

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND STUMP-TO-FOREST GATE CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY SURVEILLANCE EVALUATION REPORT

Skogscertifiering Prosilva AB

SCS-FM/COC-00153G

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Foreword

Cycle in annual surveillance evaluations				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd annual evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 th annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (expansion of scope, Major CAR audit, special audit, etc.):
Name of Forest Management Enterprise (FME) and abbreviation used in this report:				
Skogscertifiering Prosilva, Prosilva, and Group Entity (GE)				

All certificates issued by SCS under the aegis of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) require annual evaluations to ascertain ongoing conformance with the requirements and standards of certification. A public summary of the initial evaluation is available on the FSC Certificate Database <http://info.fsc.org/>.

Pursuant to FSC and SCS guidelines, annual / surveillance evaluations are not intended to comprehensively examine the full scope of the certified forest operations, as the cost of a full-scope evaluation would be prohibitive and it is not mandated by FSC evaluation protocols. Rather, annual evaluations are comprised of three main components:

- A focused assessment of the status of any outstanding conditions or Corrective Action Requests (CARs; see discussion in section 4.0 for those CARs and their disposition as a result of this annual evaluation);
- Follow-up inquiry into any issues that may have arisen since the award of certification or prior to this evaluation; and
- As necessary given the breadth of coverage associated with the first two components, an additional focus on selected topics or issues, the selection of which is not known to the certificate holder prior to the evaluation.

Organization of the Report

This report of the results of our evaluation is divided into two sections. Section A provides the public summary and background information that is required by the Forest Stewardship Council. This section is made available to the public and is intended to provide an overview of the evaluation process, the management programs and policies applied to the forest, and the results of the evaluation. Section A will be posted on the FSC Certificate Database (<http://info.fsc.org/>) no less than 90 days after completion of the on-site evaluation. Section B contains more detailed results and information for required FSC record-keeping or the use by the FME.

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SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

1. General Information

1.1 Evaluation Team

Auditor name:	Stefan A. Bergmann	Auditor role:	Audit Team Leader
Qualifications:	Mr. Bergmann has been in the forestry and wood products field for nearly 20 years, working across the US on forest policy, landowner extension, and forest certification. He also has senior staff executive experience with two forestry non-profits in the Midwest. Prior to joining SCS in 2017, he worked for Rainforest Alliance, overseeing the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Forest Management auditing program in the US. He has successfully completed FSC Forest Management Lead Auditor training, ISO 9001 Lead Auditor training, and is qualified to be an SFI team auditor. He has served as lead and team auditors on numerous FSC FM audits around the country. He holds a BS in Wildlife Science and an MS in Forest Resources, both from Oregon State University, and recently completed an MBA at the University of California Davis.		
Auditor name:	Patrik Vendel	Auditor role:	Team Auditor
Qualifications:	Master's degree in Biology, Bachelor's degree in Forest Science. Work experience as an internal auditor for PEFC® FM and FSC FM between 2011 and 2017. Qualified as Lead Auditor for FSC CoC since 2018. Qualified as Lead Auditor for PEFC CoC and PEFC FM since 2017. Technical Expert on Swedish forestry and the Swedish FSC FM standard. Passed the FSC FM Lead Auditor course 2020.		

1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation

A. Number of days spent on-site for evaluation:	31
B. Number of auditors participating in on-site evaluation:	1
C. Number of days spent by any technical experts (in addition to amount in line A):	0
D. Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and follow-up:	19
E. Total number of person days used in evaluation:	50

1.3 Standards Used

All standards used are available on the websites of FSC International (www.fsc.org) or SCS Global Services (www.SCSglobalServices.com). All standards are available on request from SCS Global Services via the comment form on our website. When no national standard exists for the country/region, SCS Interim Standards are developed by modifying SCS's Generic Interim Standard to reflect forest management in the region and by incorporating relevant components of any Draft Regional/National Standard and comments from stakeholders. More than one month prior to the start of the field evaluation, SCS Draft Interim Standards are provided to stakeholders identified by FSC International, SCS, forest managers under evaluation, and the FSC National or Regional Office for comment. SCS's COC indicators for FMEs are based on the most current versions of the FSC Chain of Custody Standard, FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups (FSC-STD-30-005), and FSC Accreditation Requirements.

Standards applicable <i>NOTE: Please include the full standard name</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship Standard(s), including version: Swedish V2-2, 5 May 2010
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC Trademark Standard (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0)

and Version number and check all that apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCS COC indicators for FMEs, V8-0
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups (FSC-STD-30-005), V1-1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

2. Certification Evaluation Process

2.1 Evaluation Itinerary, Activities, and Site Notes¹

Date: 26-28 August 2020	
Field Office/Area: ² S-2456, S-2491, S-3393, S-5216, S-5439	
FMU/ location/ sites visited	Activities/ notes
Karlstad, Molkom	Field office opening meeting: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.
Interviews & stakeholder consultation	<p>Review of management plan and interview with group member. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring of these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies.</p> <p>All members except for S-3393 are at least partly active in silviculture operations, predominately planting and pre-commercial thinning. Management plans are younger than 10 years or have been updated. Members demonstrated basic to good knowledge on need for monitoring and active silviculture; for example, all were aware of where and approximately when operations had been carried out. S2456, S3393 and S5216 had documented activities. All operations were monitored either by the group member or the company hired for each operation.</p>
Field site visits	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, silviculture operations, etc.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-5216</i> <u>ID 27</u>: Final felling. Wetter areas within the stand has been identified as consideration areas as well as an area with younger, but taller trees. Conservation trees and potential conservation trees have been identified.</p> <p><u>ID 21</u>: Conservation area left without management. Previously run through with ditches but these have not been managed and the</p>

¹ Note that because of logistics of conducting the field work for the large sample size required for this group, field site visits began prior to the opening meeting of the audit. The opening meeting occurred on 16 September 2020.

² Prosilva’s internal reference numbers are used for each member in group. Identification numbers are used for each site visit on a group member property.

	<p>stand is now not suitable for production. No operations seem to have been taken.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-2491</i> <u>ID 195</u>: Pre-commercial thinning by the group member. A varied stand has been created with smaller gaps and a variety of species (pine, spruce and birch). Several older stems were identified and would constitute future conservation trees. Not optimal from a production standpoint but assessed to have good future qualities combining ecological and production values.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-3393</i> <u>ID 51</u>: Set aside area with management needs. Goal to create a natural broadleaf forest. Management activities identified as being correct and suitable for the purpose.</p> <p><u>ID 52/59</u>: Planting of oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>). Overall good quality planting with adequate plant survival. Due to drought, about 5-10% of the plants were assessed to have died and group member has assigned the plant supplier to make additional efforts to reach 100%.</p> <p><u>ID 12</u>: Pre-commercial thinning. Spruce-dominated stand where broadleaf trees have been favored to reach about 10% of total volume.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-5439</i> <u>ID Arvika Öjerud 1:56</u>: Final felling of spruce dominated stand. Potential conservation trees identified (broadleaf) and two consideration areas left. High stumps created across the area. No damage to the soil/ground except for in two wetter areas where there are clear tracks. These do not however affect any waterbodies.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-2456</i> <u>ID 26</u>: Final felling and succeeding regeneration. Good quality scarification (with digger) creating many high end planting points with a high plant survival. Species planted depending on ground conditions (spruce or pine). No areas unsuitable for planting. Final felling adequate with regards to existing dead wood and high stumps. Interview with group member during field visit, 4 to 5 windthrown trees of potential conservation trees had been taken out since final felling.</p> <p><u>ID 25</u>: Pre-commercial thinning. Spruce dominated stand with a few elements of broadleaf trees of same age. A large number of younger shoots was identified and the aim was to leave a sufficient number of these in coming activities. Overall good quality pre-</p>
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	<p>commercial thinning although not quite adequate. Consequently, next management activity will need to be done earlier.</p> <p><u>ID 17</u>: Thinning. Broadleaf trees felled but an acceptable number still left given they remain until final felling. Good quality thinning operations overall, some damages on remaining production trees from the forwarder but concentrated to a smaller area. No damage observed to soil.</p>
<p>Date: 2-4 September 2020 Field Office/Area: Kopparfors Skogar</p>	
<p>FMU/ location/ sites visited</p>	<p>Activities/ notes</p>
<p>Kopparfors Skogar office</p>	<p>Field office opening meeting: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with company personnel and external stakeholders where identified. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies.</p> <p>Young company, only 1 year old. Annual harvesting levels are calculated using the program HEUREKA. All final fellings via a larger PEFC/FSC-certified forest company (StoraEnso Skog) but planning via own personnel/hired planner. Interviews with personnel demonstrated good knowledge on respective responsibilities/work assignments. Regular training on conservation, effective planning, etc. is logged in a training ledger and the training database Skötselskolan. Monitoring activities are planned to be conducted yearly using a sample-based approach. Identification of need for pre-commercial thinnings demonstrated by personnel and done regularly. For own management operations, PEFC-certified contractors are hired to verify that applicable FSC indicators are met. Interview with affected Sami community with only positive feedback.</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, public recreation access points, etc.</p> <p>Review of operational site directives, interviews with forest operations managers and onsite visits. Planning was well executed for all operations with all required information available and several maps, including waterways and wetter consideration areas.</p>

