dead wood and hollow trees.

- Criteria 5.6.13.: According to the ILO website, two of the fundamental ILO conventions are not ratified (C87- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention; and C111 - Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention) and one was denounced in 1990 (C105 - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention). However, the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the SRC made clear that verifier 1.3.1 should be read as covering all 8 fundamental ILO conventions, even those which are not ratified by Malaysia.

## 6.2. Results

Below, a selection of conformities are presented that to the opinion of the assessment team are critical issues and/or illustrative examples of the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standard. The conformities start with the requirement (text in a block), followed by references providing the evidence for conformity with the requirement (normal and/or bold text), clarification by the assessor (italic text) and closed with a statement on the conformity.

5.1.3 Inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the topics described in this document.

### **MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: (...) b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands. c) Description of silvicultural and / or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.”

### Does conform

5.1.9 Forest management practices shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.

### **MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“5.1.2 Provisions and management are made to maintain, restore or enhance the productive capacity and ecological functions of the forest plantation areas to ensure its economic viability.



5.6.2 Records of quantity of timber and non-timber forest products harvested shall be maintained, taking cognisance of their sustainability in the long term.

6.5 Guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimise forest damage during plantation establishment and harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.

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

Does conform

5.1.11 Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:

- a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation relevant for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with materially and directly interested persons and organisations; and
- b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and
- c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and
- d) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.

**MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

"1.1 Forest plantation management shall respect all federal and state laws and administrative requirements.

Verifier 1.1.1 National Physical Plan-2, 2010

3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free, prior and informed consent to other agencies.

3.2 Forest plantation management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.

4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.

4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.

6.2.1 Availability and implementation of guidelines to identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species of forest flora and fauna, including features of



special biological interest, such as seed trees, salt licks, nesting and feeding areas, in forest plantation areas.

6.2.2 Availability and implementation of management guidelines to establish representative conservation and protection areas, in accordance with existing forest ecosystems, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest plantation management.

6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:- a) does not occur on high conservation value areas; b) does not occur in ecological corridors and environmentally sensitive areas identified by the relevant authorities; and c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term benefits across the forest plantation management unit.

6.10.1 Conversion of forest area to forest plantations, consistent with the provisions of relevant federal and state legal frameworks and policies, does not occur on high conservation value areas, and shall provide substantial, additional, secure and long term benefits across the Forest Plantation Management Unit.

6.10.2 Conversion of forest plantation areas to non-forest land uses, consistent with the provisions of relevant federal and state legal frameworks and policies, shall entail a very limited portion of the Forest Plantation Management Unit, and provide higher economic values as compared to its original use, in the overall context of the need for socio-economic development of the country.

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

Definition HCV 6: Cultural values: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples."

**Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

"Requirement 5.1.11 in PEFC ST 1003:2010 clarifies that the "conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations" means that forest plantations established by a forest conversion after 31 December 2010 in other than "justified circumstances" do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification. The "justified circumstances" are where the conversion:

(...) b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and

(...) Based on requirement (b) above, a "small proportion" means that for an FPMU to be considered for certification, the total conversion that occurred for the establishment of forest plantations after the stipulated deadline shall not be more than 5% of the total size of the FPMU."

*It is concluded that the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species under 6.2.1. is further regulated in the establishment of conservation and protection areas under 6.2.2, and that these areas are completely*



*covered by the high conservation value areas, ecological corridors and environmentally sensitive areas mentioned under 6.10. As a consequence it is concluded that MC&I Forest Plantations.v2 complies with requirement 5.1.11c.*

*Next, although clause 6.10 does not directly require that a conversion shall make a contribution to long-term conservation, conversions are also subject to clause 9.3. This ensures that measures are taken that maintain and / or enhance the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach.*

*No definition of “very limited portion” is provided for the conversion of forest plantation areas to non-forest land uses. However, “very limited portion” is considered auditable since there is a benchmark for such a definition with regards to the conversion of natural forest to plantation forest (as provided in the guidelines) and a definition provided in the MC&I Natural forest standard.*

Does conform

5.3.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.

**MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“5.1.2 Provisions and management are made to maintain, restore or enhance the productive capacity (...) of the forest plantation areas to ensure its economic viability.

5.2.1 Application of forest plantation management practices to encourage the optimal use of forest plantation resources.

5.4.1 Application of forest plantation management strategy that encourages the production of a mix of commercial forest products (timber and non-timber forest produce).”

Does conform

5.3.5 Regeneration, tending and harvesting operations shall be carried out in time, and in a way that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to retained stands and trees as well as to the forest soil, and by using appropriate systems.

**MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“5.1.2 Provisions and management are made to maintain, restore or enhance the productive capacity and ecological functions of the forest plantation areas to ensure its economic viability.

6.5 Guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimise forest damage during plantation establishment and harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.



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

Does conform

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

**MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“1.5 Forest plantation management unit shall be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorised activities.

1.5.2 Control of encroachment, illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing and settlement, and other unauthorised activities in the Forest Plantation Management Unit.

6.2.4 Hunting, fishing and collecting activities shall be controlled and unauthorised activities prevented in forest plantation areas.”

Does conform

5.4.2 Forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forest resources shall identify, protect and/or conserve ecologically important forest areas containing significant concentrations of:

- a) protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems such as riparian areas and wetland biotopes;
- b) areas containing endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;
- c) endangered or protected genetic in situ resources;  
and taking into account
- d) globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.

**MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats

6.2.1 Availability and implementation of guidelines to identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species of forest flora and fauna, including features of special biological interest, (...), in forest plantation areas.

6.2.2 Availability and implementation of management guidelines to establish representative conservation and protection areas, in accordance with existing forest ecosystems, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest plantation management.





6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.

6.4.1 Representative areas of existing forest ecosystems, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest plantation operations, identified and selected under 6.2.2, are demarcated, mapped and protected in their natural state.

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

Does conform

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

**MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“6.2.1 Availability and implementation of guidelines to identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species of forest flora and fauna, including features of special biological interest, (...), in forest plantation areas.

6.2.4 Hunting, fishing and collecting activities shall be controlled and unauthorised activities prevented in forest plantation areas.

6.3.2 Availability and implementation of guidelines for the conservation of genetic, species and ecosystem diversity in the forest plantation areas.”

**Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“The Manager of the FPMU shall take measures to ensure that all rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species are not exploited for commercial purposes.”

Does conform

5.4.6 Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.

**MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

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

10.2.2 Forest plantation establishment shall, appropriate to the scale of the operation, follow natural landscape and take into account the need for wildlife





corridors, buffer strips for permanent streams and rivers, as well as a mosaic of stands of different age classes.”

Does conform

5.6.3 Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant forest area. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.

**MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

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

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

2.2.2 Forest plantation managers shall collaborate with holders of duly recognised legal or customary tenure or use rights within relevant federal and state legal frameworks and customary laws, in activities that may affect such rights.

3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free, prior and informed consent to other agencies.”

Does conform

5.6.10 Forest management shall provide for effective communication and consultation with local people and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management and shall provide appropriate mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management between forest operators and local people.

**MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.

4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.

6.2.3 Existence of cooperation between forest plantation managers, civil societies, research institutions, institutions of higher learning and regulatory authorities in implementing conservation and management activities.



7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest plantation managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, (...).

9.1.1 Forest plantation managers shall conduct an assessment to identify High Conservation Value (HCV) areas in accordance with relevant guidelines, appropriate to scale and intensity of management for forest plantation areas, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders and experts.

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

9.2.1 Forest plantation managers shall provide the assessors with a list of relevant stakeholders who have been consulted regarding the HCV area.”

**Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is the principle that a community has the right to give or withhold its consent to proposed projects or activities that may affect the lands they customarily or traditionally own, occupy or otherwise use.

FPIC implies informed, non-coercive negotiations between the proponents and indigenous peoples prior to the commencement of development activities on their customary lands. This principle means that those who wish to use the customary lands belonging to indigenous peoples must enter into negotiations with them. It is the indigenous peoples who have the right to decide whether they will agree to the project or not once they have a full and accurate understanding of the implications of the project consistent with the principle of FPIC.

The term FPIC is specified in Criteria 2.2, 3.1 and 3.4 as well as Indicator 3.1.2 of the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2, in relation to the requirement to obtain the FPIC of the indigenous peoples regarding any forest plantation management activities that may affect the forest plantations owned by them (Criteria 2.2 and 3.1, and Indicator 3.1.2), and any compensation for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest plantation species or management systems in forest plantation operations (Criterion 3.4).

Several other criteria and indicators in the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 recognise the traditional use of the permanent forests by the indigenous peoples (i.e. Criteria 3.2, 3.3, 4.4, 4.5, 9.1 and 9.2).

FPIC is not specifically mentioned in these criteria and indicators, but in order to ensure that the indigenous peoples are able to continue their traditional use of the forest, the forest plantation manager is required to undertake a process of consultation: (i) to identify the presence and locations of indigenous peoples in and adjacent to the FPMU; and (ii) to confer and determine the areas they traditionally use. These areas may include sites of significant importance to them (e.g. cultivated areas, water sources, burial sites, sacred sites etc.).

Criterion 3.2 requires the FPMU manager to ensure that forest plantation management practices shall not threaten or diminish the indigenous peoples' resources or tenure/customary/traditional rights.



Criterion 3.3 requires that sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to the indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with them, and shall be recognised and protected.

Under Criteria 4.4 and 4.5, where the indigenous peoples are living in or adjacent to the forest plantation, the FPMU manager shall consult them to evaluate their dependence on the forest plantations and the potential social impacts of the forest plantation operations on these peoples, prior to the commencement of the operations.

The FPMU manager has to take into account the results of such evaluations into the forest plantation planning and management process so as to prevent loss or damage affecting the indigenous peoples' customary rights, property, resources, or their livelihoods. Where such loss or damage has been caused by the forest plantation operations, appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve the grievances and provide fair compensation to the affected party.

Under Criteria 9.1 and 9.2, the FPMU manager is also required to consult the affected indigenous peoples and other relevant stakeholders to assess the attributes consistent with high conservation value (HCV) which are found in the FPMU.

In the case of the indigenous peoples, the HCV areas may be those that are important to meeting the basic needs of these peoples and/or critical to their traditional cultural identity. The FPMU manager has to demonstrate that steps have been taken to protect these HCV areas, which may include marking these areas on maps and having management prescriptions in the Forest Plantation Management Plan to maintain and enhance the HCV attributes.

The FPMU manager is also required to conduct annual monitoring to assess the effectiveness of such measures. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the revision of the Forest Plantation Management Plan.

(...) The FPMU Manager is required to ensure and provide for effective communication and consultation with local communities and other stakeholders and that sufficient contact is maintained with the affected parties.”

Does conform



5.7.1 Forest management shall comply with legislation applicable to forest management issues including forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous people; health, labour and safety issues; and the payment of royalties and taxes.

**MC&I Forest Plantation.v2:**

“1.1 Forest plantation management shall respect all federal and state laws and administrative requirements.

1.2 All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes, and other charges shall be paid.

1.3 The provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.”

Does conform



# Annex 1 PEFC Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist

## Table of contents

**Part I: PEFC Standard Requirements Checklist for standard setting .....29**  
**Part III: PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist for Sustainable Forest Management .....56**

### Part I: PEFC Standard Requirements Checklist for standard setting

#### 1 Scope

Part I covers the requirements for standard setting defined in PEFC ST 1001:2010, Standard Setting – Requirements.

#### 2 Checklist

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
<b>Standardising Body</b>			
4.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:			
a) its status and structure, including a body responsible for consensus building (see 4.4) and for formal adoption of the standard (see 5.11),		N.A.	<i>(process assessment not applicable)</i>
b) the record-keeping procedures,		N.A.	<i>(process assessment not applicable)</i>
c) the procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,		N.A.	<i>(process assessment not applicable)</i>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
d) the standard-setting process,		N.A.	<i>(process assessment not applicable)</i>
e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and		N.A.	<i>(process assessment not applicable)</i>
f) revision of standards/normative documents.		N.A.	<i>(process assessment not applicable)</i>
4.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available and shall regularly review its standard-setting procedures including consideration of comments from stakeholders.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<i>The Standard Setting Procedures could be found on the MTCC website (<a href="http://www.mtcc.com.my">www.mtcc.com.my</a>). These Procedures were reviewed during the re-assessment of the complete MTCS in 2014.</i>
4.3 The standardising body shall keep records relating to the standard-setting process providing evidence of compliance with the requirements of this document and the	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<i>Accurate and well organized records relating to the standard-setting process were found. Some of these records, such as the minutes of the four meetings of the Standards Review Committee (SRC) were included in the Report on Review as appendices.</i>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
standardising body's own procedures. The records shall be kept for a minimum of five years and shall be available to interested parties upon request.			
4.4 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group/committee responsible for standard-setting activities.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Report on Review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&amp;I forest plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“4.1.2 (...) a multi-stakeholder Standards Review Committee (SRC) was established to serve as the “Working Group/Committee” and have the overall responsibility for the review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations).</p> <p>4.1.3 The process to form the SRC was initiated through a letter dated 29 January 2013 which was sent to all stakeholder groups by post and e-mail.”</p> <p><b>Letter on the formation of SRC, dd 29 January 2013:</b></p> <p>“As informed in our earlier announcement on the above matter, a Standards Review Committee (SRC) will be formed to carry out the review of the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations), in accordance with the Process and Proposed Timelines for the Review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations).”</p>
<b>4.4 The working group/committee shall:</b>			
a) be accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Report on Review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&amp;I forest plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“3.2 The detailed composition of the membership of the SRC is as shown in Table 1 below (...)</p>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents																																			
			<p>Table 1: Membership of the SRC</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="833 322 1729 683"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="833 322 1198 418">Stakeholder Group \ Region</th> <th data-bbox="1198 322 1332 418">Sabah</th> <th data-bbox="1332 322 1467 418">Sarawak</th> <th data-bbox="1467 322 1601 418">Peninsular Malaysia</th> <th data-bbox="1601 322 1729 418">Malaysia (Total)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="833 418 1198 466">Environmental</td> <td data-bbox="1198 418 1332 466">1</td> <td data-bbox="1332 418 1467 466">1</td> <td data-bbox="1467 418 1601 466">1</td> <td data-bbox="1601 418 1729 466">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="833 466 1198 513">Economic</td> <td data-bbox="1198 466 1332 513">1</td> <td data-bbox="1332 466 1467 513">1</td> <td data-bbox="1467 466 1601 513">1</td> <td data-bbox="1601 466 1729 513">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="833 513 1198 561">Social – Indigenous People</td> <td data-bbox="1198 513 1332 561">1</td> <td data-bbox="1332 513 1467 561">1</td> <td data-bbox="1467 513 1601 561">1</td> <td data-bbox="1601 513 1729 561">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="833 561 1198 609">Social – Workers Union</td> <td data-bbox="1198 561 1332 609">1</td> <td data-bbox="1332 561 1467 609">1</td> <td data-bbox="1467 561 1601 609">1</td> <td data-bbox="1601 561 1729 609">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="833 609 1198 657">Relevant Government Agency</td> <td data-bbox="1198 609 1332 657">1</td> <td data-bbox="1332 609 1467 657">1</td> <td data-bbox="1467 609 1601 657">1</td> <td data-bbox="1601 609 1729 657">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="833 657 1198 683"><b>Total</b></td> <td data-bbox="1198 657 1332 683"><b>5</b></td> <td data-bbox="1332 657 1467 683"><b>5</b></td> <td data-bbox="1467 657 1601 683"><b>5</b></td> <td data-bbox="1601 657 1729 683"><b>15</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="766 726 2004 790"><i>Respondents of the stakeholder survey confirmed that the SRC was accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders.</i></p>	Stakeholder Group \ Region	Sabah	Sarawak	Peninsular Malaysia	Malaysia (Total)	Environmental	1	1	1	3	Economic	1	1	1	3	Social – Indigenous People	1	1	1	3	Social – Workers Union	1	1	1	3	Relevant Government Agency	1	1	1	3	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>
Stakeholder Group \ Region	Sabah	Sarawak	Peninsular Malaysia	Malaysia (Total)																																		
Environmental	1	1	1	3																																		
Economic	1	1	1	3																																		
Social – Indigenous People	1	1	1	3																																		
Social – Workers Union	1	1	1	3																																		
Relevant Government Agency	1	1	1	3																																		
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>																																		
b) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard where single concerned interests shall not dominate nor be dominated in the process, and	Procedures	N.A.																																				
	Process	YES	<p><b>Report on Review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&amp;I forest plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“3.2 The detailed composition of the membership of the SRC is as shown in Table 1 below (...)</p>																																			



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents																																			
			<p data-bbox="835 272 1149 296">Table 1: Membership of the SRC</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="835 323 1729 683"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="835 323 1198 419">Stakeholder Group \ Region</th> <th data-bbox="1198 323 1332 419">Sabah</th> <th data-bbox="1332 323 1467 419">Sarawak</th> <th data-bbox="1467 323 1601 419">Peninsular Malaysia</th> <th data-bbox="1601 323 1729 419">Malaysia (Total)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="835 419 1198 464">Environmental</td> <td data-bbox="1198 419 1332 464">1</td> <td data-bbox="1332 419 1467 464">1</td> <td data-bbox="1467 419 1601 464">1</td> <td data-bbox="1601 419 1729 464">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="835 464 1198 509">Economic</td> <td data-bbox="1198 464 1332 509">1</td> <td data-bbox="1332 464 1467 509">1</td> <td data-bbox="1467 464 1601 509">1</td> <td data-bbox="1601 464 1729 509">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="835 509 1198 553">Social – Indigenous People</td> <td data-bbox="1198 509 1332 553">1</td> <td data-bbox="1332 509 1467 553">1</td> <td data-bbox="1467 509 1601 553">1</td> <td data-bbox="1601 509 1729 553">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="835 553 1198 598">Social – Workers Union</td> <td data-bbox="1198 553 1332 598">1</td> <td data-bbox="1332 553 1467 598">1</td> <td data-bbox="1467 553 1601 598">1</td> <td data-bbox="1601 553 1729 598">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="835 598 1198 643">Relevant Government Agency</td> <td data-bbox="1198 598 1332 643">1</td> <td data-bbox="1332 598 1467 643">1</td> <td data-bbox="1467 598 1601 643">1</td> <td data-bbox="1601 598 1729 643">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="835 643 1198 683"><b>Total</b></td> <td data-bbox="1198 643 1332 683"><b>5</b></td> <td data-bbox="1332 643 1467 683"><b>5</b></td> <td data-bbox="1467 643 1601 683"><b>5</b></td> <td data-bbox="1601 643 1729 683"><b>15</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="768 724 1989 863">4.1.2 (...) The 15-member SRC comprised representatives who were nominated and elected by their respective stakeholder groups i.e. the social (indigenous people and workers union), environmental and economic interest groups, and the relevant government agencies from Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia.”</p> <p data-bbox="768 879 1464 906"><b>Minutes of the First SRC Meeting, 26 – 28 August 2013:</b></p> <p data-bbox="768 927 981 954">“6.2 Voting Rights</p> <p data-bbox="768 975 2033 1145">6.2.1 The Meeting considered the concern raised by the economic stakeholder group that the social group, which is divided into the Social-Indigenous peoples group and the Social-Workers Union group, would have a total of 6 votes in the SRC, while other stakeholder interest groups would only have 3 votes, which was deemed unfair. The Meeting sought the understanding of the social stakeholder group if they would be agreeable to agree among themselves to have 3 votes as proposed.</p> <p data-bbox="768 1166 2042 1267">6.2.2 Mr Nicholas Ting supported the proposal and was of the view that it would ensure a fair voting process should there be a need for voting. Dato’ Akhrrudin expressed his view that since the SRC has been established, it would be good to keep the voting structure.</p> <p data-bbox="768 1287 1966 1347">6.2.3 Mr Omar highlighted that based on his experience as a Member for the SRC in the review of the MC&amp;I(2002), the same voting structure was used and there was no issue with regard to voting as the</p>	Stakeholder Group \ Region	Sabah	Sarawak	Peninsular Malaysia	Malaysia (Total)	Environmental	1	1	1	3	Economic	1	1	1	3	Social – Indigenous People	1	1	1	3	Social – Workers Union	1	1	1	3	Relevant Government Agency	1	1	1	3	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>
Stakeholder Group \ Region	Sabah	Sarawak	Peninsular Malaysia	Malaysia (Total)																																		
Environmental	1	1	1	3																																		
Economic	1	1	1	3																																		
Social – Indigenous People	1	1	1	3																																		
Social – Workers Union	1	1	1	3																																		
Relevant Government Agency	1	1	1	3																																		
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>																																		

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>decision had always been made through consensus.</p> <p>6.2.4 Ms Fatimah added that the workers union and the indigenous peoples would have different interest and views. Dr Ramy stressed that there should always be a spirit of give and take in any negotiation process to achieve a consensus.</p> <p>6.2.5 The Meeting therefore agreed to maintain the existing voting structure of the SRC.”</p> <p><i>Respondents to the stakeholder survey generally confirmed the balanced representation of stakeholder groups in the SRC. However, two respondents argued that OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Administration) and JHEKS (Jabatan Hal Ehwal Kesatuan Sekerja = Department of Trade Union Affairs) representatives should have been part of the SRC and that State Government agencies, that are keen to pursue Forest Plantation establishment and private sectors, should have been reached out to. To the opinion of the assessor, these types of representation have been sufficiently covered by other SRC-members.</i></p>
<p>c) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that are materially affected by the standard, and those that can influence the implementation of the standard. The materially affected stakeholders shall represent a meaningful segment of the participants.</p>	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><i>Appendix II of the Report on Review presents the 15 members and 15 alternate members (1 member and 1 alternate member per stakeholder group per geographical region), which shows the presence of materially affected stakeholders (members of Timber and Wood Associations, Workers Unions, and Indigenous Peoples Associations / Unions / Organizations) and those that can influence the implementation of the standard (members of Timber and Wood Associations); this is a representation of 9 out of 15 members in the SRC.</i></p> <p><i>The respondents of the Stakeholder Survey confirmed that the SRC included stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter.</i></p>
4.5 The	Procedures	N.A.	