	<p><u>ID 501416</u>: Planting, Scots Pine. Mechanical protection observed. Few plants had survived for an approved rejuvenation but enough consideration trees had been left which will act as seed trees. Harrow used for soil scarification and done mostly through remnants of a charcoal kiln (“kolbotten”) before being discovered. Also damage from scarification to a small wetter area but with no mudslides.</p> <p><u>ID 225157322</u>: 1ha and 1ha “kolbotten” identified in planning stage. Consideration stumps placed a good distance to protect them. Conservation trees along with future conservation trees of sufficient number. Fresh high stumps identified, no evidence of damaging old dead wood. No soil damage identified.</p> <p><u>ID 261179006</u>: Final felling, 9.6ha. Stand dominated by Scots pine. Conservation trees along with future conservation trees of sufficient number, primarily in a larger consideration area. Fresh high stumps identified, no evidence of damaging old dead wood. No soil damage identified. In the NW, a large cultural heritage site (mining area), well managed with no visible damage.</p> <p><u>ID 263189377</u>: Planned final felling, 9.2ha. Stand dominated by Scots pine. Riparian zones are planned towards a march and for a wetter area, visible on the overhead map and observed on site (markings in the stand). Good distance and well placed. 3 Kolbottnar identified, all marked in the overhead map and in the stand.</p> <p><u>ID 263188646</u>: Planned final felling, 2ha. Stand dominated by Scots pine. Riparian zone is planned towards a low productive area and for a wetter area, visible on the overhead map and observed on site (markings in the stand). At least 2 conservation trees identified and clearly marked. Review of Nature Value Assessment, good quality and adequate assessment.</p> <p><u>ID 263191132</u>: Final felling in a thin zone with windthrown trees, adjacent to a larger area (Jätten), previously clear cut, which on its own is a cultural heritage site. The felling of the thinner zone correctly done with at least 2 windthrown trees left. The felling in Jätten includes many conservation trees and potential conservation trees left. Great care has been taken to the heritage site including reforestation actions with will be done with seed sowing of deciduous trees. One ancient remains (a lower wall) had been affected in connection by the forwarder of the tops and branches, however not seemingly damaged. A creek crossing had been done correctly but all material had not been removed afterward. No significant effect on the stream, however.</p>
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	<p><u>ID 261180247</u>: 2 separate stands, thinnings, pine dominated. Good planning to avoid soil and water damage. Several potential conservation trees identified and left, good consideration to the adjacent marsh. Several damaged trees in one of the remaining stands, otherwise good quality. No identified high stumps created in the older of the 2 stands.</p> <p><u>ID 500280</u>: Ongoing pre-commercial thinning, 12.6ha. Interview with forest contractor and employee to verify working conditions, training, information on operational site directives given by the group member. Only positive feedback. Overall good quality operation with about 10% of the remaining stand being deciduous trees. Several future consideration trees identified as being left during field visit. Two creeks dividing the stand, mostly good and varied buffer zones created around these as to smaller consideration areas in connection with the creeks.</p> <p><u>ID 500244</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, 3.9ha, spruce dominated, adjacent to a creek. Good quality pre-commercial thinning with 10-15% deciduous trees left. Two areas on the east side of the creek mostly left unaffected. Buffer zone created nearest to the creek sufficient with mainly deciduous trees in it.</p> <p><u>ID 66F8d8543/ 83</u>: Set aside area, 9.25ha. Area preliminary identified as needing conservation management, which field visit confirmed. Suitable as a set aside area with at least 2 smaller glades and old grazing/farming areas with areas dominated by spruce with elements of older birch and aspen. Work has begun cataloguing set aside areas to determine need of conservation management as described by the operations manager.</p> <p><u>ID 66F8d7438/ 116 and 7139/ 116</u>: One set aside area composed of two individual sites (adjacent to one another).</p> <p>7438/ 116 (8.52ha): Set aside with conservation management. Spruce dominated, older stand with elements of dead wood and natural regeneration. Harvested historically. <i>Goodyera repens</i> (orchid) identified near a path indicating an old growth spruce forest. Varied stand, suitable as a set aside area, however not the entire stand had the same value.</p> <p>7139/ 116 (4,79 ha): Set aside area, pine dominated, with no management activities planned. Good quality old growth pine forest with variations in age and elements of sun lit gaps. Work has begun cataloguing set aside areas to determine need of conservation management as described by the operations manager.</p>
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<p>Date: 8-9 September 2020 Field Office/Area: S-6106, S-5934, S-6213 & S-6215 (auditors remote)</p>	
<p>FMU/ location/ sites visited</p>	<p>Activities/ notes</p>
<p>Unnaryd, Ryd, Moheda, Jämsjö & Holmsjö</p>	<p>Field office opening meeting: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Review of process for internal audit by auditing the internal audit for group members. Internal audit process included review of Management Plan and interview with Group Member. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring of these activities. Also review of set aside areas.</p> <p>Group member properties S-6016, S-6213 and S-6215 needed revised management plans due to age or missing information. S-5934, S-6213 and S-5802 active in management (planting and pre-commercial thinning, S-6215 also thinning operations). Monitoring of forestry activities is done by the group members themselves or via hired help (wood purchaser was S-6213). Need for pre-commercial thinning known by all group members and planned for and/or commissioned (verified through interviews).</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, public recreation access points, etc.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-6106</i> <u>ID 60</u>: Final felling and subsequent regeneration, 0.6ha, spruce dominated. Stand exposed to spruce bark beetle (<i>Lps typographus</i>), is partly woodland on ancient farmland (ancient remain). No identified damages on the ground and no scarification. Riparian zone created towards an adjacent lake, pre-thinning of smaller trees done prior to harvesting to near the water but the harvester kept maximum distance, very good. Conservation trees identified left, and high stumps created. No damage on ancient remains.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-5934</i> <u>ID 514</u>: Pre-commercial thinning in a mixed stand with some height and dimension spread. Stand well clearing at least 10% broadleaf trees of total volume. Buffer zone created towards mire and smaller consideration areas. No operations in/near an ancient remains, there was no identified damages but normally remains should be kept clear. Consideration stumps created outside of the remain out of thinner stems—good practice. Some pine trees with grazing damage left untouched, also good.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-6213</i> <u>ID 3</u>: Suitable set aside area identified by the group member, dominated by broadleaves.</p>

	<p><i>Group member property S-6215</i> <u>ID 10</u>: Thinning operations in a set aside area. Suitable as a conservation stand with regular management activities. Thinning by group member, with good results, appropriate consideration taken to ecological values.</p>
<p>Date: 16-18 September 2020 Field Office/Area: S-5802 S-6219, S-6310, S-5971, S-5915, S-5136 (auditors remote)</p>	
FMU/ location/ sites visited	Activities/ notes
Various sites	Field office opening meeting: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.
Interviews & stakeholder consultation	<p>Review of process for internal audit by auditing the internal audit for group members. Internal audit process included review of management plan and interview with group member. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring of these activities. Also review of set aside areas.</p> <p>Review of management plans, all group members had plans younger than 10 years except for S-6219 (update ordered). All group members themselves active in regeneration and pre-commercial thinning. Group member properties S-5915, S-5971 and S-5802 also active in thinning operations. All aware of the current need for pre-commercial thinning, S-6219 and S-6310 were late with these operations. Monitoring of all forestry activities done by the group members.</p>
Field site visits	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, roadwork, public recreation access points, etc.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-5802</i> <u>ID 19</u>: Set aside area, need of regular management. Varied stand, dominated by broadleaf trees. No immediate need for management activities but must be monitored.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-6219</i> <u>ID 7</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, varied stand with smaller gaps, spruce dominated. Good quality when entering the stand but then becomes dense. Monitoring important to maintain a good quality production. Potential of leaving/favoring potential conservation trees.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-6310</i> <u>ID 15</u>: Set aside area, need of regular management. Varied stand, dominated by broadleaf trees. Certain need for management activities, especially to remove spruce.</p>

	<p><i>Group member property S-5971</i> <u>ID 20</u>: Final felling, 2.2ha, ongoing, managed via Vida Skog (PEFC/FSC certified). Spruce-dominated stand with few conservation trees. Potential conservation trees (pine) left where possible. Interview with wood purchaser to verify that appropriate number of retention trees will be left.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-5915</i> <u>ID 6/7</u>: Pre-commercial thinning and thinning operation. Spruce-dominated stands with areas dominated by birch. Elements of potential conservation trees identified. Evidence of broadleaf trees being favored to reach a higher volume in the stands, approximately 5-10% currently.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-5136</i> <u>ID 276</u>: Set aside area with no management activities required according to management plan. Old growth pine forest with elements of older broadleaf trees on drier soils. Seemingly unaffected for a long time with areas of WKH qualities.</p>
<p>Date: 16 September 2020 Field Office/Area: Prosilva Corporate Office (auditors remote)</p>	
<p>FMU/ location/ sites visited</p>	<p>Activities/ notes</p>
<p>Prosilva Corporate Office</p>	<p>Audit opening meeting: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, review of open CARs/OBS, and emergency and security procedures.</p>
<p>Stakeholder Consultation</p>	<p>Review stakeholder consultation process.</p>
<p>Date: 21-22 September 2020 Field Office/Area: Boxholms Skogar (auditors remote)</p>	
<p>Boxholms Skogar Office</p>	<p>Field office opening meeting: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with company personnel. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, including planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies.</p> <p>Annual harvesting levels are calculated using information in the system BESK. Interviews with personnel demonstrated good knowledge of respective responsibilities/work assignments. Regular training on conservation, effective planning, etc. is logged in a training ledger and reviewed for 2 employees. One training</p>

	<p>(Skyddsdikning/Dikesrensning) is due to be renewed in 2020/2021. Monitoring activities of final fellings are conducted yearly using a sample-based approach, a similar procedure is being produced 2020/2021 to include pre-commercial thinnings as well (per interviews with operations manager and field personnel). Identification of need for pre-commercial thinnings demonstrated by personnel and done regularly. Planning of forestry activities done by own personnel; planning material reviewed during field audits.</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, public recreation access points, etc.</p> <p><u>ID 803239</u>: Final felling, 65 years old, spruce dominated. Large damaged due to the spruce bark beetle (<i>Lps typographus</i>) and felled earlier than planned. Several consideration trees and potential consideration trees left in groups and as solitary trees. High stumps created could have been done with larger/older trees or trees recently killed. No damage to soil, tops and branches primarily in the logging routes when needed to avoid ground damage. Consideration stumps left around a potential cultural remain identified by the harvester.</p> <p><u>ID 803240</u>: Final felling, 65 years old, spruce dominated. Large damaged due to the spruce bark beetle (<i>Lps typographus</i>) and felled earlier than planned. Groups of potential consideration trees left across the harvested area to avoid large open areas. Groups of existing dead spruce trees also left. A smaller area dominated by deciduous trees left as consideration, high stumps created near this.</p> <p><u>ID 502606</u>: Planting, previously spruce-dominated area regenerated (large plants) with birch. Plants treated with Trico (“mechanical protection”) to deter from grazing. Good regeneration initially with a high survival rate. An area with a large number of windthrown trees left without scarification or planting. Another wetter area with several older deciduous trees left as consideration.</p> <p><u>ID 502644</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, self-regenerated mixed stand. Aim to create a stand with parts of the stand dominated by birch. A new strategy has been implemented on this stand to assess elements of deciduous trees where sample areas will be assessed along with an assessment of the entire stand. A variation in species has been promoted, in parts conifer trees has been promoted but in parts individual birch stems have been promoted. Strategy will be implemented elsewhere with the goal to find a structured way to promote deciduous trees on a larger scale.</p>

	<p>Good quality cleaning operations with deciduous trees promoted where present.</p> <p><u>ID 802757</u>: Thinning. Wetland broadleaf-dominated stand adjacent to the east constitutes the majority of the broadleaf in the area. Review of instruction for the harvester says to leave all broadleaf trees where available. Only 2 high stumps identified, unclear if more has been placed together further away.</p>
<p>Date: 23 September Field Office/Area: Engaholms Skogar (auditors remote)</p>	
<p>Engaholm field Office</p>	<p>Field office opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with company personnel. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies.</p> <p>Annual harvesting levels are calculated using the program HEUREKA. All final fellings via a larger PEFC/FSC-certified forest company (Sydved) including planning. Interviews with personnel demonstrated good knowledge on respective responsibilities/work assignments. Regular training on conservation, effective planning, etc. is logged in a training ledger, verified for field personnel. Monitoring activities is conducted yearly using a sample-based approach. Results are compiled after each season by operations manager. Regeneration is done with pine where suitable, previously using fencing to ward of moose but since 2019 without. Working actively to maintain a balance between wild game and food sources including favoring broadleaf trees in pre-commercial thinnings.</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites at each field office/area: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, roadwork, public recreation access points, etc. Sampling of 7 sites for field audit to include a variety of forestry operations.</p> <p><u>ID 11-2021</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, 40ha. Deciduous trees favored mainly in wetter areas and in gaps in the stand, thinned appropriately to enable better growth. Retention trees observed to be favored in clearing phase. Potential ancient remains found onsite, treated with care. Interview with operations manager to ensure it would be included in management plan maps.</p>

	<p><u>ID 13-2021</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, spruce-dominated stand with solitary broadleaf trees identified and groups in wetter areas. Assessment from field review that broadleaf make up only 2-3% of total volume. Managed well from a production standpoint given the circumstances of preliminary wrong tree species being planted. A large portion of the stand would have been more suited for pine. In interview with operations manager it was stated that the forest contractor would have the instruction that pine was the preferred tree species.</p> <p><u>ID avd 126, 129</u>: Final fellings, adjacent stands, spruce dominated. Younger stands partly damaged by storms.</p> <p>126: Previously managed as a monoculture with little potential consideration possible to take consequently. Potential conservation trees identified and left in sufficient numbers. Tracks protected using tops/branches. High stumps created.</p> <p>129: Reviewed harvester's/forwarder's crossings over a ditch to avoid damaging the waterway. No damage identified.</p> <p><u>ID avd 354, 358</u>: Final felling, spruce dominated. Conservation trees and (mainly) potential conservation trees consisting mainly of younger oak, aspen and birch, also some pine in sufficient number. High stumps created of a variety of species.</p>
<p>Date: 30 September 2020 Field Office/Area: Oxbergs Gemensamhetsskog Samfällighetsförening (auditors remote)</p>	
<p>Remote Oxberg/Mora</p>	<p>Field office opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with elected representatives. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies. Monitoring activities yearly with all board members include discussions on need for pre-commercial thinning operations.</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites at each field office/area: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, public recreation access points, etc.</p> <p><u>ID 23</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, stand situated at high altitude (approximately 450 meters above sea level) 100% Scots pine. Good</p>

	<p>quality clearing operations, no elements of broadleaves and no indication of broadleaf stems being cut. A few suitable potential conservation trees identified.</p> <p><u>ID 57&58</u>: Final felling with succeeding scarification, adjacent to a mire. Good quality scarification with a great deal of suitable planting points. Plants will be delivered by Älvdalens Besparingsskog from a facility owned by Orsa Besparingsskog, no information on chemical pesticides available. Group certificate policy does not allow use of chemical pesticides and both Älvdalen and Orsa are certified in the same group certificate. The final felling adequate with a very good consideration area left around a conservation tree and an older, dead pine tree not possible to move. High stumps created in connection with this area. In connection to the mire care was identified to be taken as to avoid</p> <p><u>ID 98</u>: Regeneration. Good quality planting, high plant survival, unclear if plants are treated with chemical pesticides. Interview with chairman to verify they were purchased as a part of a larger purchase together with another FSC-certified company.</p>
<p>Date: 6-8 October 2020 Field Office/Area: Hällefors Tierp Skogar AB (auditors remote)</p>	
<p>Uppsala & Hällefors</p>	<p>Field office opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with company personnel and external stakeholders where these was identified. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies. Young company, only 1 year. Annual harvesting levels are calculated using the program HEUREKA. All thinning operations and final fellings are done via two larger PEFC/FSC-certified forest companies (StoraEnso Skog on the western landholdings and BillerudKorsnäs in the eastern landholdings) including planning. Interviews with personnel demonstrated good knowledge on respective responsibilities/work assignments. Regular training on conservation, effective planning, etc. is planned for but not executed to date. Template for training ledger reviewed. Monitoring activities is planned to be conducted yearly using a sample-based approach. Identification of need for pre-commercial thinnings demonstrated by personnel and done regularly.</p>

	<p>Interview with affected Sami community with only positive feedback.</p> <p>Annual harvesting levels are calculated using HEUREKA For own management operations PEFC-certified contractors are hired to verify that applicable FSC indicators are met. Review of certification status and signed agreement with Lugnets Entreprenad AB tecknat 7/1 2020 (belonging to Group Certificate ECS Entreprenörs-certifiering, E-3885). Collaboration with the hunting associations to keep grazing effects in young stands at an acceptable level. Procedure regarding regeneration method states that diggers shall be used when scarification is needed and that Scots pine shall be planted when conditions are suitable, regardless of risk for grazing.</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, public recreation access points, etc. Included review of operational site directives, interview with forest operations managers and onsite visits. Planning was well executed for all operations with all required information available and several maps, including waterways and wetter consideration areas.</p> <p><u>ID 500050</u>: Planting, 2.1ha. Manual planting of Scots pine, mechanically protected. Creek/ditch adjacent to stand, no plants near the water. No plants in cultural heritage site (Kolbotten). Good quality planting, high survival of plants.</p> <p><u>ID 500034</u>: Planting, 12.8ha. Manual planting of Norway spruce (~1600 plants) and Scots pine (~500 plants). Good quality planting with high plant survival and good spacing. No plants on cultural heritage. Pine chosen for drier areas.</p> <p><u>ID 266179207</u>: Final felling of 4 different stands, 10.9ha in total. Existing dead wood identified as well as high stumps. Current and future consideration trees left. Good use of consideration stumps along a wetter area. Overall good quality. Soil damage on the main harvesting road between the 2 stands, affecting surrounding younger spruce stand. Not affecting water. Good consideration taken to cultural heritage remains.</p> <p><u>ID 266179454</u>: Final felling, 3.4ha. Spruce-dominated stand. Cultural remains protected and smaller consideration areas left. Consideration trees and future consideration trees left. High stumps created and existing dead wood left. Soil damage along the main harvesting route affecting the younger surrounding spruce stand. No damage to water. Instruction to harvest during summer or during ground frost but harvested by purchasing company in February.</p>

	<p><u>ID 500407</u>: Scarification and planting, 5.2ha. Manual planting, Scots pine, mechanically protected. Scarification with digger, good result with good planting points. High survival of plants. No actions in consideration area. Good that no scarification was done between the cultural remain (Kolbotten) and consideration area (3-4 meter wide gap left).</p> <p><u>ID 500526</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, 2.2ha, adjacent to a lake. Very good quality with 10-20% deciduous trees left. On the east side several deciduous trees have been favored to promote growth. Wide buffer zones 5-15 meters left untouched facing the lake. Good quality of remaining stand.</p> <p><u>ID 500097</u>: Manual planting, Scots pine, mechanically protection, 1.8ha. Good quality planting with high plant survival. Suitable scarification method using digger. No planting in consideration area.</p> <p><u>ID 100020</u>: Planned thinning and conservation logging, of 2 larger stands and 1 smaller, 44.5ha in total (20.3ha; 20.6ha; 3.3ha). Good planning with appropriate measures planned for consideration areas and set aside areas. Clear instructions to the forest contractors. Good planned main harvesting route to the smaller stand to the west.</p> <p><u>ID 500268</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, approx. 9ha. Regeneration with seed trees, preliminary with no scarification with resulting stand not evenly dispersed, dominated by Scots Pine and Birch. Late thinning operations. Community close. Good planning for future stand, however sallow (<i>Salix caprea</i>) should not be cut to promote Scots Pine. Partly thinned with acceptable result. 15-20% deciduous trees left.</p> <p><u>ID 500083</u>: Conservation operations in set aside area, approx. 3ha, dedicated for white-backed woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>). Appropriate measures taken to promote deciduous trees, creating future conservation trees and clearing spruce. Clear instructions for forest contractors. Larger spruce trees will be felled by harvester.</p> <p><u>ID 266179221</u>: Final felling, spruce dominated stand, 1.6ha. Several conservation trees and potential conservation trees identified and left, no evidence of the felling of similar trees. No damages to soil or water identified, harvested at a good time of year. Two identified cultural remains, no damages to them.</p>
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	<p><u>ID 266179226</u>: Final felling, spruce dominated stand on each side of a consideration area, 2ha and 1.4ha. Well planned final felling with one larger, wetter, area left as part of general consideration. Retention trees well over required levels, high stumps created and existing, old dead wood identified left.</p> <p><u>ID 500084</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, 19ha. Mixed stand, not evenly dispersed. Large amounts of grazing damages but sufficient trees standing. A large portion of the stand is dominated by deciduous trees or have a large element of them.</p> <p><u>ID 147088</u>: Final felling, 6.4ha, spruce dominated. Large amount of standing dead trees, unclear amount of created high stumps per hectare. Sufficient amount of conservation trees and potential conservation trees. No damage to soil of water.</p> <p><u>ID 145158</u>: Final thinning, 4ha. Existing deadwood deemed to be left, high stumps identified but unclear how many. No damage on remaining trees, consideration area left untouched, logging routes placed well outside. Future conservation trees identified and left.</p>
<p>Date: 20 October 2020 Field Office/Area: Lima Besparingskog (auditors remote)</p>	
<p>Lima</p>	<p>Field office opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with elected representatives. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies. Harvesting levels are calculated using HEUREKA. For own management operations PEFC-certified contractors are hired to verify that applicable FSC indicators are met. Review of certification status and signed agreement with company Jan Perssons Skogstransporter AB. Review of procedure for hiring contractors verified that only PEFC-certified contractors were to be hired, interview with Operations Manager however showed that this was not verified regularly (for example Jan Perssons Skogstransporter AB).</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites: recently closed units, riparian buffer, species protection areas etc. Sampling of one large site for field audit limited due to time constraints and snowy weather conditions.</p>

	<p><u>ID Gubbklitten</u>: Large final felling, 24.7ha, mixed stand with mainly spruce and pine. Adjacent to, and partly surrounded by, marshland and partly growing along a ridge. Consideration of “cliff face” along ridge inadequate and should be wider/broader to provide more shade but was facing west, which often means lower ecological values.</p> <p>On the west side, consideration of adjacent marshland acceptable with a thin buffer zone left with no identified soil damage. In the east/north, the buffer zone was very good. A large consideration area was created around most of the ridge, the area was connected to the buffer zones providing a corridor of trees/forest cover binding together the marshlands with a small lake. High stumps identified and in sufficient numbers, solitary conservation trees left and potential conservation trees well over minimum requirements in the consideration area. Evidence found of existing dead wood being left, in some cases dead standing trees had been felled but left on site.</p>
<p>Date: 21 October 2020 Field Office/Area: Malung-Sälen Kommun (auditors remote)</p>	
<p>Malung</p>	<p>Field office opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with elected representatives. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies. For own management operations PEFC-certified contractors are hired to verify that applicable FSC indicators are met. Review of certification status and signed agreement with contractor (E-2023, certified via Prosilva). Because of lack of resources, pre-commercial thinnings have not been monitored or executed to the extent required, interviews verified that this was known and a plan to work on this issue was being produced. The aim is to produce a plan for all pre-commercial thinnings and thinning operations during the winter 2020/2021.</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites at each field office/area: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, roadwork, public recreation access points, etc.</p> <p><u>ID Hismon 0897</u>: Thinning, 100% Scots pine. Small trail going through the stand. Road leading up to the stand passes over a</p>