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
standardising body shall establish procedures for dealing with any substantive and procedural complaints relating to the standardising activities which are accessible to stakeholders.	Process	YES	<i>The Dispute Resolution Procedures (DRP 2/2013) applicable under the MTCS could be found on the MTCC website (<a href="http://www.mtcc.com.my">www.mtcc.com.my</a>).</i>
<b>4.5 Upon receipt of the complaint, the standard-setting body shall:</b>			
a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint to the complainant,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	N.A.	<i>According to the MTCC, no complaints are received by the Dispute Resolution Committee. This is confirmed by the respondents of the stakeholder survey.</i>
b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint, impartially and objectively evaluate the subject matter of the complaint, and make a decision upon the complaint, and	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	N.A.	<i>According to the MTCC, no complaints are received by the Dispute Resolution Committee. This is confirmed by the respondents of the stakeholder survey.</i>
c) formally	Procedures	N.A.	



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
communicate the decision on the complaint and of the complaint handling process to the complainant.	Process	N.A.	<i>According to the MTCC, no complaints are received by the Dispute Resolution Committee. This is confirmed by the respondents of the stakeholder survey.</i>
4.6 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries and complaints relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be made easily available.	Procedures	N.A.	
<b>Standard-setting process</b>			
5.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting work.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Report on Review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&amp;I forest plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“4.1.1 In preparation for the commencement of the review process, a stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken based on the existing stakeholder list from the development of the MC&amp;I(Natural Forest), the report on Mapping of Forest and Forest-related Stakeholder Consultations in Malaysia published by the European Forest Institute (EFI) in 2012, as well as identification of new/additional stakeholders that might benefit or have interests in the review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations). This exercise produced an updated list of stakeholders for the review process.”</p> <p><i>The updated list of stakeholders is found (annex to the announcement letter dd 17 December 2012), which</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<i>lists 28 governmental agencies, 18 social and indigenous organizations, 27 environmental organizations and 18 associations of the forest and timber industry.</i>
5.2 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged and key stakeholders. The standardising body shall address the constraints of their participation and proactively seek their participation and contribution in the standard-setting activities.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Letter Formation SRC, dd 29 January 2013:</b></p> <p>“5 To further facilitate the review process, the Secretariat is making available some financial allocation to enable the participation of members from the smaller social and environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the meetings of the SRC. We are pleased to inform you that the financial provision will cover expenses for travel and hotel accommodation.”</p> <p><b>Additional explanation of the MTCC:</b></p> <p>“Through the many years of implementing the MTCS, we have identified the lack of financial means as the key constraint faced by the disadvantaged (indigenous peoples) and key stakeholders in participating in stakeholder consultation conducted by MTCC. Hence MTCC has been providing financial assistance to these stakeholders to enable them to attend the consultations; and these include providing financial assistance to the smaller social and environmental NGOs who are representing these disadvantaged stakeholders.”</p> <p><i>The standardising body has identified stakeholders. An updated list of stakeholders, including disadvantaged and key stakeholders, was available from the MTCC website and was attached to the announcement letter dd 17 December 2012.</i></p>
5.3 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation for participation in a timely manner on its	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>News item published on MTCC website, dd 17 December 2012:</b></p> <p>“MTCC therefore wishes to announce that the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) will be subjected to its first review beginning January 2013 which would be conducted in line with the requirements specified in the MTCS document SSP2/2012: Rules on Standard Setting Process for Development of Timber Certification Standards. (...) This announcement on the review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) has been communicated in writing to all the relevant stakeholders groups in Malaysia and we look forward to their continued cooperation and active participation in the review process. Should you be interested to participate in the process for the selection of the representatives of the various stakeholder groups, please e-mail (...) your</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
website and in suitable media as appropriate to afford stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.			<p>contact details and information indicating the organisation that you represent and your connection to the relevant stakeholder group i.e. social, environmental, economic or relevant government agencies.”</p> <p><b>Announcement letter, dd 17 December 2012:</b></p> <p>“2. In line with international practices and the standard setting process for the development of timber certification standards adopted under the MTCS, in which the certification standard used is to be reviewed at least every five years to ensure continuous improvement, the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantation) will be subjected to its first review which will begin in January 2013. (...). Your organization has been identified as a relevant stakeholder to be consulted in the process. (...) We look forward to your cooperation and active participation in the forthcoming review process. Information on the review process of the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) will also be posted on the MTCC website.”</p>
5.3 The announcement and invitation shall include:			
a) information about the objectives, scope and the steps of the standard-setting process and its timetable,	Procedures	N.A.	<p><b>Announcement letter, dd 17 December 2012:</b></p> <p>“2. In line with international practices and the standard setting process for the development of timber certification standards adopted under the MTCS, in which the certification standard used is to be reviewed at least every five years to ensure continuous improvement, the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantation) will be subjected to its first review which will begin in January 2013. (...)</p> <p>5. It is anticipated that the whole review process of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) will take 18 months (from January 2013 to June 2014) and would entail, among others, the following key activities:</p> <p>(i) soliciting public comments from the stakeholder groups at various stages during the review process by circulating/placing the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations), Enquiry Drafts and Final Draft on the MTCC web site;</p> <p>(ii) compilation of public comments and preparation of Working, Enquiry and Final Drafts by the Secretariat;</p> <p>(iii) consideration of the Working, Enquiry and Final Drafts by the SRC; and</p> <p>(iv) conducting of three regional consultations to discuss the Enquiry Draft with the relevant stakeholder groups in the three regions of Malaysia.</p> <p>6. The detailed process and proposed timelines for the review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) are as shown in Appendix II.”</p>
	Process	YES	

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<i>The standard setting procedures and a more detailed time schedule were found in the appendices to the announcement letter.</i>
b) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Announcement letter, dd 17 December 2012:</b></p> <p>“3. The main body which will review the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) and develop the revised standard will be the Standards Review Committee (SRC). This Committee will serve as the multi-stakeholder “Forum” and its members will comprise representatives nominated by their respective stakeholder groups i.e. the social, environmental and economic interest groups, and the relevant government agencies, from the three regions of Malaysia, i.e. Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia. It is proposed that the SRC shall comprise a total of 15 members. The MTCC will serve as the Secretariat for the SRC.</p> <p>5. It is anticipated that the whole review process of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) will take 18 months (from January 2013 to June 2014) and would entail, among others, the following key activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) soliciting public comments from the stakeholder groups at various stages during the review process by circulating/placing the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations), Enquiry Drafts and Final Draft on the MTCC web site;</li> <li>(ii) compilation of public comments and preparation of Working, Enquiry and Final Drafts by the Secretariat;</li> <li>(iii) consideration of the Working, Enquiry and Final Drafts by the SRC; and</li> <li>(iv) conducting of three regional consultations to discuss the Enquiry Draft with the relevant stakeholder groups in the three regions of Malaysia.</li> </ul> <p>6. The detailed process and proposed timelines for the review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) are as shown in appendix II. We will be contacting you in due course with more information regarding the specific steps in the review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations).”</p> <p><b>News item published on MTCC website, 17 December 2012:</b></p> <p>“This announcement on the review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) has been communicated in writing to all the relevant stakeholders groups in Malaysia and we look forward to their continued cooperation and active participation in the review process. Should you be interested to participate in the process for the selection of the representatives of the various stakeholder groups, please e-mail (...) your contact details and information indicating the organisation that you represent and your connection to the relevant stakeholder group i.e. social, environmental, economic or relevant government agencies”</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p><b>Letter to stakeholders, about formation SRC, dd 29 January 2013:</b></p> <p>“As informed in our earlier announcement on the above matter, a Standards Review Committee (SRC) will be formed to carry out the review of the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations). (...).</p> <p>3. To facilitate the nomination of one (1) Member and Alternate Member (...) to the SRC, MTCC as the Secretariat of the SRC would like to propose the following options for your consideration:</p> <p>Option 1: The stakeholder group appoints a Coordinator from amongst the members of the stakeholder group to facilitate the nomination and election process. (...)</p> <p>Option 2: The stakeholder group requests the Secretariat to facilitate the nomination and election process.</p> <p>6 MTCC looks forward to receive your feedback pertaining to your preferred option for the nomination and election process by 16 February 2013. Your cooperation and support in this matter is greatly appreciated.”</p>
<p>(c) an invitation to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) to the working group/committee. The invitation to disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is understandable,</p>	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Announcement letter, dd 17 December 2012:</b></p> <p>“2. (...) Your organization has been identified as a relevant stakeholder to be consulted in this process. We look forward to your cooperation and active participation in the forthcoming review process.”</p> <p><b>News item published on MTCC website (17 December 2012):</b></p> <p>“This announcement on the review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) has been communicated in writing to all the relevant stakeholders groups in Malaysia and we look forward to their continued cooperation and active participation in the review process. Should you be interested to participate in the process for the selection of the representatives of the various stakeholder groups, please e-mail (...) your contact details and information indicating the organisation that you represent and your connection to the relevant stakeholder group i.e. social, environmental, economic or relevant government agencies”</p> <p><b>Letter Formation SRC, dd 29 January 2013:</b></p> <p>“As informed in our earlier announcement on the above matter, a Standards Review Committee (SRC) will be formed to carry out the review of the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations). (...).</p> <p>2. The SRC will serve as the multi-stakeholder “Forum” and its members will comprise representatives nominated by their respective stakeholder groups i.e. the social, environmental and economic interest groups, and the relevant government agencies from Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia. The SRC will</p>





Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>comprise a total of 15 members taking into account that the social stakeholder group comprised of two different groups, i.e. the indigenous/local communities and the workers unions.</p> <p>3. To facilitate the nomination of one (1) Member and Alternate Member from the (...) stakeholder group in [Sabah, Sarawak or Peninsular Malaysia] to the SRC, MTCC as the Secretariat of the SRC would like to propose the following options for your consideration:</p> <p>Option 1: The stakeholder group appoints a Coordinator from amongst the members of the stakeholder group to facilitate the nomination and election process. (...)</p> <p>Option 2: The stakeholder group requests the Secretariat to facilitate the nomination and election process.</p> <p>6 MTCC looks forward to receive your feedback pertaining to your preferred option for the nomination and election process by 16 February 2013. Your cooperation and support in this matter is greatly appreciated.”</p> <p><i>Separate letters are sent out to the five different stakeholder groups (Social – Indigenous Peoples, Social – Workers’ Unions, Environmental, Economic, Government Agencies), in every geographical area (Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia), although the content is almost completely the same.</i></p>
d) an invitation to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process, and	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	NO	<p><b>Explanation provided by the MTCC:</b></p> <p>“MTCC acknowledges that there has been an oversight in this aspect where it was not made clear in the announcement letter that comments were also invited on the scope and the process that had been laid out in the letter. Nevertheless, comments were received by stakeholders on the process and the comments were dealt with through consultation with the members of the standard review committee at its first meeting (see elaboration in the following comment on Item 5.4). MTCC will make effort to ensure that this aspect will be complied with in the upcoming review of the MC&amp;I(Natural Forest) standard, expected to begin at the fourth quarter of 2015.”</p> <p><i>No reference was found in the announcement letter, nor on the MTCC website that stakeholders were invited to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process. It should however be noted that the Standard Setting Procedures were attached to the announcement letter and that some comments were received and correctly discussed during the first meeting of the SRC.</i></p>
e) reference to	Procedures	N.A.	

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents																																		
publicly available standard-setting procedures.	Process	YES	<p><b>Announcement letter, dd 17 December 2012:</b></p> <p>“2. (...). The review of the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) will be conducted in line with the requirements specified in the MTCS document SSP2/2012: Rules on Standard Setting Process for Development of Timber Certification Standards, which is attached herewith as Appendix I.”</p> <p><i>The Standard Setting Procedures were attached to the letter.</i></p> <p><b>News item published on MTCC website, dd 17 December 2012:</b></p> <p>“The MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) is currently undergoing its first review beginning January 2013 which is being conducted in line with the requirements specified in the MTCS document SSP2/2012: Rules on Standard Setting Process for Development of Timber Certification Standards.”</p> <p><i>The Standard Setting Procedures were available via a link on the MTCC website.</i></p>																																		
5.4 The standardising body shall review the standard-setting process based on comments received from the public announcement and establish a working group/committee or adjust the composition of an already existing working group/committee based on received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of	Procedures	N.A.																																			
	Process	YES	<p><b>Report on Review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&amp;I forest plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“3.2 The detailed composition of the membership of the SRC is as shown in Table 1 below while the final list of members of the SRC is as shown in Appendix II.</p> <p><b>Table 1: Membership of the SRC</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="775 927 1767 1329"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="775 927 1178 1034">Stakeholder Group \ Region</th> <th data-bbox="1178 927 1323 1034">Sabah</th> <th data-bbox="1323 927 1469 1034">Sarawak</th> <th data-bbox="1469 927 1621 1034">Peninsular Malaysia</th> <th data-bbox="1621 927 1767 1034">Malaysia (Total)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="775 1034 1178 1082">Environmental</td> <td data-bbox="1178 1034 1323 1082">1</td> <td data-bbox="1323 1034 1469 1082">1</td> <td data-bbox="1469 1034 1621 1082">1</td> <td data-bbox="1621 1034 1767 1082">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="775 1082 1178 1129">Economic</td> <td data-bbox="1178 1082 1323 1129">1</td> <td data-bbox="1323 1082 1469 1129">1</td> <td data-bbox="1469 1082 1621 1129">1</td> <td data-bbox="1621 1082 1767 1129">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="775 1129 1178 1177">Social – Indigenous People</td> <td data-bbox="1178 1129 1323 1177">1</td> <td data-bbox="1323 1129 1469 1177">1</td> <td data-bbox="1469 1129 1621 1177">1</td> <td data-bbox="1621 1129 1767 1177">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="775 1177 1178 1225">Social – Workers Union</td> <td data-bbox="1178 1177 1323 1225">1</td> <td data-bbox="1323 1177 1469 1225">1</td> <td data-bbox="1469 1177 1621 1225">1</td> <td data-bbox="1621 1177 1767 1225">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="775 1225 1178 1273">Relevant Government Agency</td> <td data-bbox="1178 1225 1323 1273">1</td> <td data-bbox="1323 1225 1469 1273">1</td> <td data-bbox="1469 1225 1621 1273">1</td> <td data-bbox="1621 1225 1767 1273">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="775 1273 1178 1329"><b>Total</b></td> <td data-bbox="1178 1273 1323 1329"><b>5</b></td> <td data-bbox="1323 1273 1469 1329"><b>5</b></td> <td data-bbox="1469 1273 1621 1329"><b>5</b></td> <td data-bbox="1621 1273 1767 1329"><b>15</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>4.1.2 (...) a multi-stakeholder Standards Review Committee (SRC) was established to serve as the “Working</p>	Stakeholder Group \ Region	Sabah	Sarawak	Peninsular Malaysia	Malaysia (Total)	Environmental	1	1	1	3	Economic	1	1	1	3	Social – Indigenous People	1	1	1	3	Social – Workers Union	1	1	1	3	Relevant Government Agency	1	1	1	3	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Stakeholder Group \ Region	Sabah	Sarawak	Peninsular Malaysia	Malaysia (Total)																																	
Environmental	1	1	1	3																																	
Economic	1	1	1	3																																	
Social – Indigenous People	1	1	1	3																																	
Social – Workers Union	1	1	1	3																																	
Relevant Government Agency	1	1	1	3																																	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>																																	