	<p>creek, culverts used pose no obstacle to the migration of aquatic organisms. Good production results, no identified broadleaves and no evidence to suggest any were felled during thinning. No identified damage to the trail.</p> <p><u>ID Mobyen</u>: Final felling, 0.5ha. Good quality and relevant considerations taken. Conservation trees, potential conservation trees and deciduous trees along left a wetter area. Solitary conservation trees and potential conservation trees also identified throughout the stand and left. Buffer zone left adjacent to a mire and a small lake. High stumps created next to consideration areas and elements of existing dead wood identified as left.</p> <p><u>ID Kvarnstensbrottsvägen</u>: Pre-commercial thinning. Estimated 30-40% Birch left in the stand after management. Good quality stems in remaining stand. Trees from previous final felling left and identified as future conservation trees.</p>
<p>Date: 23 October 2020 Field Office/Area: Örebro Kommun</p>	
<p>Örebro</p>	<p>Field office opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with elected representatives. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies.</p> <p>Interview with 4 community members during the field audit, all wanting to remain anonymous. Only positive feedback regarding information prior to harvesting. Two people living nearby were unhappy with the logging but had been assured this felling was to create a more open forest to increase social values.</p> <p>Interview with forest contractor on site, Bergslagens Gräv & Entreprenad AB, is satisfied with the planning directives given prior to starting the management and demonstrated good knowledge on applicable requirements for the conservation felling being done.</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, riparian buffer, species protection areas, public recreation access points, waterway protection etc.</p>

	<p><u>ID Karlstorp 292, 294, 295, 309 & 311</u>: 5 sites adjacent to one another. Conservation thinning near Örebro City with a larger trail dividing the stands, on both sides of which there were wider ditches. Higher conservation values than other landholdings owned by the group member. <i>Fellinus pini</i> identified during field visit signaling old growth pine forest. Harvester had built a bridge for crossing the ditch, ground protection mats were also used to minimize soil damage on slightly wetter parts of the stand. Good quality thinning with conservation trees and future conservation trees being favored and where dead wood was being created and tops/branches left in piles where possible. Review of the felled trees being collected showed no indications of conservation trees being felled or existing dead wood harvested.</p>
<p>Date: 27 October 2020 Field Office/Area: Transtrands Besparingskog</p>	
<p>Transtrand</p>	<p>Field office opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with employee. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies.</p> <p>Management plan via an older system (Solen) but will migrate it to BESK and VSOP shortly which will improve monitoring and tracking of management needs. Annual harvesting levels identified using HEUREKA for 10 year periods. Will redo the calculations in 2021. For own management operations PEFC-certified contractors are hired to verify that applicable FSC indicators are met. Review of certification status and signed agreement with contractor (E-1094, certified via Prosilva).</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites at each field office/area: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, roadwork, public recreation access points, etc.</p> <p><u>ID Sandnäs vägen</u>: Thinning, 3.5ha. Previous final felling left very little consideration to be further considered. One natural high stump identified and left; no evidence of existing dead wood has been felled. Buffer zone towards mire is acceptable, no soil damages identified. Good production quality of operation, only 2 remaining stems identified as damaged.</p>

	<p><u>ID Lövästjärn</u>: 45 years old, 90ha. Pine-dominated stand. Ground tracks from harvester/forwarder along main route to/from the stand. Large amount of rain for the past few weeks, leaving the tracks flooded. The tracks were about 50cm deep at their deepest and had no risk of affecting water bodies. Thinning operation overall of good quality but done a bit too late, live crowns only constitute one-quarter to one-fifth of the trees' height. At least 5 potential conservation trees identified during field visit.</p>
<p>Date: 28-30 October 2020 Field Office/Area: S-4065, S-4064, S-2279, S-4546, S-2814, S-2809 & S-3661</p>	
<p>Various sites</p>	<p>Field office opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Review of management plan and interview with group member. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring of these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies.</p> <p>All group members had management plans. All members active with regeneration and/or pre-commercial thinning operations. The need for pre-commercial thinning was known by all members. S-4064 had a large area in need of cleaning prior to 2020, reviewed of management plan to verify that operations had been done. S-4546/S-2814 has a management agreement with Moelven Skog including monitoring of forestry activities. Monitoring of younger stands by all group members to ensure sufficient plant/young tree survival. Review of management plan for member S-4065 showed he did not have at least 5% of productive forest land set aside for conservation purposes (only had 2.3%).</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, public recreation access points, etc.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-4064</i> <u>ID 52</u>: Final felling and subsequent regeneration. A large number of conservation trees and potential conservation trees left. No damage to soil observed. Successful regeneration with a high plant survival (mechanical protection using Conniflex). High stumps created and existing deadwood left.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-4065</i> <u>ID 7</u>: Final felling due to storm fellings. Originally a larger stand but storm felled it in two periods. Second storm felling resulted in several windthrown trees at the edge towards another stand. When forwarding the logs a small, wet consideration area was</p>

	<p>passed. To pass it, a shorter ditch (20-30 meters) was dug to lower the water level. Ditch will not be cleared again and is not part of a bigger system. Few consideration trees or potential consideration trees left due to the storms.</p> <p><u>ID 17</u>: Pre-commercial thinning. Good quality, evenly-spaced stand with broadleaf trees comprising about 10-15% of total volume.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-2279</i> <u>ID Hasselbol 1:6</u>: Thinning, pine-dominated stand, good quality. No broadleaf trees identified. Several potential conservation trees favored.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-4546</i> No field visit due to logistics constraints. Same ownership as S-2814.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-2814</i> <u>ID 67/68</u>: Final felling, very wet ground conditions, spruce dominated. Larger consideration area in the middle of the stand. Some ground damages in slightly steeper terrain with estimated low environmental impact (unlikely to affect waterways), interview with group member indicated that this would be amended anyway. Indications on site that harvester/forwarder on times had aborted driving on due to poor ground conditions and chosen alternate paths. Consideration trees left and high stumps created.</p> <p><u>ID 30/35</u>: Two stands adjacent to one another. Final felling at two separate times, the first planned and the second due to a storm felling. Was treated as one stand and assessed together. Good results with a sufficient number of high stumps and current and future consideration trees.</p> <p><u>ID 28</u>: Production of spruce under a higher stand of aspen. Spruce has regenerated naturally and will be harvested leaving the aspen to continue growing, then starting over letting the spruce naturally regenerate again. Good quality combination felling.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-2809</i> <u>ID 21</u>: Planned final felling, spruce dominated. A few trees damaged by spruce bark beetle (<i>Lps typographus</i>) but seems only local. Elements of wetter areas in the stand where the undergrowth has been cleared to make harvesting easier should have been left untouched. Identified conservation trees and potential conservation trees marked.</p>
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	<p><u>ID18</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, spruce dominated. Good quality with about birch consisting of about 20% of total volume.</p> <p><i>Group member property S-3661</i></p> <p><u>ID 8</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, spruce dominated. Good quality with about birch consisting of about 10% of total volume.</p> <p>Operations done by one of the group member's sons.</p>
<p>Date: 2 November 2020 Field Office/Area: Kristinehamns Kommun</p>	
<p>Kristinehamn</p>	<p>Field office opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with elected representatives. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies. Interview with one community member during the field audit, wanting to be anonymous. Only positive feedback regarding information prior to harvesting.</p>
<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, riparian buffer, species protection areas, public recreation access points, waterway protection etc.</p> <p><u>ID Presterud 1:1, avd 53, 54, 10</u>: Conservation operations in a set-aside area, close to the city and well visited. Good planning of management activities and use of a small harvester. Appropriate actions taken with the aim to create a varied forest. Potential conservation trees damaged to simulate fire damage and tops and branches left in piles in the stand. Neighbors were informed prior to operations started, confirmed during interviews with two passersby. Forest contractor (an employee) demonstrated good knowledge on differences on a conservation felling and production-oriented felling during interview.</p> <p><u>ID Presterud 1:1 avd 520</u>: Pre-commercial thinning, large creek dividing the stand. Good quality operations with suitable clearing method. 20-30% deciduous trees left evenly distributed in the stand. Suitable buffer zone towards the creek but all spruce could have been felled.</p> <p><u>ID Presterud, avd 33, 35</u>: Final felling, spruce dominated, damaged by the spruce bark beetle (<i>Lps typographus</i>). Small amount of existing deadwood and of deciduous trees prior to felling. Not</p>

	<p>enough conservation trees or potential conservation trees identified during field visit on the felling area but counting an adjacent consideration area with several old growth trees the operation is adequate. A small harvester was used for felling and as a result the stump height was a bit too low. Ditches cleared in connection with felling operations to ensure good regeneration. Ditches connect to a larger road ditch.</p>
<p>Date: 10 - 12 November 2020 Field Office/Area: Nyskog 23 AB & Gysinge Skogsfastigheter AB</p>	
<p>Falun, Kopparberg</p>	<p>Field office opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews & stakeholder consultation</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditors conducted interviews with elected representatives. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies.</p> <p>Young company, only one year old. Nyskog 23AB is a subsidiary to Gysinge Skogsfastigheter with no employees. The division is for historical structural reasons, landholding management is identical by Gysinges personnel. Annual harvesting levels are calculated using the program HEUREKA. All thinning operations and final fellings is done via two larger PEFC/FSC-certified forest companies (StoraEnso Skog for another 1-1.5 years and Mellanskog), planning is done via 3 forest planning contractors. Interviews with personnel demonstrated good knowledge on respective responsibilities/work assignments. Regular training on conservation, effective planning, etc. is logged in a training ledger, reviewed for one employee. Monitoring activities is planned to be conducted yearly using a sample-based approach. Identification of need for pre-commercial thinnings demonstrated by personnel and done regularly.</p> <p>For own management operations PEFC-certified contractors are hired to verify that applicable FSC indicators are met. Review of certification status and signed agreement with 8:1 Hedeviken AB, signed 2020-02-14. PEFC-certified via Prosilva.</p> <p>Interview with affected Sami communities with only positive feedback. No felling operations in the area until an agreement has been met.</p>

<p>Field site visits</p>	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, public recreation access points, etc. Review of operational site directives, interview with forest operations managers and onsite visits. Planning was well executed for all operations with all required information available and several maps, including waterways and wetter consideration areas.</p> <p><u>ID: Munkbro 10762, 1462, 1563 & 0963:</u> Thinning operations, 4 sites of 16.2ha in total. Stand dominated by Scots Pine. Review of operational site directive, interview with forest operations managers and on site visit. Planning was well executed with all required information available. Overall impression good. Riparian zones well planned with clear markings in field but most of the spruce within this area should have been felled to prepare for a broadleaf dominated zone. Crossing over a small stream acceptable but not according to instruction in the Directives. No fresh high stumps identified on the area. In certain areas higher numbers of damaged production trees were visible. In certain areas the tree stumps from felled production trees were too high.</p> <p><u>ID 1994 & 2294:</u> Final fellings, 1.8ha and 0.8ha. Stands dominated by Norway Spruce. Review of operational site directive, interview with forest operations managers and on site visit. Planning was well executed with all required information available. Overall impression good. Two stream/ditch crossings of very high quality. No damage in the closest zone or evidence of erosion into the water. Good execution with regards to conservation trees and fresh high stumps. Evidence of existing deadwood being protected. Evidence of serious soil damage along the main harvesting route, recently fixed. In the smaller felling area consideration trees were identified and left around the area, nearest an old ditch and towards another younger stand. No soil damage, no damage near the ditch. In the larger felling area 3 consideration areas were left, the largest (functioning as a buffer zone) was left along the entire west side of the stand with a small stream. The buffer zone had most spruce trees left which had resulted in a large root overturning, however no evidence of erosion into the water. Better management of buffer zones needed to avoid damaging water bodies.</p> <p><u>Salbo GA 197539754:</u> Thinning operations, 6.9ha and 1.3ha. 60% Norway spruce, 25% Scots pine, 5% birch (Warty/Glass). Review of operational site directive, interview with forest operations managers and onsite visit. Planning was well executed with all required information available. Overall impression very good. Many conservation (including future) trees identified and protected. Evidence of protection of existing deadwood. No visible</p>
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	<p>damage to cultural remains. Only one fresh high stump identified. Harvester had not followed instructions for crossings and made one unplanned crossing. On one crossing over a trail the logs/tops/branches had not been removed. No fresh high stumps were identified in the area (3 per hectare are required); in some areas the stumps were quite high.</p> <p><u>18992100 Golfbanan</u>: Final fellings, 1.4ha and 1.7ha. Stands dominated by Norway spruce. The northern stand adjacent to a golf course. Stands dominated by Norway spruce. Review of operational site directive, interview with forest operations managers and onsite visit. Planning was well executed with all required information available. Overall management was very good. Many conservation (including future) trees identified and protected. A great deal of existing dead trees protected (mainly caused by spruce bark beetle) as well as fresh high stumps created. Somewhat severe soil damage on the main harvesting route to, and between, the two areas, although there were no impacts to the nearby ditch. Crossing over ditch was very good, no damage to the soil nearby and evidence of erosion reaching the water. Efforts were taken to avoid unnecessary ditch crossings by planning two entrances to the northern area. Unnecessary soil damage on the main harvesting road to and between the two areas was observed.</p> <p><u>4881 13</u>: Pre-commercial thinning. Stand on a smaller peninsula, dominated by birch after being burned. Review of operational site directive, interview with forest operations managers and onsite visit. Planning was well executed with all required information available. Overall management was very good. Operation to promote birch production, predominately rough terrain with large boulders and overall difficult access. Birch stand with several future conservation trees was appropriately identified. In certain areas within the stand the contractors have felled birch in order to promote pine and spruce, even when the quality of these trees have been poor.</p> <p><u>3417 3</u>: Planting. Spruce planting in an area with several ancient remains (old arable land). Review of operational site directive, interview with forest operations managers and onsite visit. Planning was well executed with all required information available. Overall management was very good. Plant material with mechanical protection from insects. No damages by soil scarification to ancient remains identified, planting activity of good quality. All plantings reviewed had survived and their placement was acceptable to excellent with few exceptions.</p>
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	<p><u>8072</u>: Thinning. Stand dominated by Scots pine. Review of operational site directive, interview with forest operations managers and remote inspection via livestreaming. Planning was well executed with all required information available. Several high stumps on felled production trees not optimal from a production standpoint. Several willow trees identified and protected. No ground damage observed.</p> <p><u>8579</u>: Thinning. Stand dominated by Scots pine, adjacent to a mire and a small lake. Review of operational site directive, interview with forest operations managers and remote inspection via livestreaming. Planning was well executed with all required information available. Few deciduous trees, no evidence of felling of these. Good buffer zone, identified conservation trees and potential conservation trees left. Little damage to residual stand. Pre-commercial thinning prior to thinning done in a wetter area, however no damage to ground/soil from the harvester observed. In certain areas a few too many higher tree stumps from felled production trees were observed.</p>
<p>Date: 13 November 2020 Field Office/Area: S-5551 (auditors remote)</p>	
<p>Various sites</p>	<p>Field opening meetings for each field office/area visited: introductions, scope of evaluation, confidentiality and public summary, evaluation methods, client update, emergency and security procedures, and site selection.</p>
<p>Interviews</p>	<p>Review of information on forest stand (via the Swedish Forestry Administration Board) and interview with group member. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost planting and pre-commercial thinning operations and the monitoring of these activities. Review of management of wild game to balance with food sources (seedlings/young trees) and regeneration strategies. Group member reliant on forest company for monitoring, information and forest management. Landholding consists of 3ha, and management occurs very seldomly. No thought given to regeneration phase following final felling that is planned for 2020/2021.</p> <p>Per interview with group member, forest management plan not in place (FMU < 20ha). Pine dominated stands, older retention trees left from final felling from 1940s, most marked as conservation trees by the logging company. Not clear what type of information was given to the group member prior to joining the group, however the father was given more information. Long-term goal, according to information given during interview, is to increase deciduous trees in all stands where possible. Group member has not reflected on upcoming regeneration or pre-commercial thinning and is reliant on the logging company for this. Weda Skog AB was undertaking final felling for relatives and the group</p>

	<p>member signed a contract for management activities in connection with this.</p> <p>Review of Lunån 3:3 via Google Earth and Skogens Pärlor revealed no high conservation values but a high volume (m3sk). Old growth forest with good potential for great conservation actions. No set aside areas or stands dominated by deciduous trees identified.</p>
Field site visits	<p>Evaluation of site: planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, roadwork etc.</p> <p><u>ID Lunån 3:3</u>: Planned final felling of the one stand. Old growth spruce forest. Review of the landholding on Google Earth to review changes over time and the database Skogens Pärlor to identify potential threatened species. No indication of WKH status. Interview with group member, whose ambition is to increase elements of broadleaf trees after final felling. All planning done by Weda Skog.</p>
Date: 18 November	
Field Office/Area: Prosilva Corporate Office (auditors remote)	
FMU/ location/ sites visited	Activities/ notes
Audit Team prep	Closing meeting preparation: audit team consolidated notes and confirmed preliminary evaluation findings
Closing meeting	Closing meeting: review preliminary findings (potential non-conformities and observations) and discuss next steps

2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems

SCS deploys interdisciplinary teams with expertise in forestry, social sciences, natural resource economics, and other relevant fields to assess an FME’s conformance to FSC standards and policies. Evaluation methods include reviewing documents and records, interviewing FME personnel and contractors, implementing sampling strategies to visit a broad number of forest cover and harvest prescription types, observing implementation of management plans and policies in the field, and collecting and analyzing stakeholder input. When there is more than one team member, each member may review parts of the standards based on their background and expertise. On the final day of an evaluation, team members convene to deliberate the findings of the assessment jointly. This involves an analysis of all relevant field observations, interviews, stakeholder comments, and reviewed documents and records. Where consensus among team members cannot be achieved due to lack of evidence, conflicting evidence or differences of interpretation of the standards, the team is instructed to report these in the certification decision section and/or in observations.

3. Changes in Management Practices

There were no significant changes in the management and/or harvesting methods that affect the FME’s conformance to the FSC standards and policies.

Significant changes occurred since the last evaluation that may affect the FME’s conformance to FSC standards and policies (*describe*):

As the number of group members and area of the forest land has increased within the certificate, the resources within the group entity have also increased. The staffing of the group entity is also now continuously reviewed and external resources are available, if needed. Internal audits have been directed to newly added members or geographical areas. There has also been an increase in the number of agents to Prosilva. These agents are wood procurement companies that provide forestry services to a large number of the group members. Relevant staff among the new agents have undergone training activities (e.g., online education) by Prosilva. Training activities have also been performed and further developed for existing agents. Internal routines and protocols have been updated in accordance with new geographical areas and the range of types of forest owners within the group.

4. Results of Evaluation

4.1 Definitions of Major CARs, Minor CARs and Observations

Major CARs: Major nonconformances, either alone or in combination with nonconformances of all other applicable indicators, result (or are likely to result) in a fundamental failure to achieve the objectives of the relevant FSC Criterion given the uniqueness and fragility of each forest resource. These are corrective actions that must be resolved or closed out before a certificate can be awarded. If Major CARs arise after an operation is certified, the timeframe for correcting these nonconformances is typically shorter than for Minor CARs. Certification is contingent on the certified FME’s response to the CAR within the stipulated time frame.

Minor CARs: These are corrective action requests in response to minor nonconformances, which are typically limited in scale or can be characterized as an unusual lapse in the system. Most Minor CARs are the result of nonconformance at the indicator-level. Corrective actions must be closed out within a specified time period of award of the certificate.

Observations: These are subject areas where the evaluation team concludes that there is conformance, but either future nonconformance may result due to inaction or the FME could achieve exemplary status through further refinement. Action on observations is voluntary and does not affect the maintenance of the certificate. However, observations can become CARs if performance with respect to the indicator(s) triggering the observation falls into nonconformance.

4.2 History of Findings for Certificate Period

FM Principle	Cert/Re-cert Evaluation 2017	1 st Annual Evaluation 2018	2 nd Annual Evaluation 2019	3 rd Annual Evaluation 2020	4 th Annual Evaluation 2021
No findings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P1			No findings		
P2			No findings		
P3					
P4	OBS 4.4.6, 4.4.7, 4.4.8; OBS 4.5.2	No findings		Minors 4.1.11, 4.1.11SA,	

				4.2.6S, 4.3.7, 4.3.7SA	
P5				Minor 5.1.7S	
P6	OBS 6.3.8, 6.3.9	No findings		Minors 6.3.7S, 6.3.9S; Major 6.4.1S	
P7	Minor 7.1h; Minor 7.3.1		No findings		
P8				No findings	
P9				No findings	
P10					
COC for FM					
Trademark				No Findings	
Group	Minor 9.4	No findings	No findings	No Findings	
Other					

4.3 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations

None issued.

4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

All findings have been issued against individual FMUs, not the FME’s group management system. Evidence submitted for SCS review for each finding will be evaluated for the FMUs at which the non-conformity was identified and the requirements of the respective indicator(s).