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents				
<p>nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group/committee and resources available for the standard-setting.</p>			<p>Group/Committee” and have the overall responsibility for the review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations). The 15-member SRC comprised representatives who were nominated and elected by their respective stakeholder groups i.e. the social (indigenous people and workers union), environmental and economic interest groups, and the relevant government agencies from Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia.</p> <p>4.1.6 As a result of the various facilitation meetings and consultations undertaken, the Members and Alternate Members for the respective stakeholder groups in each region had been elected for all the stakeholder groups, with the exception of the Social (Indigenous Peoples) stakeholder group for Peninsular Malaysia.”</p> <p><b>Additional explanation of the MTCC:</b></p> <p>“While MTCC did not specifically invite comments on the standard setting process, one comment was received which were duly considered by the 1st Meeting of the SRC.”</p> <p><b>Minutes of the First SRC Meeting, 26 – 28 August 2013:</b></p> <p>“Table 1: Discussion on General Comments</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="772 758 2056 1390"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="772 758 1429 798">General Comment Received</th> <th data-bbox="1429 758 2056 798">Decisions of the SRC</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="772 798 1429 1390"> <p>Zedtee Sdn Bhd</p> <p>3. Unfortunately, there is a strong perception among the industry, particularly from Sarawak, that the present standard review procedure had not been able to adequately cater for industry participation and input for the review of the standard.</p> <p>The review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) would therefore also be an opportunity to refine the state of art of the review procedure/process for it to be more inclusive and democratic.</p> <p>In the meantime, review of the standard should strive to produce a MC&amp;I (Planted Forest) that could be used by planted forest managers with imminent needs to placed planted timber onto the markets. The review should also consider the merit of a unified standard and devise a plan for their integration.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1429 798 2056 1390"> <p>The Meeting was of the view that the standard review process does provide adequate opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in the process. The participation of stakeholders in the review process has been solicited through direct postal mailing, e-mail circulation and website announcement. The stakeholders could participate in the review process through the various public comment periods, as well as regional consultations. Additionally, stakeholders can channel their comments or inputs through their elected representative in the Standards Review Committee (SRC) so that their concerns can be taken up by the SRC.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	General Comment Received	Decisions of the SRC	<p>Zedtee Sdn Bhd</p> <p>3. Unfortunately, there is a strong perception among the industry, particularly from Sarawak, that the present standard review procedure had not been able to adequately cater for industry participation and input for the review of the standard.</p> <p>The review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) would therefore also be an opportunity to refine the state of art of the review procedure/process for it to be more inclusive and democratic.</p> <p>In the meantime, review of the standard should strive to produce a MC&amp;I (Planted Forest) that could be used by planted forest managers with imminent needs to placed planted timber onto the markets. The review should also consider the merit of a unified standard and devise a plan for their integration.</p>	<p>The Meeting was of the view that the standard review process does provide adequate opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in the process. The participation of stakeholders in the review process has been solicited through direct postal mailing, e-mail circulation and website announcement. The stakeholders could participate in the review process through the various public comment periods, as well as regional consultations. Additionally, stakeholders can channel their comments or inputs through their elected representative in the Standards Review Committee (SRC) so that their concerns can be taken up by the SRC.</p>
General Comment Received	Decisions of the SRC						
<p>Zedtee Sdn Bhd</p> <p>3. Unfortunately, there is a strong perception among the industry, particularly from Sarawak, that the present standard review procedure had not been able to adequately cater for industry participation and input for the review of the standard.</p> <p>The review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) would therefore also be an opportunity to refine the state of art of the review procedure/process for it to be more inclusive and democratic.</p> <p>In the meantime, review of the standard should strive to produce a MC&amp;I (Planted Forest) that could be used by planted forest managers with imminent needs to placed planted timber onto the markets. The review should also consider the merit of a unified standard and devise a plan for their integration.</p>	<p>The Meeting was of the view that the standard review process does provide adequate opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in the process. The participation of stakeholders in the review process has been solicited through direct postal mailing, e-mail circulation and website announcement. The stakeholders could participate in the review process through the various public comment periods, as well as regional consultations. Additionally, stakeholders can channel their comments or inputs through their elected representative in the Standards Review Committee (SRC) so that their concerns can be taken up by the SRC.</p>						



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents								
			<p>6.2.1 The Meeting considered the concern raised by the economic stakeholder group that the social group, which is divided into the Social-Indigenous peoples group and the Social-Workers Union group, would have a total of 6 votes in the SRC, while other stakeholder interest groups would only have 3 votes, which was deemed unfair. The Meeting sought the understanding of the social stakeholder group if they would be agreeable to agree among themselves to have 3 votes as proposed.</p> <p>6.2.2 Mr Nicholas Ting supported the proposal and was of the view that it would ensure a fair voting process should there be a need for voting. Dato’ Akhrrudin expressed his view that since the SRC has been established, it would be good to keep the voting structure.</p> <p>6.2.3 Mr Omar highlighted that based on his experience as a Member for the SRC in the review of the MC&amp;I(2002), the same voting structure was used and there was no issue with regard to voting as the decision had always been made through consensus.</p> <p>6.2.4 Ms Fatimah added that the workers union and the indigenous peoples would have different interest and views. Dr Ramy stressed that there should always be a spirit of give and take in any negotiation process to achieve a consensus.</p> <p>6.2.5 The Meeting therefore agreed to maintain the existing voting structure of the SRC.”</p> <p><b>Meeting to Nominate and Elect a Member and an Alternate Member from Relevant Governmental Agencies in Peninsular Malaysia, dd 1 April 2013:</b></p> <p>“3.1 The Meeting was informed that MTCC has thus far received two nominations, i.e. Dr. Ahmad Zuhaidi Yahya from FRIM and Prof. Dato’ Dr. Wan Razali Wan Mohd from UPM. In addition to the two names mentioned, the Meeting agreed that more candidates should be allowed to be nominated for the consideration of the meeting.</p> <p>3.5 After further deliberations, three additional candidates were nominated as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="790 1126 2022 1278"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="790 1126 1406 1161">Nominee</th> <th data-bbox="1406 1126 2022 1161">Proponent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="790 1161 1406 1198">Tn. Hj. Kamaruzaman Othman (MTIB)</td> <td data-bbox="1406 1161 2022 1198">Dr. Ahmad Zuhaidi (FRIM)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="790 1198 1406 1235">Dato’ Hj. Nor Akhiruddin Mahmud (FDPM)</td> <td data-bbox="1406 1198 2022 1235">Dato’ Masran b. Md. Salleh (FDPM)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="790 1235 1406 1272">Mr. Bashah Bachik (DoL)</td> <td data-bbox="1406 1235 2022 1272">Pn. Wan Arnida Wati (DoL)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>3.6 For the election process, the Meeting agreed that each organisation represented be allowed to vote for two nominees and that the nominee with the highest votes be elected as the Member and the nominee with the second highest vote elected as the Alternate Member.</p>	Nominee	Proponent	Tn. Hj. Kamaruzaman Othman (MTIB)	Dr. Ahmad Zuhaidi (FRIM)	Dato’ Hj. Nor Akhiruddin Mahmud (FDPM)	Dato’ Masran b. Md. Salleh (FDPM)	Mr. Bashah Bachik (DoL)	Pn. Wan Arnida Wati (DoL)
Nominee	Proponent										
Tn. Hj. Kamaruzaman Othman (MTIB)	Dr. Ahmad Zuhaidi (FRIM)										
Dato’ Hj. Nor Akhiruddin Mahmud (FDPM)	Dato’ Masran b. Md. Salleh (FDPM)										
Mr. Bashah Bachik (DoL)	Pn. Wan Arnida Wati (DoL)										

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>3.11 The results of the election are as follows:</p> <p>Dato' Hj. Nor Akhiruddin Mahmud - 6 votes</p> <p>Prof. Dato' Dr. Wan Razali Wan Mohd - 5 votes</p> <p>Tn. Hj. Kamaruzaman Othman - 2 votes</p> <p>Dr. Ahmad Zuhaidi Yahya - 2 votes</p> <p>Mr. Bashah bin Bachik - 1 vote</p> <p>Based on the above results, the Meeting agreed that Dato' Hj. Nor Akhiruddin Mahmud from FDPM shall be elected as the Member and Prof. Dato' Dr. Wan Razali Wan Mohd from UPM the Alternate Member representing the RGA for Peninsular Malaysia in the SRC.”</p> <p><i>The stakeholder group had been divided into 15 subgroups, who had been given the choice whether or not to be facilitated by the MTCC Secretary for the nomination and election of SRC members. Meetings per subgroup have been taking place (April – July 2013). Minutes from 6 meetings to nominate and elect SRC members were submitted as evidence: (example above). The acceptance of nominations is considered justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation due to fixed composition established in advance.</i></p>
5.5 The work of the working group/committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:			
a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group/committee,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Minutes of the First SRC Meeting, 26 – 28 August 2013:</b></p> <p>“5.1 The Chairperson drew the attention of the Meeting to the documents that have been circulated to the Members prior to the Meeting as follows:</p> <p>i. Compilation of comments received from stakeholders during the First Public Comment period; and</p> <p>ii. Working Draft dated 18 July 2013, incorporating the specific comments received from stakeholders.</p> <p>6.1.2 The Meeting was informed that the Enquiry Draft 1 would be prepared by the Secretariat based on the outcome of the First Meeting of the SRC. The Enquiry Draft 1 together with the Minutes of the Meeting would be circulated to the Members for their perusal prior to the Enquiry Draft 1 being subjected to a Second 30-day Public Comment period.”</p> <p><b>Minutes of the Second SRC Meeting, 12 – 13 February 2014:</b></p> <p>“5.2 The Meeting was further informed that the Secretariat has prepared four documents which were</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>circulated to all members at the Meeting, to address the matters arising from the First Meeting“</p> <p><i>Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that working drafts were made available to all members of the SRC. The cited minutes provide examples of references in Minutes to working drafts that had been available to all members.</i></p>
<p>b) all members of the working group shall be provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts, and</p>	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Report on Review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&amp;I forest plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“4.3.3 The general comments were considered by the SRC and the responses to these comments prepared by the secretariat were circulated to the SRC members for finalisation and confirmation along with the comments of the meeting. Specific comments on the Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) were extensively discussed and the outcome incorporated into the Enquiry Draft 1 of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations).</p> <p>4.5.3 The Meeting considered the general and specific comments on the Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers of the Enquiry Draft 1 of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) and the outcome were incorporated into the Enquiry Draft 2 of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) which was subsequently circulated to relevant stakeholders for further comment during the regional stakeholder consultations.”</p> <p><b>Minutes of the First SRC Meeting, 26 – 28 August 2013:</b></p> <p>“5.1 The Chairperson drew the attention of the Meeting to the documents that have been circulated to the Members prior to the Meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Compilation of comments received from stakeholders during the First Public Comment period; and</li> <li>ii. Working Draft dated 18 July 2013, incorporating the specific comments received from stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>The Meeting was informed that the deliberations in reviewing the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) would be based on these two documents.</p> <p>5.2 The Meeting noted that the consolidated comments had been organised in two sections – general and specific comments. The Meeting agreed to deliberate on these two items separately, i.e. the general comments first, to be followed by the specific comments. Deliberations on the general comments are documented in Table 1, while deliberations on specific comments on the Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers are documented in Table 2.</p>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			5.3 The deliberations resulted in the Enquiry Draft 1 which is attached as Appendix III.” <i>Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that all members were provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision of the standard.</i>
c) comments and views submitted by any member of the working group/committee shall be considered in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes shall be recorded.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<i>The minutes of the SRC Meetings contain many comments and views submitted by SRC members, including (summaries of) the discussions and the resolution and proposed changes. Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that comments and views were considered in an open and transparent way.</i>
5.6 The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			
a) the start and the end of the public consultation is announced in a timely manner in suitable media,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Report on Review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&amp;I forest plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“4.2.2 Subsequent to the announcement, a letter dated 8 January 2013 was sent to all stakeholder groups informing them of the commencement of the first public comment period which started from 15 January – 16 March 2013 (60 days). A reminder regarding the on-going first public comment on the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) was posted on the MTCC website on 22 February 2013 which was followed by the issuance of an e-mail to all stakeholder groups containing the same reminder.</p> <p><b>Letter Announcement 1<sup>st</sup> public comment period, dd 8 January 2013:</b></p> <p>“..., we are pleased to inform you that the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) will be subjected to its first 60-day public comment period starting from 15 January – 16 March 2013.”</p> <p><b>Report on Review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&amp;I forest plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>4.4.1 In accordance with the revised Process and Timelines for the Review MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations)</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
			<p>(Appendix VI), the Enquiry Draft 1 was subjected to a second public comment period. Announcement on the start of the second public comment period i.e. from 1 – 31 December 2013 (30 days) was posted on the MTCC website on 27 November 2013 and circulated to all relevant stakeholders by e-mail and postal mail.</p> <p><b>Email to stakeholders Announcement 2<sup>nd</sup> public comment period, dd 27 november 2013:</b></p> <p>“The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) as the Secretariat for the Review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) is hereby putting forward Enquiry Draft 1 of the revised standard for the second 30-day public comment period which will begin from 1 – 31 December 2013.”</p> <p><b>Report on Review of MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) and development of MC&amp;I forest plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>4.8.1 The review process continued with the third and final public comment period which commenced from 25 July – 22 September 2014 (60 days) to obtain feedback on Enquiry Draft 3 of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations). Announcement on the commencement of the public comment period was made via MTCC website, and through e-mail and letters sent to the relevant stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Letter announcement 3<sup>rd</sup> public comment period, dd. 25 July 2014:</b></p> <p>“In accordance with the Process and Proposed Timelines for the Review of MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations), the Enquiry Draft 3 will now be subjected to a third and final 60-day public comment period beginning from 25 July to 22 September 2014.”</p> <p><i>These announcements were also found on the MTCC website (<a href="http://www.mtcc.com.my">www.mtcc.com.my</a>) as news items. The announcements of public consultations are made in suitable media and in a timely manner.</i></p>
b) the invitation of disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made by means that ensure that the information reaches its recipient and is understandable,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Additional explanation of the MTCC:</b></p> <p>“Besides the announcement on the MTCC website, the secretariat has also sent out emails as well as letters and hardcopy of the consultation documents to those identified stakeholders who do not have email contacts, to solicit their feedback for all 4 public comment periods as well as the regional consultations.”</p> <p><i>Sample copies of the letters and address listing of those letters were submitted and provided the evidence.</i></p>
c) the enquiry draft	Procedures	N.A.	





Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
is publicly available and accessible,	Process	YES	<i>All the announcements on the MTCC website (news items) contained links to the enquiry drafts.</i>
d) the public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Letter Announcement 1<sup>st</sup> public comment period, dd 8 January 2013:</b>  “... , we are pleased to inform you that the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations) will be subjected to its first 60-day public comment period starting from 15 January – 16 March 2013.”</p> <p><b>Email to stakeholders Announcement 2<sup>nd</sup> public comment period, dd 27 november 2013:</b>  “The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) as the Secretariat for the Review of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) is hereby putting forward Enquiry Draft 1 of the revised standard for the second 30-day public comment period which will begin from 1 – 31 December 2013.”</p> <p><b>Letter announcement 3<sup>rd</sup> public comment period, dd. 25 July 2014:</b>  “In accordance with the Process and Proposed Timelines for the Review of MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations), the Enquiry Draft 3 will now be subjected to a third and final 60-day public comment period beginning from 25 July to 22 September 2014.”</p> <p><i>Three public consultation periods were held of respectively 60, 30 and 60 days, which exceeds the requirement. Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey confirmed that the public consultation period was at least 60 days.</i></p>
e) all comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><i>The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> SRC Meeting contain tables with all the comments received and the deliberation and decisions on these comments. Summaries and compilations of comments, including the comments and decision of the SRC can be found on the MTCC website.</i></p> <p><i>Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that comments received were considered by the SRC in an objective manner.</i></p>
f) a synopsis of received comments compiled from	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<i>Summaries and compilations of comments, including the comments and decision of the SRC can be found on the MTCC website.</i>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
material issues, including the results of their consideration, is publicly available, for example on a website.			
5.7 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of the new standards and the results of the pilot testing shall be considered by the working group/committee.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	N.A.	<i>Pilot testing was not necessary as this was the revision of an existing standard.</i>
5.8 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of a consensus.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Minutes of the Fourth SRC Meeting, dd 29 – 31 October 2014:</b></p> <p>“8.2 There being no further amendments to the content and wording of the standard, the Meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the standard as the revised standard for the certification of forest plantation management to replace the current MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations).”</p> <p><i>Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that the decision of the SRC to recommend the final draft for formal approval was taken on the basis of consensus.</i></p>
5.8 In order to reach a consensus the working group/committee can utilise the following alternative processes to establish whether there is opposition:			
a) a face-to face meeting where there is a verbal	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<b>Minutes of the Fourth SRC Meeting, dd 29 – 31 October 2014:</b>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
yes/no vote, show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair where there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal balloting process, etc.,			<p>“8.2 There being no further amendments to the content and wording of the standard, the Meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the standard as the revised standard for the certification of forest plantation management to replace the current MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations).”</p> <p><i>No voting took place. Consensus was reached by a statement where there were no further amendments to the content and wording of the standard. Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that the decision of the SRC to recommend the final draft for formal approval was taken on the basis of consensus.</i></p>
b) a telephone conference meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	N.A.	<i>No telephone conference meeting took place.</i>
c) an e-mail meeting where a request for agreement or objection is provided to members with the members providing a written response (a proxy for a vote), or	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	N.A.	<i>No e-mail meeting took place.</i>
d) combinations thereof.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	N.A.	<i>No combinations took place.</i>
5.9 In the case of a negative vote which represents sustained opposition to any important part of the concerned interests surrounding a substantive issue,			



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
the issue shall be resolved using the following mechanism(s):			
a) discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group/committee in order to find a compromise,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	N.A.	<i>Consensus was reached by a statement where there were no further amendments to the content and wording of the standard. Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that there was no sustained opposition.</i>
b) direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) submitting the objection and stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue in order to find a compromise,	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	N.A.	<i>Consensus was reached by a statement where there were no further amendments to the content and wording of the standard. Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that there was no sustained opposition.</i>
c) dispute resolution process.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	N.A.	<i>Consensus was reached by a statement where there were no further amendments to the content and wording of the standard. Respondents of the Stakeholder Survey that were members of the SRC, confirmed that there was no sustained opposition.</i>
5.10 Documentation on the implementation of the standard-setting process shall be made publicly	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<i>The MTCC website (<a href="http://www.mtcc.com.my">www.mtcc.com.my</a>) includes timetables of the revision process, news items on the progress, and links to many (and most important) underlying documents.</i>

Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
available.			
5.11 The standardising body shall formally approve the standards/normative documents based on evidence of consensus reached by the working group/committee.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><b>Minutes of the Fourth SRC Meeting, dd 29 – 31 October 2014:</b></p> <p>“8.2. There being no further amendments to the content and wording of the standard, the Meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the standard as the revised standard for the certification of forest plantation management to replace the current MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations).”</p> <p><b>Minutes of the Board of Trustees held on 19 December 2014:</b></p> <p>“Agenda 7: Adoption of the Revised MC&amp;I for Forest Plantation Management Certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS)</p> <p>7.1 A paper entitled Adoption of the Revised MC&amp;I for Forest Plantation Management Certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) was tabled for the consideration and approval of the Board.</p> <p>7.2 The Meeting agreed to adopt the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 as the revised standard for forest plantation management certification under the MTCS.”</p> <p><i>Observation: no reference was found that the adoption of the revised standard by the MTCC Board was based on evidence of consensus reached by the SRC. The Assessor however concludes that it worked well in practice, as consensus was reached in the SRC, and the minutes of the Board of Trustees do not suggest any changes made to the standard version agreed upon by the SRC.</i></p>
5.12 The formally approved standards/normative documents shall be published in a timely manner and made publicly available.	Procedures	N.A.	
	Process	YES	<p><i>The standard was approved on 19 December 2014, published on 16 February 2015 and placed on the MTCC website (<a href="http://www.mtcc.com.my">www.mtcc.com.my</a>) on the same day.</i></p>
<b>Revisions of standards/normative documents</b>			
6.1 The standards/normative	Process	YES	<b>Explanation provided by MTCS:</b>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
documents shall be reviewed and revised at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The procedures for the revision of the standards/normative documents shall follow those set out in chapter 5.			<p>“Further to the adoption of the previous standard, MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations), by the NSC on 28 November 2008, the standard was presented to and adopted by the MTCC Board of Trustees at its 39th Meeting on 17 February 2009. (...) We would consider the adoption date of the standard by MTCC Board as the application date of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations).”</p> <p><i>The current revision process of the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation Standard started within the five year period and was almost completed within the five year period.</i></p>
6.2 The revision shall define the application date and transition date of the revised standards/normative documents.	Process	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2, title page:</b>                      “Application date (Date of entry into force): 1 July 2015”</p> <p><b>Explanation provided by MTCS:</b>                      “The transition plan of the revised standard (...) was approved by the MTCC Board at its 62nd Meeting held on 24 March 2015.”</p> <p><b>Transition plan from the use of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) to MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 under the MTCS:</b>                      “The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) has developed a 12-month transition plan from the use of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) to the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 beginning from 19 December 2014 to 31 December 2015. The transition period will encompass six months preparation for the endorsement of the revised standard by the PEFC Council, information dissemination and training, leading to the application date of the revised standard on 1 July 2015, followed by another six months for transition before the standard becomes mandatory on 1 January 2016.”</p>
6.3 The application date shall not exceed a period of one year from the publication of the	Process	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2/2014:</b>                      “Publication date: 16 February 2015                      Application date (Date of entry into force): 1 July 2015”</p>



Question	Assess. basis	YES /NO	Reference to application documents
<p>standard. This is needed for the endorsement of the revised standards/normative documents, introducing the changes, information dissemination and training.</p>			
<p>6.4 The transition date shall not exceed a period of one year except in justified exceptional circumstances where the implementation of the revised standards/normative documents requires a longer period.</p>	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>Transition plan from the use of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) to MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 under the MTCS:</b></p> <p>“The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) has developed a 12-month transition plan from the use of the MC&amp;I(Forest Plantations) to the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 beginning from 19 December 2014 to 31 December 2015. The transition period will encompass six months preparation for the endorsement of the revised standard by the PEFC Council, information dissemination and training, leading to the application date of the revised standard on 1 July 2015, followed by another six months for transition before the standard becomes mandatory on 1 January 2016.”</p> <p><i>The transition period as described in the Transition Plan is slightly longer than one year. However, the publication date was on 16 February 2015 and the application date will be on 1 July 2015, which means that the actual transition period does not exceed a period of one year.</i></p>



## Part III: PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist for Sustainable Forest Management

### 1 Scope

Part III covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1003:2010, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements.