Finding Number: 2020.1	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU): Lima Besparingskog and Malung-Sälen Kommun FMUs	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 4.1.11

<p>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</p> <p>Managers at these two FMUs not have written agreements or documentation demonstrating that contractors or other assignees with employees commissioned for forestry activities on the landholdings of these group members comply with the requirements for managers with employees outlined in Indicators 4.1.6. – 4.1.10.</p> <p>As explained by FME personnel, conformance with 4.1.6 – 4.1.10 is normally confirmed by only commissioning contractors that can provide a specific verification. The verification consists of an agreement with a third-party regarding an ongoing collaboration. The contractor commits to fulfill a number of requirements (e.g., 4.1.6 – 4.1.10), and the third-party has a contracted responsibility to supervise this and support the contractor in these questions. A contractor that does not fulfill its obligations will be excluded from the collaboration. The forest owner continuously verifies that the collaboration is ongoing. If the collaboration has ended, then the forest owner will no longer commission the contractor.</p> <p>Although the lack of these particular written agreements is a non-conformity for these two FMUs, oral agreements were said to have been used, and the finding is therefore not indicative of a fundamental breakdown of the management system. Additionally, the occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 6% of the sampled FMUs). Therefore, the CAR is graded as Minor.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</p> <p>Managers shall ensure, through written agreement or documentation, that contractors or other assignees with employees commissioned for forestry activities on the landholding comply with the requirements for managers with employees outlined in Indicators 4.1.6. – 4.1.10.</p>	
<p>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</p>	
<p>SCS review</p>	
<p>Status of CAR:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

Finding Number: 2020.2	
<p>Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation</p>	
<p>FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU): S-6213, S-6215, S-5971 and S-4065 FMUs</p>	
<p>Deadline</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):</p>
<p>FSC Indicator:</p>	<p>FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 4.1.11SA</p>

<p>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</p> <p>These four group members could not verify that forest contractors or other assignees with employees commissioned for forestry activities on the landholdings comply with the requirements for managers with employees outlined by the standard. For example, none of these group members had a signed agreement with contractors or assignees that provided evidence that these requirements were being met. They assumed that companies following Swedish Law would prove to comply with Indicators 4.1.6SA – 4.1.10S.</p> <p>As explained by FME personnel, conformance with 4.1.6SA – 4.1.10S is normally confirmed by only commissioning contractors that can provide a specific verification. The verification consists of an agreement with a third-party regarding an ongoing collaboration. The contractor commits to fulfill a number of requirements (e.g., 4.1.6SA – 4.1.10S), and the third-party has a contracted responsibility to supervise this and support the contractor in these questions. A contractor that does not fulfill its obligations will be excluded from the collaboration. The forest owner continuously verifies that the collaboration is ongoing. If the collaboration has ended, then the forest owner will no longer commission the contractor.</p> <p>Since the occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 11% of the sampled FMUs), it has been graded as Minor.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</p> <p>Managers shall ensure that contractors or other assignees with employees commissioned for forestry activities on the landholding comply with the requirements for managers with employees outlined in Indicators 4.1.6SA - 4.1.10S.</p>	
<p>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</p>	
<p>SCS review</p>	
<p>Status of CAR:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

Finding Number: 2020.3	
<p>Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation</p>	
<p>FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU): S-6213, S-6215, and S-5971 FMUs</p>	
<p>Deadline</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):</p>
<p>FSC Indicator:</p>	<p>FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 4.2.6S</p>

<p>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</p> <p>These three group members do not have written agreement or documentation demonstrating that contractors or other assignees with employees commissioned for forestry activities on the landholdings comply with the requirements in Indicators 4.2.1 – 4.2.5S. They assumed that companies following Swedish Law would prove to comply with Indicators 4.2.1 – 4.2.5S.</p> <p>As explained by FME personnel, conformance with 4.2.1 – 4.2.5S is normally confirmed by only commissioning contractors that can provide a specific verification. The verification consists of an agreement with a third-party regarding an ongoing collaboration. The contractor commits to fulfill a number of requirements (e.g., 4.2.1 – 4.2.5S), and the third-party has a contracted responsibility to supervise this and support the contractor in these questions. A contractor that does not fulfill its obligations will be excluded from the collaboration. The forest owner continuously verifies that the collaboration is ongoing. If the collaboration has ended, then the forest owner will no longer commission the contractor.</p> <p>Since the occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 8% of the sampled FMUs), it has been graded as Minor.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</p> <p>Managers shall ensure, by written agreement or documentation, that contractors or other assignees with employees commissioned for forestry activities on the landholdings comply with the requirements in Indicators 4.2.1 – 4.2.5S.</p>	
<p>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</p>	
<p>SCS review</p>	
<p>Status of CAR:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

<p>Finding Number: 2020.4</p>	
<p>Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation</p>	
<p>FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU): Lima Besparingskog and Malung-Sälen Kommun FMUs</p>	
<p>Deadline</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):</p>
<p>FSC Indicator:</p>	<p>FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 4.3.7</p>

Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):	
<p>These two group members do not have written agreements or documentation that contractors or other assignees with employees commissioned for forestry activities on the landholdings comply with the requirements in Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.4. These group members assumed that companies following Swedish Law would prove to comply with Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.4.</p> <p>As explained by FME personnel, conformance with 4.3.1 – 4.3.4 is normally confirmed by only commissioning contractors that can provide a specific verification. The verification consists of an agreement with a third-party regarding an ongoing collaboration. The contractor commits to fulfill a number of requirements (e.g., 4.3.1 – 4.3.4), and the third-party has a contracted responsibility to supervise this and support the contractor in these questions. A contractor that does not fulfill its obligations will be excluded from the collaboration. The forest owner continuously verifies that the collaboration is ongoing. If the collaboration has ended, then the forest owner will no longer commission the contractor.</p> <p>Since the occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 6% of the sampled FMUs), it has been graded as Minor.</p>	
Corrective Action Request (or Observation):	
<p>Managers shall ensure, by written agreement or documentation, that contractors or other assignees with employees commissioned for forestry activities on the landholdings comply with the requirements in Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.4.</p>	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

Finding Number: 2020.5	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU): Lima Besparingskog, Malung-Sälen kommun, S-6213, S-6215, and S-5971	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 4.3.7SA

<p>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</p> <p>These five group members could not demonstrate how they ensure that contractors or other assignees with employees commissioned for forestry activities on the landholdings comply with the requirements in Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.3S, 4.3.3SA and 4.3.4S. For example, none of these group members had a signed agreement with contractors or assignees that provided evidence that these requirements were being met. They assumed that companies following Swedish Law would prove to comply with 4.3.1 – 4.3.3S, 4.3.3SA and 4.3.4S.</p> <p>As explained by FME personnel, conformance with 4.3.1 – 4.3.3S, 4.3.3SA and 4.3.4S is normally confirmed by only commissioning contractors that can provide a specific verification. The verification consists of an agreement with a third-party regarding an ongoing collaboration. The contractor commits to fulfill a number of requirements (e.g., 4.3.1 – 4.3.3S, 4.3.3SA and 4.3.4S), and the third-party has a contracted responsibility to supervise this and support the contractor in these questions. A contractor that does not fulfill its obligations will be excluded from the collaboration. The forest owner continuously verifies that the collaboration is ongoing. If the collaboration has ended, then the forest owner will no longer commission the contractor.</p> <p>Since the occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 14% of the sampled FMUs), it has been graded as Minor.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</p> <p>Managers shall ensure that contractors or other assignees with employees commissioned for forestry activities on the landholdings comply with the requirements in Indicators 4.3.1 – 4.3.3S, 4.3.3SA and 4.3.4S.</p>	
<p>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</p>	
<p>SCS review</p>	
<p>Status of CAR:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

<p>Finding Number: 2020.6</p>	
<p>Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation</p>	
<p>FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU): Transtrands Besparingsskog, S-5216, S-5551, S-6219, and S-5136 FMUs</p>	
<p>Deadline</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):</p>
<p>FSC Indicator:</p>	<p>FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 5.1.7S</p>

Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):	
At these five group member FMUs, one or more stands had not been managed according to the forest management plan. For example, a pre-commercial thinning at S-6219 was well executed in the outer area but an area a few meters in was too dense. At S-5136, management operations had not been completed in ID 280 (thinning), 267 (pre-commercial thinning), or in 262 (pre-commercial thinning). At Transtrands Besparingskog, S-5216, and S-5551 pre-commercial thinning was either not completed or the operation turned out to be done inadequately. Since the occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 14% of the sampled FMUs), it has been graded as Minor.	
Corrective Action Request (or Observation):	
Managers shall use regeneration, clearing, and thinning measures that result in reliable, rapid reforestation and well-stocked productive stands in accordance with § 10 of Forest Act and its regulations.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

Finding Number: 2020.7	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU): Kopparfors Skogar, Boxholm Skogar, Gysinge Skogsfastigheter, Kristinehamns kommun, and S-5802 FMUs	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 6.3.7S
Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):	
During site visits to these five group member FMUs, there was no evidence that there had been created, on average, at least three high stumps or girdled trees per hectare in at least one final felling or thick-stemmed thinning. Since the occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 14% of the sampled FMUs), it has been graded as Minor.	
Corrective Action Request (or Observation):	
Managers shall create, on average, at least three high stumps or girdled trees per hectare of areas harvested through regeneration felling and thick-stem thinning, striving to select for this purpose equal numbers of coarse pine, spruce, birch and aspen trees without high biodiversity values.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	
SCS review	

Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (<i>refer to description above</i>)
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Finding Number: 2020.8	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU): Oxbergs Gemensamhetsskog Samfällighetsförening, Lima Besparingskog, Malung-Sälen Kommun, Transtrands Besparingskog, S-6213, S-4064, and S-4065 FMUs	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 6.3.9S
Non-Conformity (<i>or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations</i>): Interviews with these seven group members and review of management plans demonstrated that there was no plan to manage the landholdings so that, over time, an area equivalent to at least 5% of the total area of mesic and moist forest land was dominated by broadleaf trees. No future stands were identified in the forest management plans. Historically, broadleaf trees have been disfavored and normally the best chance of increasing the ratio is in the pre-commercial thinning phase. Since the occurrence of this non-conformity was somewhat limited (observed in less than one-fifth of the sampled FMUs), it has been graded as Minor.	
Corrective Action Request (<i>or Observation</i>): Managers should plan and manage the landholdings so that, over time, an area equivalent to at least 5% of the total area of mesic and moist forest land, suitable for natural regeneration and growth of broadleaf trees, carry deciduous rich stands dominated by broadleaf trees during the major part of the rotation period.	
FME response (<i>including any evidence submitted</i>)	
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (<i>refer to description above</i>)

Finding Number: 2020.9	
Select one: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU): S-6219, S-5136, and S-4065 FMUs	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 6.4.1S
Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Review of forest management plans for these three group member FMUs showed that less than 5% of the productive forest landholdings had been set aside for conservation purposes. The aim is to identify and set aside the most ecologically valuable forest landholdings, and active forestry constitutes heightened risk that those areas are felled. Since these group members were aware of this requirement and did not attempt to comply, the non-conformity is considered a fundamental breakdown of the management system. Therefore, the finding is graded as Major.	
Corrective Action Request (or Observation): Managers shall exempt a minimum of 5% of the productive forest land area (in accordance with Annex 8 of the standard) from measures other than management required to maintain or promote biodiversity conditioned by natural processes or traditional land use practices	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

5. Stakeholder Comments

In accordance with SCS protocols, consultation with key stakeholders is an integral component of the evaluation process. Stakeholder consultation takes place prior to, concurrent with, and following field evaluations. Distinct purposes of such consultation include:

- To solicit input from affected parties as to the strengths and weaknesses of the FME’s management, relative to the standard, and the nature of the interaction between the FME and the surrounding communities.
- To solicit input on whether the forest management operation has consulted with stakeholders regarding identifying any high conservation value forests (HCVFs).