### 2 Checklist

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<b>General requirements for SFM standards</b>		
4.1 The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall		
a) include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the forest management unit level, or at another level as appropriate, to ensure that the intent of all requirements is achieved at the forest management unit level.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2, Use of the Standard:</b></p> <p>“The Standard relates to the management operations and activities within the defined forest plantation area, which is referred to as the forest plantation management unit (FPMU), and in relation to product chain of custody. In addition, certain off-site effects of forest plantation management including impacts on adjacent local communities and environments are addressed in the Standard. It also sets out specific forest plantation management performance requirements for operations and activities in the FPMU and establishes a systematic approach to forest plantation management, including the requirements for stakeholder engagement.”</p> <p><i>The principles, criteria and indicators of the standard are applicable at the forest management level.</i></p>
b) be clear, objective-based and auditable.	YES	<p><i>The structure of the document (MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2) is clear, objective-based and auditable.</i></p> <p><b>Observation:</b> <i>In some cases wording is used like “strive” (clause 6.6, clause 5.1.10), “is preferred” (clause 10.3) and “may include” (clause 10.3). This wording is not auditable. In clause 10.4 the sentence “already established and proven exotic species” is used, it is however not defined which species these are and therefore remains difficult to audit</i></p>
c) apply to activities of all operators in the defined forest area who have a measurable	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2, Use of the Standard:</b></p>





Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.		<p>“The Standard relates to the management operations and activities within the defined forest plantation area, which is referred to as the forest plantation management unit (FPMU), and in relation to product chain of custody. In addition, certain off-site effects of forest plantation management including impacts on adjacent local communities and environments are addressed in the Standard. It also sets out specific forest plantation management performance requirements for operations and activities in the FPMU and establishes a systematic approach to forest plantation management, including the requirements for stakeholder engagement.”</p> <p><i>The principles, criteria and indicators of the standard apply to activities of all operators in the defined forest area.</i></p>
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.	YES	<p><i>Although no reference is found that explicitly requires record-keeping, many records are mentioned in the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 standard and will be verified during the forest management certification audits.</i></p> <p><b>Observation:</b> <i>It would be better if the standard defines record keeping as such to ensure a consistent maintenance and archiving of the relevant records for a longer timeframe.</i></p>
<b>Specific requirements for SFM standards</b>		
<b>Criterion 1: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle</b>		
5.1.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain or increase forests and other wooded areas and enhance the quality of the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water. This shall be done by making full use of related services and tools that support land-use planning and nature conservation.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“1.1 Forest plantation management shall respect all federal and state laws and administrative requirements.</p> <p>3.3 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognised and protected by forest managers.</p> <p>5.1 Forest plantation management shall strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.</p> <p>6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, (...).</p> <p>6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</p> <p>6.5 Guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; (...); and protect water resources.</p> <p>10.2 The design and layout of plantations shall promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods, shall be used in the layout of the plantation, (...).</p> <p>10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. (...).”</p> <p><i>Under 1.1, the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 standard refers to specific Federal laws, State laws and policies, which includes policies on biodiversity and environmental issues.</i></p>
<p>5.1.2 Forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management operations. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement to minimise or avoid negative impacts.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“5.1.2 Provisions and management are made to maintain, restore or enhance the productive capacity and ecological functions of the forest plantation areas to ensure its economic viability.</p> <p>6.1 Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed (...) and adequately integrated into management systems. (...)</p> <p>7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</p> <p>8.1 The frequency and intensity of monitoring shall be determined by the scale and intensity of forest plantation management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures shall be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.</p> <p>8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.</p> <p>10.8 Appropriate to the scale and diversity of the operations, monitoring of plantations shall include regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site ecological and social impacts (...).”</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<i><b>Observation:</b> although <b>economic</b> impacts of forest management operations are not explicitly covered by the standard, this is more indirectly covered in, amongst others, the above mentioned clauses.</i>
5.1.3 Inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the topics described in this document.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: (...) b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands. c) Description of silvicultural and / or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.”</p>
5.1.4 Management plans or their equivalents, appropriate to the size and use of the forest area, shall be elaborated and periodically updated. They shall be based on legislation as well as existing land-use plans, and adequately cover the forest resources.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2, Principle 1 Compliance with Laws and Principles:</b></p> <p>“Forest plantation management shall respect all applicable laws of Malaysia and international treaties and agreements to which Malaysia is a signatory, and comply with all the Principles and Criteria contained herein.”</p> <p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2, Principle 7 Management Plan:</b></p> <p>“A management plan – appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations – shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.</p> <p>7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands.</p> <p>7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.”</p> <p><b>Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“Periodic review of a forest plantation management plan (FPMP) is aimed at ensuring that the information and planned operations contained in the FPMP is up-to-date and relevant, as required in Principle 7 and Criterion 7.2. The FPMU manager shall undertake periodic review of</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		the FPMP, as and when required, with at least <u>one mid-term review</u> over the duration of the FPMP.”
5.1.5 Management plans or their equivalents shall include at least a description of the current condition of the forest management unit, long-term objectives; and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification and, where relevant, the annually allowable exploitation of non-timber forest products.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2, Principle 7 Management Plan:</b></p> <p>“A management plan – appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations – shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.</p> <p>7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:- a) Management objectives. b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands. c) Description of silvicultural and / or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection.</p> <p>5.6.2 Records of quantity of timber and non-timber forest products harvested shall be maintained, taking cognisance of their sustainability in the long term.”</p>
5.1.6 A summary of the forest management plan or its equivalent appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, which contains information about the forest management measures to be applied, is publicly available. The summary may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by national legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest plantation managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, (...).</p> <p>9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and / or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.”</p>
5.1.7 Monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“8.1 The frequency and intensity of monitoring shall be determined by the scale and intensity of forest plantation management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures shall be consistent and replicable over time to</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>allow comparison of results and assessment of change.</p> <p>8.2 Forest plantation management shall include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators:</p> <p>a) Yield of all forest products harvested. b) Growth rates of the planted forest. c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna. d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations.</p> <p>8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.”</p>
<p>5.1.8 Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“1.6 Forest plantation managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the Principles and Criteria contained in this Standard.</p> <p>1.6.1 Availability of policies or statements of commitment to forest plantation management practices consistent with these Principles and Criteria.</p> <p>1.6.2 Policies or statements are communicated throughout the organisation and contractors, and are made available to the public.</p> <p>7.3 Forest plantation workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.</p> <p>7.3.2 Forest plantation workers shall be trained as to their respective roles in the implementation of the forest plantation management plan.”</p> <p><b>Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 :</b></p> <p>“The FPMU manager shall clearly define and assign specific role and responsibility for the forest plantation workers to ensure effective implementation of the forest plantation management plan.”</p>
<p>5.1.9 Forest management practices shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“5.1.2 Provisions and management are made to maintain, restore or enhance the productive capacity and ecological functions of the forest plantation areas to ensure its economic viability.</p> <p>5.6.2 Records of quantity of timber and non-timber forest products harvested shall be maintained, taking cognisance of their sustainability in the long term.</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
resources.		<p>6.5 Guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimise forest damage during plantation establishment and harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.</p> <p>10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.”</p>
5.1.10 Appropriate silvicultural measures shall be taken to maintain or reach a level of the growing stock that is economically, ecologically and socially desirable.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“5.1 Forest plantation management shall strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.”</p>
<p>5.1.11 Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation relevant for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with materially and directly interested persons and organisations; and</p> <p>b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and</p> <p>c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other</p>	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“1.1 Forest plantation management shall respect all federal and state laws and administrative requirements.</p> <p>Verifier 1.1.1 National Physical Plan-2, 2010</p> <p>3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free, prior and informed consent to other agencies.</p> <p>3.2 Forest plantation management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.</p> <p>4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.</p> <p>4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.</p> <p>6.2.1 Availability and implementation of guidelines to identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species of forest flora and fauna, including features of special biological interest,</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>protected areas; and</p> <p>d) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.</p>		<p>such as seed trees, salt licks, nesting and feeding areas, in forest plantation areas.</p> <p>6.2.2 Availability and implementation of management guidelines to establish representative conservation and protection areas, in accordance with existing forest ecosystems, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest plantation management.</p> <p>6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:- a) does not occur on high conservation value areas; b) does not occur in ecological corridors and environmentally sensitive areas identified by the relevant authorities; and c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term benefits across the forest plantation management unit.</p> <p>6.10.1 Conversion of forest area to forest plantations, consistent with the provisions of relevant federal and state legal frameworks and policies, does not occur on high conservation value areas, and shall provide substantial, additional, secure and long term benefits across the Forest Plantation Management Unit.</p> <p>6.10.2 Conversion of forest plantation areas to non-forest land uses, consistent with the provisions of relevant federal and state legal frameworks and policies, shall entail a very limited portion of the Forest Plantation Management Unit, and provide higher economic values as compared to its original use, in the overall context of the need for socio-economic development of the country.</p> <p>9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and / or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.</p> <p>Definition HCV 6: Cultural values: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.”</p> <p><b>Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“Requirement 5.1.11 in PEFC ST 1003:2010 clarifies that the “conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations” means that forest</p>





Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>plantations established by a forest conversion after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification. The “justified circumstances” are where the conversion:</p> <p>(...) b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and</p> <p>(...) Based on requirement (b) above, a “small proportion” means that for an FPMU to be considered for certification, the total conversion that occurred for the establishment of forest plantations after the stipulated deadline shall not be more than 5% of the total size of the FPMU.”</p> <p><i>It is concluded that the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species under 6.2.1. is further regulated in the establishment of conservation and protection areas under 6.2.2, and that these areas are completely covered by the high conservation value areas, ecological corridors and environmentally sensitive areas mentioned under 6.10. As a consequence it is concluded that MC&amp;I Forest Plantations.v2 complies with requirement 5.1.11c.</i></p> <p><i>Next, although clause 6.10 does not directly require that a conversion shall make a contribution to long-term conservation, conversions are also subject to clause 9.3. This ensures that measures are taken that maintain and / or enhance the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach.</i></p> <p><i>No definition of “very limited portion” is provided for the conversion of forest plantation areas to non-forest land uses. However, “very limited portion” is considered auditable since there is a benchmark for such a definition with regards to the conversion of natural forest to plantation forest (as provided in the guidelines) and a definition provided in the MC&amp;I Natural forest standard.</i></p>
<p>5.1.12 Conversion of abandoned agricultural and treeless land into forest land shall be taken into consideration, whenever it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“Whenever it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value, FPMU manager shall consider afforestation of abandoned agricultural and treeless lands in the establishment of forest plantations.”</p> <p><b>Additional explanation provided by MTCC:</b></p> <p>“The matter on establishing forest plantation on abandoned land was discussed by the SRC in the context of afforestation and the meeting was of the view that this matter is currently not</p>





Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		relevant to Malaysia. The Meeting noted that as a developing country with agriculture plantation being the cash crop for the country, there is currently not a significant area of abandoned agricultural lands, or any treeless lands to be afforested or converted into forest plantation.”
<b>Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality</b>		
5.2.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and to rehabilitate degraded forest ecosystems, whenever this is possible by silvicultural means.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored (...).</p> <p>9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and / or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach.</p> <p>10.2.1 Forest plantation design and layout shall promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests.”</p>
5.2.2 Health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“Principle 6 Environmental Impact: Forest plantation management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p> <p>7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics.</p> <p>8.2 Forest plantation management shall include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) Yield of all forest products harvested. b) Growth rates of the planted forest. c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna. d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations. e) Costs and productivity of forest management.</p> <p>10.4.3 Assessment of forest plantations established with exotic species through monitoring of permanent sample plots to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological impacts.</p> <p>10.7.1 Availability and implementation of guidelines and / or procedures to control the outbreaks of pests, diseases and fire, as well as invasive plant introductions, if any, for forest plantation</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		areas.”
5.2.3 The monitoring and maintaining of health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall take into consideration the effects of naturally occurring fire, pests and other disturbances.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics.</p> <p>10.7.1 Availability and implementation of guidelines and / or procedures to control the outbreaks of pests, diseases and fire, as well as invasive plant introductions, if any, for forest plantation areas.”</p>
5.2.4 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation of and damages to forest ecosystems. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support these activities.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide c) Description of silvicultural and / or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments.</p> <p>10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.”</p>
5.2.5 Forest management practices shall make best use of natural structures and processes and use preventive biological measures wherever and as far as economically feasible to maintain and enhance the health and vitality of forests. Adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged and/or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resistance capacity of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.3.2 Availability and implementation of guidelines for the conservation of genetic, species and ecosystem diversity in the forest plantation areas.</p> <p>10.2 The design and layout of plantations shall promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests.</p> <p>10.3 Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.</p> <p>10.7 Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimise outbreaks of pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions. Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilisers. Plantation management shall make every effort to move away from chemical pesticides and fertilisers, including their use in nurseries.”
5.2.6 Lighting of fires shall be avoided and is only permitted if it is necessary for the achievement of the management goals of the forest management unit.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b>                      “10.7 Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimise outbreaks of (...) fire”</p> <p><b>Environmental Quality Act 1974</b>                      “Article 29A. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, no person shall allow or cause open burning on any premises.”</p>
5.2.7 Appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied. The spillage of oil during forest management operations or the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be avoided, collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b>                      “5.3 Forest plantation management shall minimise waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.                      6.5 Guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimise forest damage during plantation establishment and harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.                      6.7 Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes, including fuel and oil, shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.                      10.4.1 Availability of documentation of choice of species that match the site conditions and the management objectives of the established forest plantation areas.                      10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.”</p>
5.2.8 The use of pesticides shall be minimised and appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures preferred.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b>                      “6.6 Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. (...) If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimise health and environmental risks.</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		10.7 (...) Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilisers. Plantation management shall make every effort to move away from chemical pesticides and fertilisers, including their use in nurseries.”
5.2.9 The WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>6.6 (...) World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.”</p> <p><i>Observation: No exception is included for cases where no other viable alternative is available.</i></p>
5.2.10 Pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>6.6 (...). World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. (...)”</p>
5.2.11 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment and training.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“4.2.3 Appropriate safety and operational equipment in good working condition, including operational procedures, shall be made available to forest plantation workers in the work place.</p> <p>4.2.5 Demarcation of hazardous areas and provision of guidelines for storage and handling of hazardous materials.</p> <p>6.6 (...) If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimise health and environmental risks.</p> <p>Verifier 10.7.2 Standard operating procedures for the use of chemicals in forest plantation operations”</p> <p><b>Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“The MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 advocates non-chemical methods of pest management as far as possible. In an instance where the use of chemical pesticide is unavoidable, the handling and</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		application of such chemicals must be conducted in accordance with a standard operating procedure which shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment and training.”
5.2.12 Where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment.	YES	<b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b> “10.7 (...) Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical (...) fertilisers. Plantation management shall make every effort to move away from chemical (...) fertilisers, including their use in nurseries.”
<b>Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)</b>		
5.3.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.	YES	<b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b> “5.1.2 Provisions and management are made to maintain, restore or enhance the productive capacity (...) of the forest plantation areas to ensure its economic viability. 5.2.1 Application of forest plantation management practices to encourage the optimal use of forest plantation resources. 5.4.1 Application of forest plantation management strategy that encourages the production of a mix of commercial forest products (timber and non-timber forest produce).”
5.3.2 Forest management planning shall aim to achieve sound economic performance taking into account any available market studies and possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.	YES	<b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b> “5.1 Forest plantation management shall strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest. 5.2 Forest plantation management and marketing operations shall encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest’s diversity of products. 5.2.2 Application of marketing operations to encourage local processing and diversifying the mix of commercial products derived from the forest plantation. 5.4.1 Application of forest plantation management strategy that encourages the production of a mix of commercial forest products (timber and non-timber forest produce). Verifier 5.4.1 Report on diversification strategy in forest plantation development”