Stakeholder consultation activities are organized to give participants the opportunity to provide comments according to general categories of interest based on the three FSC chambers, as well as the SCS Interim Standard, if one was used.

5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted

Principal stakeholder groups are identified based upon results from past evaluations, lists of stakeholders from the FME under evaluation, and additional stakeholder contacts from other sources. Stakeholder groups who are consulted as part of the evaluation include FME management and staff, consulting foresters, contractors, lease holders, adjacent property owners, local and regionally-based social interest and civic organizations, purchasers of logs harvested on FME forestlands, recreational user groups, tribal members and/or representatives, members of the FSC National Initiative, members of the regional FSC working group, FSC International, local and regionally-based environmental organizations and conservationists, and forest industry groups and organizations, as well as local, state, and federal regulatory agency personnel and other relevant groups.

5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses

The table below summarizes the major comments received from stakeholders and the assessment team’s response. Where a stakeholder comment has triggered a subsequent investigation during the evaluation, the corresponding follow-up action and conclusions from SCS are noted below.

<input type="checkbox"/> FME has not received any stakeholder comments from interested parties as a result of stakeholder outreach activities during this annual evaluation.	
Stakeholder Comment	SCS Response
Good communication with [group member]. They have paused the logging activities for now.	This comment is consistent with the audit team’s experience in communicating with the FME and its group members.
Feels that [group member] listens to us and our concerns.	Duly noted.
Sad to see the forest cut down but we understand why they do it.	Duly noted.
Good information prior to the felling began.	Duly noted.
Good planning material from group member], fair wages. I think it works fine.	This comment is consistent with the audit team’s experience in reviewing most of the planning materials provided by the FME and its group members.

6. Certification Decision

The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Forest Stewardship Council standards. The SCS annual evaluation team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual evaluations and the FME’s response to any open CARs.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	

7. Annual Data Update

<input type="checkbox"/> No changes since previous evaluation.
--

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information in the following sections has changed since previous evaluation.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name and Contact Information <input type="checkbox"/> FSC Sales Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scope of Certificate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-SLIMF FMUs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide and Other Chemical Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Production Forests <input type="checkbox"/> FSC Product Classification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation & High Conservation Value Areas <input type="checkbox"/> Areas Outside of the Scope of Certification

Name and Contact Information

Organization name	Skogscertifiering Prosilva AB		
Contact person	Anneli Sandström		
Address	Klostergatan 2, S-753 21 Uppsala, Sweden	Telephone	+46 (0) 70-3450885
		Fax	
		e-mail	info@skogscertifiering.se
		Website	www.skogscertifiering.se

FSC Sales Information

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC Sales contact information same as above.			
FSC salesperson	-		
Address	-	Telephone	-
		Fax	-
		e-mail	-
		Website	-

Scope of Certificate³

Certificate Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Single FMU	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple FMU
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group	
SLIMF (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Small SLIMF certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low intensity SLIMF certificate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group SLIMF certificate	
# Group Members (if applicable)	2916	
Number of FMUs in scope of certificate	2916	
Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)	Latitude & Longitude: Various across Sweden	
Forest zone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boreal	<input type="checkbox"/> Temperate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtropical	<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical
Total forest area in scope of certificate:	975987	
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is:	Units: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac	
privately managed	928946	

³ Forest area and number of group members as of 31 December 2020. Sampling for site selection was based on information about the scope of the certificate in early 2020.

state managed		-	
community managed		47041	
Number of FMUs in scope that are:			
less than 100 ha in area	1952	100 - 1000 ha in area	914
1000 - 10 000 ha in area	42	more than 10 000 ha in area	8
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is included in FMUs that:			Units: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac
are less than 100 ha in area		86387	
are between 100 ha and 1000 ha in area		228876	
meet the eligibility criteria as <i>low intensity</i> SLIMF FMUs		-	
Division of FMUs into manageable units:			
Each FMU is a management unit and is defined by the boundaries of the property for each group member or by the stand boundary on the property.			

Non-SLIMF FMUs (Group or Multiple FMU Certificates)⁴

Name	Contact information	Latitude/ longitude of Non-SLIMF FMUs	
Kopparfors Skogar AB	-	-	-
Hällefors Tierp Skogar AB	-	-	-
Gysinge skogsfastigheter AB	-	-	-
BOXHOLMS SKOGAR AB	-	-	-
Lima Besparingskog	-	-	-
Transtrands Besparingskog	-	-	-
Malung-Sälens kommun	-	-	-
Brevens Bruk	-	-	-
Engaholms Skogar	-	-	-
Örebro Kommun	-	-	-
NySkog 23 AB	-	-	-
Östersunds Kommun	-	-	-
Slottstornet AB	-	-	-
Brenäs skogar AB	-	-	-
Stiftelsen Danviks Hospital	-	-	-
STOCKHOLM VATTEN VA AB	-	-	-
FREDRIKSNÄS SÄTERI AB	-	-	-
Silvestica Green Forest Sverige AB	-	-	-
Kristinehamns Kommun	-	-	-
Oxbergs Gemensamhetskog Samfällighetsförening	-	-	-
Leksands Kommun	-	-	-
Fagersta kommun	-	-	-
Älvdalens kommun	-	-	-
Åkers Kronopark AB	-	-	-
Norrköpings kommun	-	-	-

⁴ To protect the privacy of individuals, only the names of non-SLIMFs organized as legal entities are listed. Contact and geographical information of non-SLIMFs are also withheld for this reason. FMU data is tracked by the group manager on a database and is verifiable for certification claims.

Linköpings kommun	-	-	-
Kvills Bruks AB	-	-	-
Harpsundsnämnden (SFV)	-	-	-
Tretorp Skog AB	-	-	-
Stenhammars godsförvaltning AB (SFV)	-	-	-

Social Information

Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender):		
Forestry activities are primarily performed by contractors. In Sweden, there are approximately 3650 contractors available for forest owners to commission, either directly or through wood procurement companies. Since the group of Prosilva is spread all over Sweden, every one of these contractors can be relevant as long as they fulfill the requirements of FSC. A large portion of the contractors are self-employed, but some have personnel. The forestry activities are performed by both women and men.		
Number of accidents in forest work since previous evaluation:	Serious: No reports of accidents have been encountered during internal audits nor in contact with group members and agents.	Fatal: 0

Pesticide and Other Chemical Use

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FME does not use pesticides.				
Commercial name of pesticide / herbicide	Active ingredient	Quantity applied since previous evaluation (kg or lbs.)	Total area treated since previous evaluation (ha or ac)	Reason for use
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Production Forests

Timber Forest Products	Units: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac
Total area of production forest (i.e. forest from which timber may be harvested)	803100
Area of production forest classified as 'plantation'	-
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by replanting or by a combination of replanting and coppicing of the planted stems	803100
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by natural regeneration, or by a combination of natural regeneration and coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems	0
Silvicultural system(s)	Area under type of management
Even-aged management	803100
Clearcut (clearcut size range: 1-30ha)	803100
Shelterwood	-
Other:	-
Uneven-aged management	-
Individual tree selection	-

Group selection	-
Other:	-
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. nursery, recreation area, windbreak, bamboo, silvo-pastoral system, agro-forestry system, etc.)	-
Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)	
Area of forest protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for the production of NTFPs or services	-
Other areas managed for NTFPs or services	-
Approximate annual commercial production of non-timber forest products included in the scope of the certificate, by product type	-
Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: (Scientific / Latin Name and Common / Trade Name)	
<i>Pinus silvestris</i> (Scots pine), <i>Picea abies</i> (Norway spruce), <i>Betula pendula/Betula puberschens</i> (birch), and <i>Populus tremula</i> (aspen)	

FSC Product Classification

Timber products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Species
W1 Logs	W1.1 Roundwood	All
	W1.2 Fuel wood	
	W1.3 Twigs	
Non-Timber Forest Products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Product Level 3 and Species
NA	NA	NA

Note: W1, W2, and W3 product groups usually do not require a separate evaluation to FSC-STD-40-004 (COC) if processing occurs in the field for FM/COC and CW/FM certificate types. N1-N10 (NTFPs) are eligible to be sold with FSC claims under FM/COC certification if reported here. Bamboo and NTFPs derived from trees (e.g. cork, resin, bark) may be eligible for FM/COC and CW/FM certification. NTFPs used for food and medicinal purposes are not eligible for CW/FM certification. Check with SCS if you have any products intended to be sold with an FSC claim outside of any of these categories.

Conservation and High Conservation Value Areas

Conservation Area	Units: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac
Total amount of land in certified area protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for conservation objectives (includes both forested and non-forested lands).*	172887

*Note: Total conservation and HCV areas may differ since these may serve different functions in the FME’s management system. Designation as HCV may allow for active management, including commercial harvest. Conservation areas are typically under passive management, but may undergo invasive species control, prescribed burns, non-commercial harvest, and other management activities intended to maintain or enhance their integrity. In all cases, figures are reported by the FME as it pertains local laws & regulations, management objectives, and FSC requirements.

High Conservation Value Forest / Areas			Units: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac
Code	HCV Type	Description & Location	Area
HCV1	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant	-	-

	concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).		
HCV2	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.	-	-
HCV3	Forests or areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	Each of the 2916 FMUs has at least 5% of the production forest set aside. Each HCV area varies in size and are continually updated by the Swedish Forest Agency.	43130
HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).	-	-
HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).	-	-
HCV6	Forests or areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).	-	-
Total area of forest classified as 'High Conservation Value Forest / Area'			43130

Areas Outside of the Scope of Certification (Partial Certification and Excision)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>N/A – All forestland owned or managed by the certificate holder is included in the scope.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Certificate holder owns and/or manages other FMUs not under evaluation.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Certificate holder wishes to excise portions of the FMU(s) under evaluation from the scope of certification.</i>		
Note: <i>Excision cannot be applied to CW/FM certificates.</i>		
Explanation for exclusion of FMUs and/or excision:	NA	
Control measures to prevent mixing of certified and non-certified product (C8.3):	NA	
Description of FMUs excluded from, or forested area excised from, the scope of certification:		
Name of FMU or Stand	Location (city, state, country)	Size (<input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac)
NA	NA	NA

SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL)

Appendix 1 – List of FMUs Selected for Evaluation

- FME consists of a single FMU
 FME consists of multiple FMUs or is a Group

SCS staff establish the design and level of sampling prior to each group or multiple FMU evaluation according to FSC-STD-20-007. A list of the FMUs sampled and the rationale behind their selection is listed below.