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<i>No specific reference is found with regard to the use of available market studies and possibilities for new markets. However, this is assumed to be part of the diversification strategy as mentioned under verifier 5.4.1.</i>
<p>5.3.3 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support the production of commercial and non-commercial forest goods and services.</p>	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“5.2.2 Application of marketing operations to encourage local processing and diversifying the mix of commercial products derived from the forest plantation.</p> <p>5.5 Forest plantation management operations shall recognise, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p> <p>5.5.2 Availability and implementation of forest plantation management guidelines, where appropriate, to maintain and / or enhance the value of forest services and resources.</p> <p>7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: a) Management objectives. b) Description of the forest resources to be managed</p> <p>10.2 The design and layout of plantations shall promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods, shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands found within the natural landscape.”</p>
<p>5.3.4 Forest management practices shall maintain and improve the forest resources and encourage a diversified output of goods and services over the long term.</p>	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“5.4 Forest plantation management shall strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.</p> <p>5.4.1 Application of forest plantation management strategy that encourages the production of a mix of commercial forest products (timber and non-timber forest produce).</p> <p>5.5 Forest plantation management operations shall recognise, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p> <p>5.6.2 Records of quantity of timber and non-timber forest products harvested shall be maintained, taking cognisance of their sustainability in the long term.”</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
5.3.5 Regeneration, tending and harvesting operations shall be carried out in time, and in a way that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to retained stands and trees as well as to the forest soil, and by using appropriate systems.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“5.1.2 Provisions and management are made to maintain, restore or enhance the productive capacity and ecological functions of the forest plantation areas to ensure its economic viability.</p> <p>6.5 Guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimise forest damage during plantation establishment and harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.</p> <p>10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.”</p>
5.3.6 Harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“5.2 Forest plantation management and marketing operations shall encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest’s diversity of products.</p> <p>5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall be on a sustainable basis.</p> <p>6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:</p> <p>c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</p> <p>Definition Natural cycles: Nutrient and mineral cycling as a result of interactions between soils, water, plants, and animals in forest environments that affect the ecological productivity of a given site.”</p>
5.3.7 Where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the exploitation of non-timber forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“1.5 Forest plantation management unit shall be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorised activities.</p> <p>1.5.2 Control of encroachment, illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing and settlement, and other unauthorised activities in the Forest Plantation Management Unit.</p> <p>6.2.4 Hunting, fishing and collecting activities shall be controlled and unauthorised activities prevented in forest plantation areas.”</p>
5.3.8 Adequate infrastructure such as roads,	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p>





Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.</p>		<p>“6.1.3 Forest plantation management plans shall incorporate measures to mitigate the environmental impacts identified in the assessments.</p> <p>6.5.1 Availability and implementation of forest plantation establishment and harvesting procedures to protect the soil from compaction by harvesting machinery and erosion during harvesting operations.</p> <p>10.6.1 Application of appropriate site preparation and planting techniques, road and trail construction and maintenance (...) for forest plantation areas that would not cause long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality and quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.”</p>
<p><b>Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems</b></p>		
<p>5.4.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve and enhance biodiversity on ecosystem, species and genetic levels and, where appropriate, diversity at landscape level.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (...). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest plantation management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. (...).</p> <p>6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:</p> <p>b) Genetic, species and ecosystem diversity.</p> <p>6.3.2 Availability and implementation of guidelines for the conservation of genetic, species and ecosystem diversity in the forest plantation areas.</p> <p>6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.”</p>
<p>5.4.2 Forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forest resources shall identify, protect and/or conserve ecologically important forest areas containing significant concentrations of:</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats</p> <p>6.2.1 Availability and implementation of guidelines to identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species of forest flora and fauna, including features of special biological interest,</p>





Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>a) protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems such as riparian areas and wetland biotopes;</p> <p>b) areas containing endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;</p> <p>c) endangered or protected genetic in situ resources;</p> <p>and taking into account</p> <p>d) globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.</p>		<p>(...), in forest plantation areas.</p> <p>6.2.2 Availability and implementation of management guidelines to establish representative conservation and protection areas, in accordance with existing forest ecosystems, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest plantation management.</p> <p>6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</p> <p>6.4.1 Representative areas of existing forest ecosystems, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest plantation operations, identified and selected under 6.2.2, are demarcated, mapped and protected in their natural state.</p> <p>9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value areas will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest plantation management.”</p>
<p>5.4.3 Protected and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.</p>	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.2.1 Availability and implementation of guidelines to identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species of forest flora and fauna, including features of special biological interest, (...), in forest plantation areas.</p> <p>6.2.4 Hunting, fishing and collecting activities shall be controlled and unauthorised activities prevented in forest plantation areas.</p> <p>6.3.2 Availability and implementation of guidelines for the conservation of genetic, species and ecosystem diversity in the forest plantation areas.”</p> <p><b>Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“The Manager of the FPMU shall take measures to ensure that all rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species are not exploited for commercial purposes.”</p>
<p>5.4.4 Forest management shall ensure successful regeneration through natural regeneration or, where not appropriate, planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and</p>	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:</p> <p>a) Forest regeneration and succession.</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
quality of the forest resources.		6.3.1 Availability and implementation of forest plantation management guidelines to demarcate and protect natural forests, and measures to enhance natural regeneration, where necessary, in forest plantation areas.”
5.4.5 For reforestation and afforestation, origins of native species and local provenances that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred, where appropriate. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.9 The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p> <p>6.9.1 Document, control and monitor the use of exotic species to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p> <p>10.4 The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species, other than the already established and proven exotic species, in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect (...) adverse ecological impacts.”</p>
5.4.6 Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“10.2 The design and layout of plantations shall promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods, shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation.</p> <p>10.2.2 Forest plantation establishment shall, appropriate to the scale of the operation, follow natural landscape and take into account the need for wildlife corridors, buffer strips for permanent streams and rivers, as well as a mosaic of stands of different age classes.”</p>
5.4.7 Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.8 (...) Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.”</p>
5.4.8 Forest management practices shall, where appropriate, promote a diversity of both	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“10.3 Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic,</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
horizontal and vertical structures such as uneven-aged stands and the diversity of species such as mixed stands. Where appropriate, the practices shall also aim to maintain and restore landscape diversity.		ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.”
5.4.9 Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, on appropriate sites shall be supported, when economically feasible.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“3.4 Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest plantation operations.</p> <p>3.4.1 Availability of documentation, if any, of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples in the use of forest species or management systems in forest plantation operations.</p> <p>3.4.2 Availability of appropriate mechanisms and compensation for the commercial utilisation of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices of indigenous people in accordance with existing legislation or by mutual agreement.”</p>
5.4.10 Tending and harvesting operations shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to improve or maintain biological diversity.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.3.2 Availability and implementation of guidelines for the conservation of genetic, species and ecosystem diversity in the forest plantation areas.</p> <p>6.3.3 Harvesting of forest plantation is designed taking into consideration the need for biological corridors and buffer zones for wildlife.</p> <p>6.5 Guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimise forest damage during plantation establishment and harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.</p> <p>10.2.2 Forest plantation establishment shall, appropriate to the scale of the operation, follow natural landscape and take into account the need for wildlife corridors, buffer strips for permanent streams and rivers, as well as a mosaic of stands of different age classes.</p> <p>10.6.1 Application of appropriate site preparation and planting techniques, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the selection of species for forest plantation areas that would not cause long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality and quantity or</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.”
5.4.11 Infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.2.1 Availability and implementation of guidelines to identify and protect rare, threatened and endangered species of forest flora and fauna, including features of special biological interest (...) in forest plantation areas.</p> <p>10.2.2 Forest plantation establishment shall, appropriate to the scale of the operation, follow natural landscape and take into account the need for wildlife corridors, buffer strips for permanent streams and rivers, as well as a mosaic of stands of different age classes.</p> <p>10.6.1 Application of appropriate site preparation and planting techniques, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the selection of species for forest plantation areas that would not cause long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality and quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.”</p>
5.4.12 With due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to balance the pressure of animal populations and grazing on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“8.2 Forest plantation management shall include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna.</p> <p>8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.”</p> <p><i>Monitoring and incorporation of monitoring results in the management plan is considered to cover this requirement sufficiently, in particular in the context of the Malaysian forest plantations where pressure from animal populations and grazing is not a significant issue.</i></p>
5.4.13 Standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and special rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding ecosystems.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g. nesting, salt licks and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest plantation management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled in accordance with applicable statutes and customary laws.</p> <p>6.3.1 Availability and implementation of forest plantation management guidelines to demarcate</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		and protect natural forests, and measures to enhance natural regeneration, where necessary, in forest plantation areas.” <i><b>Observation:</b> Although no specific reference is found with regard to conservation of dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and special rare tree species, the conservation zones and protection areas consist of natural forests, which in the context of Malaysian forests will obviously contain standing and fallen dead wood and hollow trees.</i>
<b>Criterion 5: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)</b>		
5.5.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and enhance protective functions of forests for society, such as protection of infrastructure, protection from soil erosion, protection of water resources and from adverse impacts of water such as floods or avalanches.	YES	<b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b> “5.5 Forest plantation management operations shall recognise, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries. 6.5 Guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; (...), road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources. 10.6 (...). The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns. 10.8 Appropriate to the scale and diversity of the operations, monitoring of plantations shall include regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site ecological and social impacts, (e.g. natural regeneration, effects on water resources and soil fertility)”
5.5.2 Areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be registered and mapped, and forest management plans or their equivalents shall take these areas into account.	YES	<b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b> “3.3 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognised and protected by forest managers. 7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.”
5.5.3 Special care shall be given to silvicultural	YES	<b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Inappropriate techniques such as deep soil tillage and use of unsuitable machinery shall be avoided in such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations.</p>		<p>“5.5.1 Availability and implementation of guidelines and / or procedures to identify and demarcate sensitive areas for the protection of soil and water, watercourses and wetlands in forest plantation areas.</p> <p>6.5 Guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimise forest damage during plantation establishment and harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.</p> <p>10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.</p> <p>8.2 Forest plantation management shall include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna.</p> <p>8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.”</p> <p><i>Monitoring and incorporation of monitoring results in the management plan is considered to cover this requirement sufficiently, in particular in the context of the Malaysian forest plantations where pressure from animal populations and grazing is not a significant issue.</i></p>
<p>5.5.4 Special care shall be given to forest management practices in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided.</p>	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“5.5 Forest plantation management operations shall recognise, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p> <p>6.6 Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides.</p> <p>10.6 (...) The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in (...) adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		10.7 (...). Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilisers. Plantation management shall make every effort to move away from chemical pesticides and fertilisers, including their use in nurseries.”
5.5.5 Construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.5 Guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimise forest damage during (...) road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.</p> <p>6.5.3 Availability and implementation of guidelines for conservation of buffer strips along streams and rivers.</p> <p>10.6.1 Application of appropriate site preparation and planting techniques, road and trail construction and maintenance, (...) that would not cause long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality and quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.”</p>
<b>Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions</b>		
5.6.1 Forest management planning shall aim to respect the multiple functions of forests to society, give due regard to the role of forestry in rural development, and especially consider new opportunities for employment in connection with the socio-economic functions of forests.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“4.1 The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest plantation management unit shall be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.</p> <p>4.1.1 Forest plantation managers provide, where appropriate, support for training, retraining, local infrastructure, facilities and social programmes commensurate with the scale and intensity of forest plantation management operations.</p> <p>4.1.2 Qualified people in communities living within, or adjacent to forest plantation areas are given preference for employment and contract works.</p> <p>4.5.1 Provisions and measures within relevant federal and state legal frameworks shall be taken to prevent loss or damage affecting the local people’s legal or customary rights, property, resources, or their livelihoods.</p> <p>4.5.2 Appropriate mechanisms within relevant federal and state legal frameworks are employed to resolve grievances involving loss or damage affecting the local people’s legal or customary</p>





Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		rights, property, resources, or their livelihoods, caused by forest plantation management operations.”
5.6.2 Forest management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“4.1 The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest plantation management unit shall be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.</p> <p>4.2 Forest plantation management shall meet or exceed all applicable laws and / or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</p> <p>4.2.2 Availability of management policies addressing the occupational safety and health of forest plantation workers and their families with current legislation and / or regulations.</p> <p>4.2.3 Appropriate safety and operational equipment in good working condition, including operational procedures, shall be made available to forest plantation workers in the work place.</p> <p>4.2.4 Forest plantation managers shall maintain up-to-date safety records in compliance with all applicable laws and / or regulations covering health and safety of forest plantation workers.</p> <p>4.2.5 Demarcation of hazardous areas and provision of guidelines for storage and handling of hazardous materials.</p> <p>4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.</p> <p>4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.”</p>
5.6.3 Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant forest area. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“2.1 Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or leased agreements) shall be demonstrated.</p> <p>2.2 Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>control with free, prior and informed consent to other agencies.</p> <p>2.2.2 Forest plantation managers shall collaborate with holders of duly recognised legal or customary tenure or use rights within relevant federal and state legal frameworks and customary laws, in activities that may affect such rights.</p> <p>3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free, prior and informed consent to other agencies.”</p>
<p>5.6.4 Forest management activities shall be conducted in recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon without the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of the rights, including the provision of compensation where applicable. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved or is in dispute there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such cases forest managers shall, in the interim, provide meaningful opportunities for parties to be engaged in forest management decisions whilst respecting the processes and roles and responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“1.3 The provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.</p> <p>Verifier 1.3.1 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007</p> <p>2.2 Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free, prior and informed consent to other agencies.</p> <p>2.2.2 Forest plantation managers shall collaborate with holders of duly recognised legal or customary tenure or use rights within relevant federal and state legal frameworks and customary laws, in activities that may affect such rights.</p> <p>Verifier 2.2.2 Records of such collaboration, including participation in the resolution of land claims, if any</p> <p>2.3 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.</p> <p>3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free, prior and informed consent to other agencies.</p> <p>3.1.3 Availability of appropriate mechanisms to resolve any conflicts and grievances between parties involved.</p> <p>3.4 Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest plantation operations. This</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free, prior and informed consent before forest operations commence.</p> <p>4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.”</p>
<p>5.6.5 Adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided taking into account respect for ownership rights and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>Additional comment from MTCC:</b></p> <p>“It is to be noted that in the Malaysian context, forest plantations are neither the ideal sites for recreation nor have a high potential for tourism and recreation, simply because there are ample natural forests which offer much more scenic attractions for tourism and recreation.</p> <p>Among the attractions of the natural forests include the many established recreational forests throughout the country, the availability of many State and National Parks, as well as Wildlife and Bird Sanctuaries, where sufficient safety precautions can be provided to public.</p> <p>In this connection, the standard focuses on other functions of the forests, such as aspect pertaining to soil and water conservation. Due to safety reasons, unsupervised access by public is not encouraged.”</p>
<p>5.6.6 Sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“3.3 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognised and protected by forest managers.</p> <p>4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.</p> <p>4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.</p> <p>9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.</p> <p>Definition HCV 6 Cultural values: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.”</p>
<p>5.6.7 Forest management operations shall take into account all socio-economic functions, especially the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests by maintaining for example varied forest structures, and by encouraging attractive trees, groves and other features such as colours, flowers and fruits. This shall be done, however, in a way and to an extent that does not lead to serious negative effects on forest resources, and forest land.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“3.3 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognised and protected by forest managers.</p> <p>5.5 Forest plantation management operations shall recognise, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.”</p>
<p>5.6.8 Forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and encouraged to keep up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this standard.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“1.6 Forest plantation managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the Principles and Criteria contained in this Standard.</p> <p>1.6.2 Policies or statements are communicated throughout the organisation and contractors, and are made available to the public.</p> <p>4.1 The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest plantation management unit shall be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.</p> <p>4.1.1 Forest plantation managers provide, where appropriate, support for training, retraining, local infrastructure, facilities and social programmes commensurate with the scale and intensity of forest plantation management operations.</p> <p>7.3 Forest plantation workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.”</p>
<p>5.6.9 Forest management practices shall make</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>the best use of local forest-related experience and knowledge, such as those of local communities, forest owners, NGOs and local people.</p>		<p>“3.4 Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest plantation operations.</p> <p>3.4.1 Availability of documentation, if any, of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples in the use of forest species or management systems in forest plantation operations.</p> <p>6.2.3 Existence of cooperation between forest plantation managers, civil societies, research institutions, institutions of higher learning and regulatory authorities in implementing conservation and management activities.</p> <p>9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.”</p>
<p>5.6.10 Forest management shall provide for effective communication and consultation with local people and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management and shall provide appropriate mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management between forest operators and local people.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.</p> <p>4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.</p> <p>6.2.3 Existence of cooperation between forest plantation managers, civil societies, research institutions, institutions of higher learning and regulatory authorities in implementing conservation and management activities.</p> <p>7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest plantation managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, (...).</p> <p>9.1.1 Forest plantation managers shall conduct an assessment to identify High Conservation Value (HCV) areas in accordance with relevant guidelines, appropriate to scale and intensity of management for forest plantation areas, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders and experts.</p> <p>9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.</p> <p>9.2.1 Forest plantation managers shall provide the assessors with a list of relevant stakeholders who have been consulted regarding the HCV area.”</p> <p><b>Guidelines for the Interpretation of Requirements in MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is the principle that a community has the right to give or withhold its consent to proposed projects or activities that may affect the lands they customarily or traditionally own, occupy or otherwise use.</p> <p>FPIC implies informed, non-coercive negotiations between the proponents and indigenous peoples prior to the commencement of development activities on their customary lands. This principle means that those who wish to use the customary lands belonging to indigenous peoples must enter into negotiations with them. It is the indigenous peoples who have the right to decide whether they will agree to the project or not once they have a full and accurate understanding of the implications of the project consistent with the principle of FPIC.</p> <p>The term FPIC is specified in Criteria 2.2, 3.1 and 3.4 as well as Indicator 3.1.2 of the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2, in relation to the requirement to obtain the FPIC of the indigenous peoples regarding any forest plantation management activities that may affect the forest plantations owned by them (Criteria 2.2 and 3.1, and Indicator 3.1.2), and any compensation for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest plantation species or management systems in forest plantation operations (Criterion 3.4).</p> <p>Several other criteria and indicators in the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 recognise the traditional use of the permanent forests by the indigenous peoples (i.e. Criteria 3.2, 3.3, 4.4, 4.5, 9.1 and 9.2).</p> <p>FPIC is not specifically mentioned in these criteria and indicators, but in order to ensure that the indigenous peoples are able to continue their traditional use of the forest, the forest plantation manager is required to undertake a process of consultation: (i) to identify the presence and locations of indigenous peoples in and adjacent to the FPMU; and (ii) to confer and determine the areas they traditionally use. These areas may include sites of significant importance to them (e.g. cultivated areas, water sources, burial sites, sacred sites etc.).</p> <p>Criterion 3.2 requires the FPMU manager to ensure that forest plantation management practices</p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>shall not threaten or diminish the indigenous peoples' resources or tenure/customary/traditional rights.</p> <p>Criterion 3.3 requires that sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to the indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with them, and shall be recognised and protected.</p> <p>Under Criteria 4.4 and 4.5, where the indigenous peoples are living in or adjacent to the forest plantation, the FPMU manager shall consult them to evaluate their dependence on the forest plantations and the potential social impacts of the forest plantation operations on these peoples, prior to the commencement of the operations.</p> <p>The FPMU manager has to take into account the results of such evaluations into the forest plantation planning and management process so as to prevent loss or damage affecting the indigenous peoples' customary rights, property, resources, or their livelihoods. Where such loss or damage has been caused by the forest plantation operations, appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve the grievances and provide fair compensation to the affected party.</p> <p>Under Criteria 9.1 and 9.2, the FPMU manager is also required to consult the affected indigenous peoples and other relevant stakeholders to assess the attributes consistent with high conservation value (HCV) which are found in the FPMU.</p> <p>In the case of the indigenous peoples, the HCV areas may be those that are important to meeting the basic needs of these peoples and/or critical to their traditional cultural identity. The FPMU manager has to demonstrate that steps have been taken to protect these HCV areas, which may include marking these areas on maps and having management prescriptions in the Forest Plantation Management Plan to maintain and enhance the HCV attributes.</p> <p>The FPMU manager is also required to conduct annual monitoring to assess the effectiveness of such measures. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the revision of the Forest Plantation Management Plan.</p> <p>(...) The FPMU Manager is required to ensure and provide for effective communication and consultation with local communities and other stakeholders and that sufficient contact is maintained with the affected parties.”</p>

Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>5.6.11 Forestry work shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“4.2 Forest plantation management shall meet or exceed all applicable laws and / or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</p> <p>4.2.1 Up-to-date information on all applicable laws and / or regulations covering occupational safety and health of forest plantation workers shall be disseminated to them.</p> <p>4.2.2 Availability of management policies addressing the occupational safety and health of forest plantation workers and their families with current legislation and / or regulations.</p> <p>4.2.3 Appropriate safety and operational equipment in good working condition, including operational procedures, shall be made available to forest plantation workers in the work place.</p> <p>4.2.4 Forest plantation managers shall maintain up-to-date safety records in compliance with all applicable laws and / or regulations covering health and safety of forest plantation workers.”</p> <p><b>Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994</b></p> <p>“15. (1) It shall be the duty of every employer and every self-employed person to ensure, so far as is practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of all his employees.</p> <p>(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the matters to which the duty extends include in particular: (a) the provision and maintenance of plant and systems of work that are, so far as is practicable, safe and without risks to health; (b) the making of arrangements for ensuring, so far as is practicable, safety and absence of risks to health in connection with the use or operation, handling, storage and transport of plant and substances; (c) the provision of such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure, so far as is practicable, the safety and health at work of his employees; (d) so far as is practicable, as regards any place of work under the control of the employer or self-employed person, the maintenance of it in a condition that is safe and without risks to health and the provision and maintenance of the means of access to and egress from it that are safe and without such risks; (e) the provision and maintenance of a working environment for his employees that is, so far as is practicable, safe, without risks to health, and adequate as regards facilities for their welfare at work.”</p>
<p>5.6.12 Working conditions shall be safe, and</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p>



Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations.		<p>“4.1.1 Forest plantation managers provide, where appropriate, support for training, retraining, local infrastructure, facilities and social programmes commensurate with the scale and intensity of forest plantation management operations.</p> <p>4.2 Forest plantation management shall meet or exceed all applicable laws and / or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</p> <p>4.2.3 Appropriate safety and operational equipment in good working condition, including operational procedures, shall be made available to forest plantation workers in the work place.</p> <p>7.3 Forest plantation workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.”</p> <p><b>Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994</b></p> <p>“i.a. 4. The objects of this Act are: (a) to secure the safety, health and welfare of persons at work against risks to safety or health arising out of the activities of persons at work;”</p>
5.6.13 Forest management shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“1.3 The provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.</p> <p>1.3.1 Forest plantation managers are aware of international agreements binding to Malaysia relevant to forest plantation management.</p> <p>Verifier 1.3.1: Core International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions”</p> <p><b>Observation:</b> <i>According to the ILO website, two of the fundamental ILO conventions are not ratified (C87- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention; and C111 - Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention) and one was denounced in 1990 (C105 - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention). However, the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the SRC made clear that verifier 1.3.1 should be read as covering all 8 fundamental ILO conventions, even those which are not ratified by Malaysia.</i></p>
5.6.14 Forest management shall be based inter-alia on the results of scientific research. Forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for	YES	<p><b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b></p> <p>“6.2.3 Existence of cooperation between forest plantation managers, civil societies, research institutions, institutions of higher learning and regulatory authorities in implementing conservation</p>





Question	YES / NO	Reference to scheme documentation
sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.		and management activities. 7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, (...). 7.2.2 Forest plantation managers shall be aware of new scientific and technical information pertinent to the management of the planted area to be certified. 8.2 Forest plantation management shall include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) Yield of all forest products harvested. b) Growth rates of the planted forest. c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna. d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations. e) Costs and productivity of forest management. 8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.”
<b>Criterion 7: Compliance with legal requirements</b>		
5.7.1 Forest management shall comply with legislation applicable to forest management issues including forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous people; health, labour and safety issues; and the payment of royalties and taxes.	YES	<b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b> “1.1 Forest plantation management shall respect all federal and state laws and administrative requirements. 1.2 All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes, and other charges shall be paid. 1.3 The provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.”
5.7.2 Forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	YES	<b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b> “1.5 Forest plantation management unit shall be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorised activities. 6.2 (...) Hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled in accordance with applicable statutes and customary laws.”

## Annex 2 Results of Stakeholder Survey

As part of the general analysis of the MC&I Forest Plantations v.2, a survey has been carried out to receive additional information and evidence on the standard setting process. The stakeholder survey (questionnaire presented below) was sent on 13 May 2015, by E-mail in English and Malay language, to about 150 stakeholders, based on a stakeholder list provided by MTCC.

In total 11 people filled out the questionnaire and sent it back to Form international. This group included NGO-representatives, representatives of (private) forest owners, people from the forest / wood related industry, and one person from a Workers Union (social interest stakeholder category), one person from the social – indigenous stakeholder group (Sarawak), and one person from a government authority. Most respondents represented Sabah, but also other geographical part of Malaysia (Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia) were represented.

Most of the respondents actively participated in the revision process. More than half of the respondents (7/11) were a member of the Standards Review Committee (SRC). As a motivation to contribute to the revision of the MC&I Forest Plantations v.2, most respondents said it was important to them to represent their stakeholder group, to make sure conservation issues were taken into account, that it would be a standard that companies could comply with, that would be independent and able to withstand the critical attitude of (international) NGO's.

In general the questions of the survey were answered positively and most respondents have been pleased with the way the MTCC Secretariat and the SRC have led the process and carried out their tasks so far as the revision process was implemented for the standard. The information provided by the SRC and / or MTCC secretariat, such as draft documents, invitations for meetings and minutes of meetings were efficiently spread (often by E-mail) amongst the members of the SRC, in a timely manner. The content of those documents was considered relevant by the respondents. The minutes especially, were considered to be very accurate and elaborate, reflecting well the discussions and deliberations on every issue that was raised, either by SRC member or by participants of regional stakeholder meetings and public comment periods.

In general, the composition of the SRC (Table 1) was considered balanced. Stakeholder categories were defined as follows:

- Environmental
- Economic
- Social – Indigenous People
- Social – Workers union
- Relevant Government Agency



The predefined composition of the SRC would allow for one representative per stakeholder category and per geographical region (Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia were distinguished).

Table 1: Membership of the SRC

Stakeholder Group	Region			
	Sabah	Sarawak	Peninsular Malaysia	Malaysia (Total)
Environmental	1	1	1	3
Economic	1	1	1	3
Social – Indigenous People	1	1	1	3
Social – Workers Union	1	1	1	3
Relevant Government Agency	1	1	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>

Nomination and acceptance of nominees was well described and in some cases facilitated by the MTCC Secretariat, if the stakeholder group wanted to make use of these facilities.

Two respondents indicated unbalanced representation, suggesting that OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Administration) and JHEKS (Jabatan Hal Ehwal Kesatuan Sekerja = Department of Trade Union Affairs) representatives should have been part of the SRC and that State Government agencies, that are keen to pursue Forest Plantation establishment and private sectors, should have been sought out for membership. Furthermore, it was noted that civil society was underrepresented and that the representative of WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) was also a board member of the MTCC.

The weight of representatives (especially when it would come to voting) had also been an issue during the first meeting. The economic stakeholder group raised the issue about the social group, which is divided into the Social-Indigenous peoples group and the Social-Workers Union group, and had therefore double as much weight in the SRC. After some discussion, the meeting agreed to maintain the existing voting structure. Two respondents considered this issue as a substantive or procedural complaint. In practice, consensus was reached on all matters by using discussion, rather than voting.

Respondents confirmed that relevant topics and comments from the public comment periods were considered in the SRC in an objective and transparent way and their experience in general is that the process complies with the requirements. Apart from the issue of representation mentioned above, it seems that there haven't been any substantive or procedural complaints about the revision process. All issues were solved by discussions in the SRC.



As an answer to the final question about aspects that deserve further consideration, the following issues were brought up:

Comments of respondents to the stakeholder survey	Response of the Assessor
HCVF assessment – it is on paper accepted that it must be adhered to but forest managers are not adopting this as a key activity (given that you have to do it before clear felling) as it is not in their rules.	It is up to the Certifying Bodies (Auditors) to assess whether the forest managers adhere to the requirements related to the HCVF (Principle 9).
The weightage of economic reasons for converting an area to be a forest plantation from a natural forest. It looks idealistic on paper but the mechanics of this on the ground, between protecting areas that are serving as water catchment to biodiversity reserves and ecological services vs. straight conversion to forest plantations.	The comment remains a bit unclear. However, the standard does have strict rules related to the conversion of forests which forest managers have to adhere to. It should be noted that the Assessor also identified several issues in the clauses on forest conversions.
There are some aspect of the standards that really look at how state governments who are managers of the forest areas in Peninsular Malaysia will interpret this. There is a need to look at the baseline before and what it will be after.	The respondent did not specify these aspects, it was therefore difficult to assess these. Clause 6.1 assures that environmental impact studies are conducted prior to commencement of forest plantation establishment.
It has to be a given that some areas might be earmarked for monetary gains and political reasons, this should not then be whitewashed to fit the standards to meet this situation. We have to accept some areas might not be certifiable if it violates the rules set up and some areas can be certified.	It is up to the Certifying Bodies (Auditors) to assess whether the forest managers adhere to the requirements of the standard. Forest conversion is only allowed under very specific and strict requirements. It should be noted that the Assessor also identified several issues in the clauses on forest conversions.
Not so much on the quality of the criteria and indicators, which are of high standard. Fundamentally, for MC&I to be more credible, MTCC, its governance and initiatives need to be more multi-stakeholder driven.	According to the Assessor, the standard revision was almost completely conducted according to the international PEFC requirements, which include the requirements for multi-stakeholder processes. It should be noted that PEFC does not specifically require multi-stakeholder driven governance.

The questionnaire is presented on the next pages.



## Questionnaire for the revision process of the MALAYSIAN TIMBER CERTIFICATION SCHEME MC&I Forest Plantation.v2

Indicate your answer by putting an **X** on the dotted line. Please explain your answers as much as possible by giving comments or remarks.

<p>1. What stakeholder category do you represent?</p>	<p>... Forest (plantation) owner / manager (state)                  ... Forest (plantation) owner / manager (private)                  ... Forest / wood related industry / business                  ... Non-governmental organisation - NGO (forest/ ecology, environmental)                  ... Social – indigenous people                  ... Social – Workers Union                  ... Authorities (public administration, local government, relevant government agency)                  ... Forest science (university):                  ... Other: ...</p>
<p>2. Which geographical part of Malaysia do you represent?</p>	<p>... Sabah                  ... Sarawak                  ... Peninsular Malaysia                  ... other part of Malaysia: ...</p>
<p>3. Did you actively participate in the revision process ?</p>	<p>... Yes, as a member of the Standard Review Committee (SRC)                  ... Yes, by providing comments on the enquiry draft (version 1 or 2) of the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations), during the                      o 1<sup>st</sup> public comment period (15 January – 16 March 2013).                      o 2<sup>nd</sup> public comment period (1 – 31 December 2013).                  ... Yes, by providing comments during the Regional Stakeholder Consultations on Enquiry Draft 2 of the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations), in                      o Kuching (8 April 2014)                      o Kota Kinabalu (10 April 2014)                      o Kuala Lumpur (15 April 2014)                  ... Yes, by providing comments on the Enquiry Draft 3 of the MC&amp;I (Forest Plantations), during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final public comment period (25 July – 22 September 2014)                  ... Other: ...</p>



<p>If you did not actively participate, why not?</p>	<p>... No participation, because: ....</p>
<p>4. a) <u>How</u> did you find out about the revision process?</p> <p>b) <u>When</u> were you invited to participate on the revision of MC&amp;I Forest plantation v2?</p>	<p>... Newspaper or magazine                  ... Website of ....                  ... Personal letter or email                  ... Other: ...</p> <p>Please indicate day, month and year:                  ..... / ..... / .....</p>
<p>5. What was your main concern and your interest to participate in the revision process?</p>	<p>Concern: .....                  Interest: .....</p>
<p>6. Did the organizers provide you with relevant material to participate in the scheme revision?</p>	<p>... Yes, because ....                  ... No, because ....                  ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks: ...</p>
<p>7. In your opinion, have all stakeholders that are relevant to the revision process been proactively identified and invited, including disadvantaged stakeholders?</p>	<p>... Yes                  ... No, other stakeholders that should have been identified and invited: ....                  ... I don't know</p> <p>Comments or remarks:</p>
<p>8. a) Did the stakeholder representatives in <b>the Standard Review Committee (SRC)</b> represent the range of interest in forest (plantation) management in your country?</p> <p>If not, which other interest groups should have been involved?</p> <p>b) Did the <b>SRC</b>, to your opinion, have a <b>balanced</b> representation of various stakeholder categories?</p>	<p>... Yes                  ... No, other interest groups that should have been involved: ...                  ... I don't know</p> <p>... Yes                  ... No, the following stakeholder categories were underrepresented: ...                  ... I don't know</p>



<p>9. a) Are you aware of any substantive or procedural complaints related to the revision process, brought forward by you or any other stakeholder?</p>	<p>... Yes, there was a complaint about ...                  ... No                  ... I don't know</p>
<p>b) In case of any complaints, have these been validated and objectively evaluated?</p>	<p>... Yes                  ... No                  ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks: ...</p>

**Questions 10 – 17 are for Standards Review Committee (SRC) members only.**

If you did participate in the SRC, please continue with question 10.

If you did NOT participate in the SRC, please continue with question 18.

<p>10. Did all stakeholders in your working group have expertise relevant to the subject matter?</p>	<p>... Yes                  ... No                  ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks: ...</p>
<p>11. a) Have records (or minutes) been kept from SRC meetings?</p> <p>b) How did you receive invitations for the SRC meetings and documents?</p> <p>c) Did you receive invitations for SRC-meetings and documents <i>in a timely manner</i>?</p>	<p>... Yes                  ... No                  ... I don't know</p> <p>... By mail                  ... By E-mail                  ... By other means: ...</p> <p>... Yes                  ... No                  ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks: ...</p>



<p>12. Have all <i>working draft / enquiry drafts documents</i> been available to all members of the SRC?</p>	<p>... Yes ... No ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks: ...</p>
<p>13. Have you been provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development of the MC&amp;I Forest plantation v.2 and submit comments to the working / enquiry drafts?</p>	<p>... Yes ... No ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks: ...</p>
<p>14. Have comments and views submitted by any member of the SRC been considered in an open and transparent way?</p>	<p>... Yes ... No ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks: ...</p>
<p>15. Has the public consultation of the scheme documentation lasted for at least 60 days?</p>	<p>... Yes ... No ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks: ...</p>
<p>16. Have all comments received during the <i>public consultation</i> been considered in an objective manner by the SRC?</p>	<p>... Yes. Please explain: ... ... No. Please explain: ... ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks: ...</p>
<p>17. a) Was the decision of the SRC to recommend the final draft for formal approval taken on the basis of <i>consensus</i>?</p> <p>b) In case no consensus was reached on certain issues, how was the issue resolved?</p>	<p>... Yes, consensus was reached in the following way: ... ... No, no consensus was reached in the SRC.</p> <p>... The issue was resolved in the following way: ... ... I don't know</p> <p>Remarks: ...</p>





**To be answered by all stakeholders:**

18. Do you believe any aspects of the MC&I Forest plantation v.2 deserve further consideration in this assessment?	... Yes. Please specify: ... ... No ... I don't know  Remarks: ...
--	--

**Please return the answers latest by 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2015.**

**You can direct your response by e-mail to:**

[c.naaijen@forminternational.nl](mailto:c.naaijen@forminternational.nl)

**Thank you for your time and cooperation**



## Annex 3: Panel of Experts Comments

Three panel of experts members have commented on this assessment. It should be noted that these comments have been made on the first final report, not the current (second) version of the final report. Their comments are presented in the table below, including the responses from the assessor. Minor adaptations have been made to the text of the report as indicated in the assessor’s responses.

Report chapter / Page	Assessor’s report statement	PoE member comment	Assessor’s response
<b>General Statement on Report Quality</b>			
General		Clear, neat report.	Comment is clear.
General		A solid report, comprehensive, well structured, based on a desk study and a questionnaire and Form’s experience. I do agree with the recommendation based on conditions and the time limit (6 month). I understand that the Plantation Standard fully covers the Peninsular, Sabah and Sarawak (?).	The Plantation Standard covers the regions Peninsular, Sabah and Sarawak. Verifiers are specified per region.
General		A list of persons / institutions (and their deputies) of the Standard Review Committee is missing as well as those who responded to the questionnaire (not only figures as in Table 1). The scientific community (research) is also missing, was there no involvement (?). Does the Economic representation include industry, the producers and trade (?) > p. 91.	It is not an obligation for the assessment report to include this information. Information on the Standard Review Committee can easily be found in the Report on Review. It shall be noted that two alternate members of the SRC were representatives of scientific organizations and are included



			under Governmental Agencies. Economic does indeed include industry, producers and trade.
General		<p>This is a very comprehensive evaluation of the Malaysian Forest Plantation standard within the MTCS. The depth of analysis of the criteria/indicators and supporting information for the forest plantation standard is to be highly commended. All sections displayed a thorough assessment backed by evidence to enable a clear conclusion on conformance or compliance in the majority of cases.</p> <p>On this basis, I have no hesitation in agreeing with the Consultant on the recommendation overall as well as most of the non-conformities identified and subject to corrective action or conditions provided with any positive endorsement by the PEFC.</p>	Comment is clear.
<b>Specific Findings</b>			
Acronyms Pg 5		The following were used in the report: C; CITES; FPMU; ILO; ITTA; NGO; WCS; SFM	The list of acronyms has been updated.
1. 1 <sup>st</sup> para Pg 6	1 <sup>st</sup> sentence - ‘... national standards ...’ and ‘... the national standard ...’	I understand that it is schemes or systems (using the current PEFC terminology) not standards which are recognised under the PEFC mutual recognition framework.	Updated (schemes).
1. 2 <sup>nd</sup> para	7 <sup>th</sup> sentence – ‘... carry out the assessment.’	‘assessment’ is used in this sentence but in the first sentence ‘evaluation’ is used – either need a statement that these words mean the same and are interchangeable or keep one word consistently	Although assess and evaluate are not strictly the same, it can be both used in the current contexts: The scheme is evaluated by means of assessing the conformity of the



			Scheme with the requirements.
1.2 1 <sup>st</sup> para Pg 6	Last sentence	All countries are in alphabetical order except that Canada is at the rear! Is this due to the scheme being the SFI which covers Canada and the USA?	SFI indeed covers both Canada and the USA.
1.3 Table 1.1 Pg 7	Items 7 to 9  Items 11 to 12	A convention commonly used is to have Acts in italics Is 'Wild Life' two words or one word as in the Act?	This report follows a slightly different approach, where Acts are not placed in Italics. Wild Life is two words on the Act.
1.3 Table 1.2 Pg 7	Table 1.2 The PEFC Technical documents used	Table 1.2 The PEFC Technical documents <del>used</del>	Not updated. Only those Technical documents that were relevant / used for the assessment are noted.
1.4 1 <sup>st</sup> para Pg 7	'The work consisted of a desk study in which an evaluation of the conformity was conducted.'	As the evaluation is only for standard setting and the actual forest plantation standard, there could be a specific recognition that these are the only two elements being evaluated for clarity. As indicated earlier, 'evaluation' is used in 1 <sup>st</sup> sentence and 'assessment' is used in 2 <sup>nd</sup> sentence!	This is exactly the specification of 1.4.
1.5 4. and 5. Pg 9	<b>Elaboration of final draft report and Review of the final draft report</b>	Why the delay between the end of June and late November for the PoE review? A short explanation would ensure integrity of assessment timeline	Before sending this report to the Panel of Experts, it was further discussed between the PEFC Technical Unit and MTCC. Based on these discussions, additional review was requested from Form, after which the report was sent to PEFC's Panel of Experts. Explanation added to the report.
1.6 Pg 9	[Whole paragraph]	Wouldn't it be better to use dot points to present this information?	Updated in the report. As explained in paragraph 1.5, no comments were received during

	‘Results of the stakeholder survey and international consultation are presented in respectively Annex 2 and Annex 3, and the Panel of Experts Comments is enclosed in Annex 4.’	For the ‘international consultation’, there is no commentary in an Annex on this aspect of the assessment. Annex 3 of current report – as provided in this report it is the PoE annex! Annex 4 – there is no Annex 4 in this report!	the international public consultation.
Ch.2 / p.10	BoD to endorse the ...	BoD to re-endorse the ...	Updated in the report.
Ch. 3.1 / p.11	In total 24 non-conformities were found: 4 in the standard revision process and 20 in the standard itself.	The report describes only: _ 1 minor NC (Ch. 3.3 / 5.2.1) and 1 observation (Ch. 5.1) in the Standard Setting Process _ 7 minor NC (Ch. 3.4 / 6.2.1) and 6 observations (Ch. 6.1) These 8 NC and 7 observations are also described in the Annex. Obviously an error in Ch. 3.1. It is recommended to list also the observations in the summary for a better overview.	Updated in Ch. 3.1 of the report. It shall be noted that observations are no non-conformities. That’s the reason why these are not mentioned in the summary.
3.1 Pg 11	‘In total 24 non-conformities were found: 4 in the standard revision process and 20 in the standard itself.’	Refer to the figures in 3.3 and 3.4 – they do not gel with these figures!	Updated in the report.
5.1 1 <sup>st</sup> para Pg 14 2 <sup>nd</sup> para	‘... and the website contains broad ...’ ‘It is observed that for the stakeholder identification only organizations were identified that represent certain groups. E.g. no individual companies or persons were identified.’	It would be better to clarify the website i.e. presumably MTCC’s Organisations are usually comprised of member companies or persons! It is usually membership at the national level across a sector that is sought not an individual company’s or person’s perspective	Updated in the report. It should be noted that in the experience of the assessor in many cases also individual companies and / or persons are enlisted as stakeholders. The statement in the report is just to mention the way it was done in Malaysia.



<p>5.2.1, 5.3 Pg 15</p>	<p>'...with the members of the standard review committee at its first meeting ...'  <u>Does not conform - minor</u></p>	<p>The standards review committee is capitalised elsewhere in the report – maintain consistent terminology I would seek a simpler format for the assessment ie Non-conformity – minor (and conversely Conformity). This would apply for the rest of the report as applicable</p>	<p>Not updated, as no editorial changes are made in citations. Will be considered in following assessments.</p>
<p>5.2.2, 4.4 Pg 16</p>	<p><b>Letter formation SRC, dd 29 January 2013</b></p>	<p>What is meant by <b>dd</b>? It isn't in the Acronyms! It is used repeatedly in the report.</p>	<p>dd is 'de dato', meaning dated / of. Has been added in the list of acronyms.</p>
<p>Ch. 6.1 / p.19</p>	<p>Observation Criteria 4.1.b.: In some cases wording is used like "strive", ...</p>	<p>It should be discussed to classify this observation as a minor non-conformity. If these wordings are not clarified, they will cause difficulties in auditing until the next standard revision.</p>	<p>In these cases the indicators provide sufficient conformity to comply with PEFC's requirements.</p>
<p>6. Pg 19</p>	<p>'Corrective action requests are formulated for each of the non-conformities raised.'</p>	<p>Is there a capacity to utilise these under the PEFC system? Or is it that certain conditions need to be incorporated into any endorsement by the PEFC which require closure within a certain time period?</p>	<p>This is a common way in the Conformity Assessment to indicate following steps for the Applicant Scheme. Proof of corrective action shall be submitted to the PEFC Technical Unit.</p>
<p>Ch. 6.1 / p.20</p>	<p>Observation Criteria 5.6.13.: According to ILO website ... that verifier 1.3.1 should read as covering all 8 fundamental ILO conventions ...</p>	<p>If ILO conventions are not ratified by a country the standard should clearly state their implementation. The observation reads that this fact needs to be interpreted as it is somewhat "hidden". Proposal: classification as minor NC with action request to state it more clearly in the standard.</p>	<p>The fundamental ILO conventions are referred to in the standard.</p>
<p>6.2.1, 5.1.4 Pg 20</p>	<p>'No definition of the periodical revision of the management plan is given.'</p>	<p>The PEFC requirement seeks 'periodically updated'. The .v2 standard requirement indicates 'periodically revised'. It would appear to be</p>	<p>The wording 'periodically updated' in the PEFC requirement is to be specified in the national context.</p>



<p><b>5.1.12</b></p>	<p><i>'The standard does not take into account eventual opportunities for reforestation or afforestation of abandoned agricultural and treeless lands.'</i></p>	<p>equivalent. It seems the N/C is based on no time period is designated although the PEFC requirement doesn't have an explicit time period. Isn't the assessment based on 'as of now' not about eventualities especially if the national governing body has provided the context for the minor N/C?</p>	<p>This is typically the difference between a meta-standard and the national standard. The assessor's comment does also refer to eventual opportunities in the current situation, and shall be considered on a case by case situation at forest management level.</p>
<p><b>5.4.3</b></p>	<p><b>Additional MTCC Comment:</b></p>	<p>See the comments related to Table 1.1</p>	<p>See response above.</p>
<p><b>Annex 1 4.4 b)</b></p>	<p><i>'To the opinion of the assessor, these topics have been sufficiently covered by other SRC-members.'</i></p>	<p>In regards to 'topics', isn't this the 'type of representation'? Could be covered under the umbrella of a stakeholder group</p>	<p>Updated in the report.</p>
<p><b>4.5</b></p>	<p><i>'The Dispute Resolution Procedures (DRP 2/2013) could be found on the MTCC website (www.mtcc.com.my).'</i></p>	<p>Does a statement need to be made for this requirement that they <u>were</u> applicable for this standard's review?</p>	<p>It could not be assessed whether these were applicable during the standard revisions, which is by the way not specifically required in the current requirement.</p>
<p><b>5.6 a)</b></p>	<p><b>'Letter Announcement 1st public comment period, dd 8th of January 2013:'</b></p>	<p><b>Letter Announcement 1st public comment period, dd 8<del>th</del> of January 2013:</b> Should be consistent throughout the report in all DD/MM/YYYY format ie 8 January 2013 (also applicable at other sections of report)</p>	<p>Updated in the report.</p>
<p><b>5.11, Pg 55</b></p>	<p><i>Observation: no reference was found that the adoption was based on evidence of consensus reached by the SRC. The Assessor however concludes that it worked well in practice, as consensus was reached in the SRC, and the minutes of the Board of Trustees do not suggest</i></p>	<p>I can understand the inference in this observation but it is clear that only one standard review was underway, one standard being revised and that the standard was subsequently adopted – a linear process but the vital titling in minutes was missing</p>	<p>Comment is clear. The recording in minutes might have been poor, the process was according the requirements.</p>



	<i>any changes made to the standard version agreed upon by the SRC.'</i>		
5.1.4, Pg 61	<i>'No definition of the periodical revision of the management plan is given. The MTCC indicates that it is an established norm that a forest management plan is subject to mid-term review, and examples of a forest plantation license and a forest management plan, including the requirement for periodical revision of the management plan, were submitted to the consultant. However, it is not guaranteed by the standard or provided legislation that the forest management plans shall be periodically updated.'</i>	If not in the standard, is it within the FMP? This would be checked by the certification audit. Otherwise, is the Assessor seeking to have a time period set out in the clause of the standard? There is specific reference to 'be periodically revised' – I see this as being no different to 'periodically updated' in 5.1.4. There is no time period indicated in 5.1.4.	The wording 'periodically updated' in the PEFC requirement is to be specified in the national context. This is typically the difference between a meta-standard and the national standard.
5.1.10, Pg 65	"5.1 Forest plantation management shall strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest."	Wouldn't 7.1 c) assist in compliance for 5.1.10?	Yes, but 5.1.10 already sufficiently provides the compliance.
5.1.12, Pg 67	<b>Additional explanation provided by MTCC:</b>	What about 7.1 b) which sets the context for plantation management? Also, isn't the assessment an 'as of now' in which case the issue may not be applicable but there is the fallback of 7.1 b)	Clause 7.1 b) requires a description of areas, which does not ensure the considerations for reforestation. Such cases should be considered on a case by case situation at forest management level.
5.2.6, Pg 68	<b>MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2:</b> "10.7 Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimise outbreaks of (...) fire"	I would observe that this is about prevention and suppression of fire – nothing on fire used positively in SFM!	The MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 and the Environmental Act do not allow that fire is used (positively) in SFM.





	<b>Environmental Quality Act 1974</b> “Article 29A. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, no person shall allow or cause open burning on any premises.”	The Act should be in italics!	In this aspect, the Malaysian Standard is stricter than the PEFC requirement. This report does follow a different approach in citations: Italic text in the table is only used for Assessor’s comments.
5.2.9, Pg 69	<i>‘Observation: No exception is included for cases where no other viable alternative is available.’</i>	I agree that it could have been included in the standard but if stakeholders have agreed to a position with a total prohibition, it reflects the national will and is still in compliance with the primary objective of 5.2.9	Indeed. Also in this aspect, the Malaysian Standard is stricter than the PEFC requirement.
5.4.3, Pg 75	<i>‘The referenced laws do still allow for licensed exploitation of endangered and protected species for commercial purposes, which is not allowed under PEFC.’</i>	Not all are laws – it could be better described as ‘legislation and regulation’	Updated in the report.
5.4.4, Pg 75	“6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession.	This doesn’t reflect a plantation situation – it is the planting that defines it!	It is supposed that ecological functions mainly exist in other parts of the plantations (e.g. in buffer zones).
5.4.8, Pg 76	“10.3 Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.”	This is appropriate to a plantation context as the PEFC requirement is essentially framed for native or natural forests.	Comment is clear.
5.4.12, Pg 78	<i>‘Monitoring and incorporation of monitoring results in the management plan is considered to</i>	While I agree that monitoring is required to comply with this requirement, a comment from the MTCC	The assessor agrees that a comment from MTCC would have



	<i>cover this requirement sufficiently, in particular in the context of the Malaysian forest plantations where pressure from animal populations and grazing is not a significant issue.</i>	would have provided better context as the clause of the standard only deals with monitoring and not the other aspects	provided better context. Nevertheless, the assessor considered the local context and concluded that the provided references are sufficient to cover the requirement.
<b>5.4.13,</b> Pg 79	<b>Observation:</b> <i>Although no specific reference is found with regard to conservation of dead hollow trees, old groves and special rare tree species, the conservation zones and protection areas consist of natural forests, which in the context of Malaysian forests will obviously contain standing and fallen dead wood and hollow trees. wood,</i>	Correct, need to consider context as it is not to have such features in the nett plantation area – they would be restricted to the native or natural forest areas associated with the plantation	Comment is clear.
<b>5.6.7,</b> Pg 85	Clauses 3.3 and 5.5	The context from 5.6.5 is potentially applicable here in relation to many of the features in the PEFC requirement as the standard deals in commercial plantation and not natural or native forest	It shall be noted that such clauses are to be assessed according to the stipulations in Appendix 1 of PEFC ST 1003:2010.
<b>5.6.11,</b> Pg 87	<b>Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994</b>	The Act should be in italics!	See comment above.
<b>5.6.12,</b> Pg 88	<b>Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994</b>	The Act should be in italics!	See comment above.
<b>Annex 2,</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> para Pg 92	'Two respondents considered this is issue as a substantive or procedural complaint.'	Was this actually followed through or not?	From the minutes it became clear that these were discussed and that the SRC reached consensus on this issue.
12 <sup>th</sup> para, Pg 93	'The questionnaires have been answered in a positive way ...'	This is a repeat of the 4 <sup>th</sup> paragraph!	Updated in the report.
<b>Editorial Comments</b>			
Ch.1 / p.6	... is conform the ...	... scheme conforms with the PEFC ...	Updated in the report.



1. 1st para. Pg 6	'With the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC), national standards for Sustainable Forest Management are brought under the umbrella organisation PEFC by endorsing the national standard after a positive evaluation. Every five years, the endorsed national schemes need to be revised after which an independent consultant assesses whether the revised scheme is conform the PEFC Council (PEFCC) requirements.'	' <b>Within</b> the Programme for <b>the</b> Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC), national standards for Sustainable Forest Management <b>(SFM)</b> are brought under the umbrella organisation PEFC by endorsing the national standard after a positive evaluation. Every five years, the endorsed national schemes need to be revised after which an independent consultant assesses whether the revised scheme <b>is conforms to</b> the PEFC Council (PEFCC) requirements.'	Updated in the report.
Ch.1 / p.6	... re-endorsement was ...	delete: was	Updated in the report.
1.1 1st para, 2nd sent. Pg 6	'Form has implemented many studies in which national or international certification standards were analysed versus another standard or scheme, for example for FSC and Keurhout.'	'Form has implemented many studies in which national or international certification standards were analysed <del>versus</del> <b>against</b> another standard or scheme, for example <del>for</del> <b>under the</b> FSC and Keurhout.'	Updated in the report.
1.1 2nd para Pg 6	'The conformity assessment team consists of ...'	'The conformity assessment team <del>consisted</del> <b>eds</b> of ...'	Updated in the report.
1.2 Pg 6	'The scope of this assessment is to assess ...'	'The scope of this assessment <del>is</del> <b>was</b> to assess ...'	Updated in the report.
1.3 Pg 6/7	'Various documents and resources were used in this conformity assessment. The documents received from MTCC are shown in table 1.1. Table 1.2 lists the documents used from PEFCC.'	'Various documents and resources were used in this conformity assessment. The documents received from MTCC are shown in <del>†</del> Table 1.1. Table 1.2 lists the <b>PEFCC</b> documents <b>outlining scheme and standard requirements</b> <del>used from.</del> '	Updated in the report, although differently.
1.4 a. Pg 8	'The checklist (part I of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012) has been used to assess the	'The checklist (part I of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 – <b>see Annex 1 at page 31</b> ) has been used to assess	This is a general reference to PEFC documentation and does not



1.4 b.	<p>compliance of the revision process of the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation Standard with the demands of PEFC concerning the standard setting process. As the standard setting procedures were already assessed and endorsed by PEFC in 2014, the current assessment only assessed the compliance of the standard setting process itself.'</p> <p>'The MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 compliance with PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management was assessed based on part III of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012.'</p>	<p>the compliance of the revision process of the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 Standard with the demands of PEFC concerning the standard setting process. As the <b>MTCS's</b> standard setting procedures were already assessed and endorsed by PEFC in 2014, the current assessment only assessed the compliance of the standard setting process itself.'</p> <p>'The MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 compliance with PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management was assessed based on part III of PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 <b>(Annex 1 at page 58)</b>.'</p>	<p>specifically refer to the Annex. References to the annexes are made in the respective chapters. It shall be noted that "MC&amp;I Forest Plantation Standard" is a general reference to "MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2".</p>
<p><b>1.5</b> 1. 1<sup>st</sup> para Pg 8 2<sup>nd</sup> para</p>	<p>'No comments of the public were received.'</p> <p>'The national stakeholder consultation was held from 13 May 2015 to 25 May 2015. Form sent out questionnaires to all stakeholders that were members of the SRC and additional stakeholders that participated in public consultation meetings during the revision process. In total about 150 questionnaires were sent out, 11 responses were received.'</p>	<p>'No comments <del>of</del> <b>from</b> the public were received <b>by the PEFC</b>.'</p> <p>'The <b>consultant's</b> national stakeholder consultation was held from 13 May 2015 to 25 May 2015. Form sent out questionnaires to all stakeholders that were members of the SRC and additional stakeholders that participated in public consultation meetings during the revision process. In total, about 150 questionnaires were sent out; <b>and</b> 11 responses were received <b>by Form</b>.'</p>	<p>Updated in the report.</p>
<p><b>1.6</b> 1<sup>st</sup> sent Pg 9</p>	<p>'Chapter 2 gives an explicit statement in the form of a recommendation whether or not the Board of Directors of PEFC should adopt the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2.'</p>	<p>'Chapter 2 gives an explicit statement in the form of a recommendation <b>as to</b> whether or not the Board of Directors of PEFC should adopt the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2.'</p>	<p>Updated in the report.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Pg 10</p>	<p>'Based on the results of this conformity assessment, Form international recommends</p>	<p>'Based on the results of this conformity assessment, Form international recommends <b>that</b></p>	<p>Not updated, to remain consistency with other conformity assessment</p>



	the PEFC Board of Directors <b>to endorse the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2</b> , on the condition that the identified non-conformities shall be corrected within 6 months after re-endorsement.'	the PEFC Board of Directors <del>to endorse the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2</del> , on the condition that the identified non-conformities shall be corrected within 6 months after <b>the decision on</b> re-endorsement.'	reports.
3.1 Pg 11	'All these non-conformities are classified as minor and most them could easily be solved by providing additional evidence or by small updates in the standard.'	'All these non-conformities are classified as minor and most them could easily be <del>solved</del> <b>rectified</b> by providing additional evidence or by small updates in the standard.'	Updated in the report.
3.2 Pg 11	'The first standard was reassessed in 2014, the latter standard is assessed in the current assessment. The MTCS was first endorsed by PEFC in 2009, and its forest plantation standard in 2012.'	'The <del>first</del> <b>former</b> standard was reassessed in 2014, the latter standard is assessed in <del>thise</del> <b>thi</b> se current assessment. The MTCS was first endorsed by <del>the</del> <b>the</b> PEFC in 2009, and its forest plantation standard in 2012.'	Partly updated in the report.
3.3 Pg 11	'The process was conducted according to the standard-setting procedures and the respondents of the stakeholder survey had no complaints about the process and their possibilities to contribute to the revision process. There was however 1 non-conformity found, which is classified as minor.'	The process was conducted according to the standard-setting procedures and the respondents of the stakeholder survey had no complaints about the process and their <del>possibilities</del> <b>opportunities</b> to contribute to the revision process. <b>However, there was however 4 one</b> non-conformity found, which is classified as minor.'	Updated in the report.
3.4 Pg 11	'In total 7 non-conformities are found, which are all classified as minor: □□Criteria 5.1.4: It is not guaranteed by the standard or provided legislation that the forest management plans shall be periodically updated; □□Criteria 5.1.11:... .. Next, the standard does not ensure that conversion shall make a	In total, <del>seven</del> <b>seven</b> 7 non-conformities are found, which <del>are</del> <b>were</b> all classified as minor: □□Criteria 5.1.4: It is not guaranteed by the standard or provided <b>for in</b> legislation that the forest management plans shall be periodically updated; □□Criteria 5.1.11: ... .. Next <b>Furthermore</b> , the standard does not ensure that conversion shall	Partly updated in the report



	contribution to long-term conservation;	make a contribution to long-term conservation;	
4.1, 1 <sup>st</sup> para Pg 13  2 <sup>nd</sup> para	‘Forests cover over 18.48 million hectares in Malaysia, making up 56% of the land area. Of these forests, over 14.6 million hectares are Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF). The remaining 20% of forests are stateland and alienated forests or national parks, wildlife and bird sanctuaries.’ A Forest Plantation Development Programme was launched in 2005, aiming at the establishment of 375,000 ha of forest plantations by 2020.	‘Forests cover over 18.48 million hectares ( <b>ha</b> ) in Malaysia, making up 56 <b>per cent</b> % of the land area. Of these forests, over 14.6 million hectares are <b>designated as</b> Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF). The remaining 20 <b>per cent</b> % of forests are stateland and alienated forests or national parks, wildlife and bird sanctuaries.’ A Forest Plantation Development Programme was launched in 2005; <b>which aimed in</b> g at the establishment of 375,000 ha of forest plantations by 2020.	Partly updated in the report.
4.2 1 <sup>st</sup> para, last sent Pg 13 2 <sup>nd</sup> para	‘The first standard was re-assessed in 2014, the latter standard is assessed in the current assessment.’ The MTCS was endorsed by PEFC in 2009, and its forest plantation standard in 2012. MTCS was the first tropical timber certification system in Southeast Asia to be endorsed by PEFC.	‘The <del>first</del> <b>former</b> standard was re-assessed in 2014, the latter standard is assessed in the current assessment.’ The MTCS was endorsed by <b>the</b> PEFC in 2009, and its forest plantation standard in 2012. MTCS was the first tropical timber certification system in Southeast Asia to be endorsed by <b>the</b> PEFC.	Partly updated in the report.
5. Pg 14	This chapter presents the non-conformity and observations found in the Standard Setting Process. There is 1 non-conformity found, classified as minor nonconformity. Standard Setting Procedures were not assessed, as these were assessed and endorsed in 2014. The Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist related to the Standard Setting Procedures and Process can be found in Annex 1 part I, which presents all the conformities, non-conformity and	This chapter presents the non-conformity and observations found in the Standard Setting Process. There is <del>1</del> <b>was one</b> non-conformity found; <b>which was</b> classified as minor nonconformity. Standard Setting Procedures were not assessed, as these were assessed and endorsed in 2014 <b>within the MTCS</b> . The Standard and Scheme Requirement Checklist related to the Standard Setting Procedures and Process can be found in Annex 1 <del>p</del> <b>Part</b> I, which presents all the conformities,	Partly updated in the report.



	related references.	non-conformity and related references.	
5.1, 3 <sup>rd</sup> para	‘No complaints on the process were received part of the stakeholder survey and respondents were generally very positive on the process and the outcome of the process. See Annex 2 for a further elaboration on the outcome of the stakeholder survey.’	‘No complaints on the process were received <del>part of</del> <b>in responses to</b> the stakeholder survey and respondents were generally very positive on the process and the outcome of the process. See Annex 2 <del>for a</del> <b>provides</b> further elaboration on the outcome of the stakeholder survey.’	Partly updated in the report.
5 <sup>th</sup> para	‘Next, 1 observation is identified:’	‘ <del>Next</del> <b>Furthermore, 1 one</b> observation <del>is</del> <b>was</b> identified.’	
5.2, Pg 15	‘Below, the non-conformity is presented, followed by a selection of conformities that to the opinion of the assessment team are critical issues and/or illustrative examples of the Standard Setting Process. The non-conformity and conformities start with the requirement (text in a block), followed by references providing the evidence for conformity with the requirement (normal and/or bold text), clarification by the consultant (italic text) and closed with a statement on the conformity.’	‘ <del>Below, the</del> <b>The</b> non-conformity is presented, <b>and</b> followed by a selection of conformities that to the opinion of the assessment team are critical issues and/or illustrative examples of the Standard Setting Process. The non-conformity and conformities start with the requirement (text in a block), followed by references <b>used by the Assessors in</b> providing the evidence for conformity with the requirement (normal and/or bold text), clarification by the <del>consultant</del> <b>Assessors</b> (italic text) and closed with a statement on the conformity.’	Partly updated in the report.
5.2.1, 5.3 Pg 15	<i>No reference was found in the announcement letter, nor on the website that stakeholders were invited to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process.</i>	<i>No reference was found in the announcement letter, nor on the <b>MTCC</b> website that stakeholders were invited to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process.</i>	Updated in the report.
4.4 Pg 16	<b>Letter formation SRC, dd 29 January 2013:</b> <i>Summaries and compilations of comments,</i>	<b>Letter on the formation of SRC, dd 29 January 2013:</b> <i>Summaries and compilations of comments,</i>	
5.6 f) Pg 18	<i>including the comments and decision of the SRC arecan be found on the website.</i>	<i>including the comments and decision of the SRC arecan be found on the <b>MTCC</b> website.</i>	



Ch.5.2.2 / p.18	... the SRC are can.	delete: are	Updated in the report.
6. Pg 19	'In total 7 non-conformities are identified, which are all classified as minor.'	'In total, 7 <b>seven</b> non-conformities <del>are were</del> identified, which are all classified as minor.'	Partly updated in the report.
6.1, 2 <sup>nd</sup> para Pg 19  3 <sup>rd</sup> para	'In general the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standard is clear in its objective to manage the forest plantations in a sustainable and in the best possible way. The improvement cycle of inventory, planning, implementation, evaluation and reviewed actions is an important tool used in the standard.'  'However, in total 7 non-conformities are identified, which are all classified as minor. The majority of the non-conformities can be addressed by more precise and complete formulation in the scheme documentation or by providing new evidence (e.g. legislation). Next, 6 observations are identified.'	'In general, the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standard is clear in its objective to manage the forest plantations in a sustainable <b>manner</b> and in the best possible way. The improvement cycle of inventory, planning, implementation, evaluation and reviewed actions is an important tool used in <del>the this</del> standard.'  'However, in total, 7 <b>seven</b> non-conformities <del>are were</del> identified, which are all classified as minor. The majority of the non-conformities can be addressed by more precise and complete formulation in the scheme documentation or by providing new evidence (e.g. legislation). <del>Next</del> <b>Furthermore, 6 six</b> observations <del>are were</del> identified.'	Partly updated in the report.
6.2 Pg 20	'Below, the non-conformities are presented, followed by a selection of conformities that to the opinion of the assessment team are critical issues and/or illustrative examples of the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standard. The non-conformities and conformities start with the requirement (text in a block), followed by references providing the evidence for conformity with the requirement (normal and/or bold text), clarification by the consultant (italic text) and	' <del>Below, the</del> <b>The</b> non-conformities are presented, <b>and</b> followed by a selection of conformities that to the opinion of the assessment team are critical issues and/or illustrative examples of the MC&I Forest Plantation.v2 standard. The non-conformities and conformities start with the requirement (text in a block), followed by references <b>used by Assessors in</b> providing the evidence for conformity with the requirement (normal and/or bold text), clarification by the <del>consultant</del> <b>Assessors</b> (italic text) and closed	Partly updated in the report.



	closed with a statement on the conformity and if needed, a corrective action request (underlined text).	with a statement on the conformity and if needed, a corrective action request (underlined text).	
6.2.1 5.1.4 Pg 21	<i>'However, it is not guaranteed by the standard or provided legislation that the forest management plans shall be periodically updated.'</i>	<i>'However, it is not guaranteed by the standard or provided <b>for in</b> legislation that the forest management plans shall be periodically updated.'</i>	Partly updated in the report.
6.2.1 5.1.18	<i>'Although the above mentioned clauses do indicate that different qualifications and trainings for different roles are assumed, the definition and assignment of responsibilities is not sufficiently ensured'</i>	<i>'Although the above mentioned clauses <del>do</del> indicate that different qualifications and trainings for different roles are assumed, the definition and assignment of responsibilities is not sufficiently ensured.'</i>	Updated in the report.
6.2.1 5.1.11 Pg 23	<i>Furthermore, no definition of "very limited portion" is given. The MC&amp;I Natural forest standard contains such definition, but no evidence was found that the MC&amp;I Natural forest requirement about conversion is applicable under the forest plantation standard.'</i>	<i>Furthermore, no definition of "very limited portion" is <b>provided given</b>. The MC&amp;I Natural forest standard contains such definition, but no evidence was found that the MC&amp;I Natural forest requirement about conversion is applicable under the <b>MC&amp;I</b> forest plantation.v2 standard.'</i>	Partly updated in the report.
6.2.1 5.4.3 Pg 25	<i>'The referenced laws do still allow for licensed exploitation of endangered and protected species for commercial purposes, which is not allowed under PEFC.'</i>	<i>'The referenced laws <del>do still</del> allow for <b>the</b> licensed exploitation of endangered and protected species for commercial purposes, which is not allowed under <b>the</b> PEFC.'</i>	Partly updated in the report.
6.2.1 5.6.10 Pg 25	<i>'No references are found sufficiently ensuring <b>effective</b> communication with local people and other stakeholders.'</i>	<i>'No references are found <b>that</b> sufficiently <b>ensure ensuring effective</b> communication with local people and other stakeholders.'</i>	Updated in the report.
p. 31	... assessment not ...	... assessment / N.A. (add dash)	The text 'process assessment not applicable' is intended to be explanatory to the N.A. abbreviation in the previous



			column.
4.2, Pg 32	<i>'The Standard Setting Procedures could be found on the MTCC website (www.mtcc.com.my). These Procedures were reviewed during the re-assessment of the complete Scheme in 2014.'</i>	<i>The Standard Setting Procedures could be found on the MTCC website (www.mtcc.com.my). These Procedures were reviewed during the re-assessment of the complete <b>MTCS Scheme</b> in 2014.'</i>	Updated in the report
p.32 (4.3)	... process are found ...	... process were found ...	Updated in the report
4.3, Pg 32	<i>'Accurate and well organized records relating to the standard-setting process are found. Some of these records, such as the minutes of the four meetings of the Standards Review Committee (SRC) are included in the Report on Review as appendices.'</i>	<i>'Accurate and well organized records relating to the standard-setting process <del>are</del> <b>were</b> found. Some of these records, such as the minutes of the four meetings of the Standards Review Committee (SRC) <del>are</del> <b>were</b> included in the Report on Review as appendices.'</i>	Updated in the report
4.4, Pg 33	<b>Letter formation SRC, dd 29 January 2013:</b>	<b>Letter on the formation of SRC, dd 29 January 2013:</b> [Also, where used elsewhere in report]	Updated in the report
4.5, Pg 37	<i>'The Dispute Resolution Procedures (DRP 2/2013) could be found on the MTCC website (www.mtcc.com.my).'</i>	<i>'The Dispute Resolution Procedures (DRP 2/2013) <b>applicable under the MTCS</b> could be found on the MTCC website (www.mtcc.com.my).'</i>	Updated in the report.
5.3 a), Pg 41	<i>'The standard setting procedures and a more detailed time schedule is found in the appendices to the announcement letter.'</i>	<i>'The standard setting procedures and a more detailed time schedule <b>is were</b> found in the appendices to the announcement letter.'</i>	Updated in the report.
d) Pg 43	<i>'No reference was found in the announcement letter, nor on the website that stakeholders were invited to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process.'</i>	<i>'No reference was found in the announcement letter, nor on the <b>MTCC</b> website that stakeholders were invited to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process.'</i>	
e) Pg 44	<i>'The Standard Setting Procedures were available via a link.'</i>	<i>'The Standard Setting Procedures were available via a link <b>on the MTCC website</b>.'</i>	
p.42 (b.6)	... option fort the ...	... option for the ...	Not updated, as it is a typo in the



			original text.
p.43 (c.6)	... option fort the ...	... option for the ...	Not updated, as it is a typo in the original text.
p.45 (4.1.6)	... received which were duly ...	...which was duly ...	Not updated, as it is a typo in the original text.
5.6 a) Pg 50  c) Pg 51 e) Pg 51  f) Pg 52	<p><i>'To the opinion of the assessor, the announcements of public consultations are made in suitable media and in a timely manner.'</i></p> <p><i>'All the announcements on the website (news items) contained links to the enquiry drafts.'</i></p> <p><i>'Summaries and compilations of comments, including the comments and decision of the SRC can be found on the website.'</i></p> <p><i>'Summaries and compilations of comments, including the comments and decision of the SRC are found on the website.'</i></p>	<p><del>To</del> <i><b>In</b> the opinion of the assessor, the announcements of public consultations are made in suitable media and in a timely manner.'</i></p> <p><i>'All the announcements on the <b>MTCC</b> website (news items) contained links to the enquiry drafts.'</i></p> <p><i>'Summaries and compilations of comments, including the comments and decision of the SRC can be found on the <b>MTCC</b> website.'</i></p> <p><i>'Summaries and compilations of comments, including the comments and decision of the SRC are found on the <b>MTCC</b> website.'</i></p>	Updated in the report.
5.11, Pg 55	<i>'Observation: no reference was found that the adoption was based on evidence of consensus reached by the SRC.'</i>	<i>'Observation: no reference was found that the adoption <b>by the MTCC Board of the revised standard</b> was based on evidence of consensus reached by the SRC.'</i>	Updated in the report.
4.1 d) Pg 59	<i>'Although no reference is found that explicitly requires record-keeping, many records are mentioned in the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 standard and will be verified during the audits.'</i>	<i>'Although no reference is found that explicitly requires record-keeping, many records are mentioned in the MC&amp;I Forest Plantation.v2 standard and will be verified during <b>the forest management certification</b> audits.'</i>	Updated in the report.
5.1.2, Pg 60/61	<i>'<b>Observation:</b> although <b>economic</b> impacts of forest management operations are not explicitly covered by the standard, this is more indirectly covered in amongst others the above mentioned</i>	<i>'<b>Observation:</b> although <b>economic</b> impacts of forest management operations are not explicitly covered by the standard, this is more indirectly covered in amongst <del>others</del> <b>the [elements/components] of</b></i>	Partly updated in the report.



	<i>clauses.'</i>	<i>the above mentioned clauses.'</i>	
<b>5.4.3,</b> Pg 75	<i>'The referenced laws do still allow for licensed exploitation of endangered and protected species for commercial purposes, which is not allowed under PEFC.'</i>	<i>'The referenced laws <del>do</del> still allows for licensed exploitation of endangered and protected species for commercial purposes, which is not allowed under PEFC.'</i>	Updated in the report.
<b>Annex 2</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> para Pg 91	'The stakeholder survey (questionnaire presented below) has been sent on 13 of May 2015, by E-mail in English and Malay language, to about 150 stakeholders, based on a stakeholder list provided by MTCC.'	'The stakeholder survey (questionnaire presented below) <del>has been</del> <b>was sent by the Assessors</b> on 13 of May 2015, by E-mail in English and Malay languages to about 150 stakeholders, based on a stakeholder list provided by MTCC.'	Partly updated in the report.
3 <sup>rd</sup> para Pg 91	'Most of the respondents actively participated in the revision process. More than half of the respondents (7/11) were member of the Standards Review Committee (SRC). As a motivation to contribute to the revision of the MC&I Forest Plantations v.2, most respondents said it was important to them to represent their stakeholder group, to make sure conservation issues were taken into account, that it would be a standard that companies could comply with, that would be independent and withstanding the critical attitude of (international) NGO's.	'Most of the respondents actively participated in the revision process. More than half of the respondents (7/11) were <b>a</b> member of the Standards Review Committee (SRC). As a motivation to contribute to the revision of the MC&I Forest Plantations v.2, most respondents said it was important to them to represent their stakeholder group, to make sure conservation issues were taken into account, that it would be a standard that companies could comply with, that would be independent and <b>able to</b> withstanding the critical attitude of (international) NGO's.	Updated in the report.
4 <sup>th</sup> para Pg 91	'In general the questions of the survey were answered positively. The information provided by the SRC and / or MTCC secretariat, such as draft documents, invitations for meetings and minutes of meetings were efficiently spread (often by Email) amongst the members of the SRC, in a timely manner. The content of those	'In general, the questions of the survey were answered positively. The information provided by the SRC and / or MTCC secretariat, such as draft documents, invitations for meetings and minutes of meetings were efficiently spread (often by Email) amongst the members of the SRC, in a timely manner. The content of those	Updated in the report.



	documents was considered relevant by the respondents. Especially the minutes were considered to be very accurate and elaborate, reflecting well the discussions and deliberations on every issue that was raised, either by SRC member or by participants of regional stakeholder meetings and public comment periods.	documents was considered relevant by the respondents. <del>Especially the</del> <b>The</b> minutes, <b>especially</b> , were considered to be very accurate and elaborate, reflecting well <b>of</b> the discussions and deliberations on every issue that was raised, either by SRC member or by participants of regional stakeholder meetings and public comment periods.	
5 <sup>th</sup> para Pg 91	'In general, the composition of the SRC was considered balanced. Stakeholder categories were defined as follows:'	'In general, the composition of the SRC ( <b>Table 1</b> ) was considered balanced. Stakeholder categories were defined as follows:'	Updated in the report.
6 <sup>th</sup> para Pg 91	'The predefined composition of the SRC would allow for one representative per stakeholder category and per geographical region (Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia were distinguished).'	'The predefined composition of the SRC would allow for one representative per stakeholder category and per <b>recognised</b> geographical region <b>of Malaysia</b> (Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia were distinguished).'	Updated in the report.
p.92	... considered this is issue ...	... this is an issue ...	Updated in the report.
7 <sup>th</sup> para Pg 92	'Nomination and acceptance of nominees was well described and in some cases facilitated by the MTCC Secretariat, if the stakeholder group wanted to make use of these facilities.'	'Nomination and <del>acceptation</del> <b>acceptance</b> of nominees was well described and in some cases facilitated by the MTCC Secretariat, if the stakeholder group wanted to make use of these facilities.'	Updated in the report.
8 <sup>th</sup> paraPg 92	'Two respondents indicated unbalanced representation, suggesting OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Administration) and JHEKS (Jabatan Hal Ehwal Kesatuan Sekerja = Department of Trade Union Affairs ) representatives should have been part of the SRC and that State Government agencies, that	'Two respondents indicated unbalanced representation, suggesting <b>that</b> OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Administration) and JHEKS (Jabatan Hal Ehwal Kesatuan Sekerja = Department of Trade Union Affairs ) representatives should have been part of the SRC and that State Government agencies, that are keen	Updated in the report.



	are keen to pursue Forest Plantation establishment and private sectors, should have been reached out to.	to pursue Forest Plantation establishment and private sectors, should have been <del>reached</del> <b>sought out for membership to.</b>	
12 <sup>th</sup> para Pg 93	The questionnaires have been answered in a positive way and most respondents have been pleased with the way the MTCC Secretariat and the SRC has led the process and carried out her tasks so far.	The questionnaires have been answered in a positive way and most respondents have been pleased with the way the MTCC Secretariat and the SRC has led the process and carried out <del>her</del> <b>their</b> tasks so far <b>as the revision process was implemented for the standard.</b>	Updated in the report.
13 <sup>th</sup> para Pg 93	The questionnaire is presented on the next pages.	<del>The questionnaire is presented on the next pages.</del>	Not updated in the report.