FMU Name	FMU Size Category: - SLIMF - non-SLIMF - Large > 10,000 ha	Forest Type: - Plantation - Natural Forest	Rationale for Selection: - Random Sample - Stakeholder issue - Ease of access - Other (please describe)
S-2456	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-2491	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-3393	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-5216	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-5439	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Kopparfors Skogar	non-SLIMF; Large > 10,000 ha	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-6106	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-5934	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-6213	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-6215	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-5802	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-6219	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-6310	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-5971	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-5915	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata

S-5136	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Boxholms Skogar	non-SLIMF; Large > 10,000 ha	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Engaholms Skogar	non-SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Oxbergs Gemensamhetsskog Samfällighetsförening	non-SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Hällefors Tierp Skogar AB	non-SLIMF; Large > 10,000 ha	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Nyskog 23 AB	non-SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Lima Besparingsskog	non-SLIMF; Large > 10,000 ha	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Malung-Sälen Kommun	non-SLIMF; Large > 10,000 ha	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Örebro Kommun	non-SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Transtrands Besparingsskog	non-SLIMF; Large > 10,000 ha	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-4065	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-4064	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-2279	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-4546	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-2814	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-2809	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-3661	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Kristinehamns Kommun	non-SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Nyskog 23 AB	non-SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
Gysinge Skogsfastigheter AB	Large > 10,000 ha; non-SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata
S-5551	SLIMF	Natural forest	Random sample within sampling strata

Appendix 2 – Staff and Stakeholders Consulted

List of FME Staff Consulted

To protect privacy, only FME staff who have expressly provided written permission are listed. **These records are retained by SCS and subject to FSC or ASI examination.**

Name	Title	Contact Information	Consultation method
Magnus Norrby	CEO	magnus.norrby@skogscertifiering.se	Virtual meeting, in person
Anneli Sandström	Certificate manager	Anneli.sandstrom@skogscertifiering.se	Virtual meeting, In person, email
Martin Klenz-Tornow	Internal auditor	martin.klenz@skogscertifiering.se	Virtual meeting, in person
Helene Larsson	Internal auditor	helene.larsson@skogscertifiering.se	Virtual meeting, in person

List of other Stakeholders Consulted*

To protect privacy, only stakeholders who have expressly provided written permission are listed. **These records are retained by SCS and subject to FSC or ASI examination.**

Name	Organization	Contact Information	Consultation method	Requests Cert. Notf.
Mittådalen Sameby	Sami Community	-	Phone	No
Ruvthen sijte	Sami Community	-	Phone	No
Private citizens (3)	Neighbors to GM Örebro Komun	-	In person interviews	No
Bergslagens Gräv&Entreprenad AB	Forest Contractor	-	In person interview	No
Private citizen	Neighbors to GM Kristinehamns kommun	-	In person interview	No

* Note: SCS may maintain additional records of stakeholder consultation activities (e.g., email notifications) in its recordkeeping system. Anonymous stakeholders may have provided comments as a part of stakeholder outreach activities.

Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed

- None.
- Additional techniques employed (*describe*):

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the audit was conducted per applicable FSC, RW, and/or SFI guidance. The following Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Tools were used to complete the audit, including any issues that were exceptionally difficult to evaluate. Remember that audit evidence typically includes Documentation, Interviews, and Observation. Remote audits tend to emphasize Documentation and Interviews over direct Observation. Certain technologies must be used to substitute for direct Observation. During remote audits, auditors shall utilize information and communication technology (ICT) to evaluate all requirements from the annual audit plan to the extent possible. Audits shall be conducted on the basis of virtual meetings / interviews with relevant people of the certificate holder and stakeholders, relevant documents and records, satellite images (where possible), and other best available information.

Remote audits **must** include all forms of remote auditing tools described below:

- Video meetings / remote site sampling (virtual company tour);
- Interviews with relevant FME personnel and stakeholders;
- Relevant documents and records; and
- Satellite or drone images (where possible), and other best available remote observation information including, for example, georeferenced photos and videos.

If one of these tools is not available, the auditor must justify how the audit can proceed without such tools in this form. Audits in this situation may be postponed at the discretion of the FM director until an on-site audit is possible, if the lack of appropriate ICT tools presents an unacceptable conformance risk.

Describe the ICT tools used and agreed upon with the certificate holder to evaluate the requirements included in the scope of the audit (check all that apply):

Documentation :	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Computer (e.g., laptop)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Filesharing service (e.g., Dropbox, SharePoint)	<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Private Network (VPN)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe):
Interviews:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone (e.g., mobile, landline)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peer-to-peer voice, chat or video application (e.g., Skype, WhatsApp)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tele- or video-conferencing application (e.g., Zoom, GoToMeeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Teletypewriter (TTY) or other device for hearing-impairment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe):
Observation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Satellite/GIS data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smartphone camera	<input type="checkbox"/> Digital camera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Video/audio recording	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): Information from the Swedish Forestry Administration Board database (final fellings, identified WKHs, protected areas, red listed speices etc.)

Appendix 4 – Required Tracking

Pesticide Derogations

- There are no active pesticide derogations for this FME.

Progressive HCVF Assessments

- FME does not use partial or progressive HCVF assessments.

Note: In the case the FME is not operating in the entire management unit, it is permissible to only complete an HCVF assessment for the portion of the unit in which they are operating under special conditions. In such cases, the HCVF assessment must be extended if new areas are entered without an existing, appropriate HCVF assessment having been completed. An example includes a large forest concession where harvesting is initially limited to a smaller geographic scope.

Special Instructions or Scoping Notes for Next Regularly Scheduled Annual Audit

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable; no significant issues identified that may impact the next audit.
Some issues were identified during this audit that the next audit team could consider in the next audit, such as:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope of certificate:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit sampling:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit time:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit season:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel time between sites or FMUs:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit frequency:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested audit team competency for next audit:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested requirements to include during the next audit:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested issues investigate during the next audit:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested sites for inspection:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholders to be consulted:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other(s) – please describe:

Appendix 5 – Forest Management Standard Conformance Table

Criteria required by FSC at every surveillance evaluation (<i>check all situations that apply</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA – all FMUs are exempt from these requirements. <input type="checkbox"/> Plantations > 10,000 ha (24,710 ac): 2.3, 4.2, 4.4, 6.7, 6.9, 10.6, 10.7, and 10.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Natural forests > 50,000 ha (123,553 ac) ('low intensity' SLIMFs exempt): 1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 4.2, 4.4, 5.6, 6.2, 6.3, 8.2, and 9.4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FMUs containing High Conservation Values ('small forest' SLIMFs exempt): 6.2, 6.3, 6.9 and 9.4
--	--

Documents and records reviewed for FMUs/sites sampled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All applicable documents and records as required in the audit plan were reviewed; or <input type="checkbox"/> The following documents and records as required in the audit plan were NOT reviewed (<i>provide explanation</i>):
---	--

Requirements Reviewed in Annual Evaluation

Evaluation Year	Requirements Reviewed (FSC P&C Reviewed, FM/COC Indicators, Trademark Indicators, Group Standard Indicators, etc.)
2016	All – (Re)certification Evaluation
2017	P4, P6
2018	P1, P2, P7; and FSC-STD-30-005
2019	P8, P9, FSC-STD-30-005, Internal audits, FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0
2020	FM Standard Principles 3, 5, and 10, as well as Indicators 6.2, 6.3, 6.9, and 9.4. The FM Group and Trademark Standards were evaluated.

C= Conformance with Criterion or Indicator
 NC= Nonconformance with Criterion or Indicator
 NA = Not Applicable
 NE = Not Evaluated

REQUIREMENT	C/NC	COMMENT/CAR
Principle #1 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria. Not selected for evaluation.		
PRINCIPLE 2: TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established. Not selected for evaluation.		
PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS: The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.		
3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	C	-
3.1.1S. Managers shall accept and respect Sami people’s reindeer husbandry on landholdings situated within the area designated as reindeer husbandry area⁸ by Report No. 44, Vol. 5, 1978, from the	C	Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders confirmed awareness and adherence to requirement.

<p>National Swedish Board of Agriculture, the National Swedish Board of Physical Planning and Building.</p>		
<p>3.1.2. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall conduct consultations in compliance with §§ 20 and 31 in the Swedish Forestry Act and associated regulations and general guidelines as worded 2009-01-01. Consultations shall encompass planning of forest management measures in a landscape perspective for a period of three to five years. The parties may agree to forego consultations outside year round reindeer husbandry land. Consultation may be implemented within the framework of group certification or other forms of landowner co-operation.</p> <p>3.1.2SA. Managers with landholdings within year round reindeer husbandry land shall conduct consultations in compliance with §§ 20 and 31 in the Swedish Forestry Act and associated regulations and general guidelines as worded 2009-01-01. Additionally, consultations shall be conducted if management measures affect sites designated as of particular importance for reindeer husbandry in the Sami village land-use report or, in the absence of such report, land-use plans for reindeer husbandry. These areas shall be documented. Consultation may be implemented within the framework of group certification or other forms of landowner co-operation.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME provides group members with templates for consultation with the representation of indigenous people when this requirement applies.</p>
<p>3.1.3S. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall provide the Sami village with a general forest map and, if possible a map of forest stands, prior to consultation⁹. If the consultation is related to lands designated as important grazing areas or equivalent in the Sami village land-use report or land-use plans for reindeer husbandry, a map of forest stands shall always be attached.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>3.1.4S. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall comply with documented consultation agreements.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.</p>
<p>3.1.5. Managers shall, if an agreement cannot be reach on forest management activities to be undertaken, document in the consultation minutes that the issue is postponed to a future consultation.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.</p>
<p>3.1.6. If, after a second round of consultation, agreement on forest management activities cannot be reached, the manager and the Sami village shall jointly appoint a neutral mediator to assist them in reaching an agreement. If, notwithstanding, the parties still do not agree, the mediator shall propose a solution. If any of the parties reject the proposal, the reasons shall be documented in the consultation minutes together with a description of the considerations to be taken related to reindeer husbandry. The mediation process and its results shall be documented in the minutes.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.</p>
<p>3.1.7. Managers of major holdings with landholdings within the reindeer herding area shall carry out an annual evaluation, together with reindeer husbandry representatives, of the implementation of the consultation. The evaluation shall be carried out by a regional group appointed by the parties¹⁰.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.</p>
<p>3.1.8. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall document the consultation, clearly stating the areas and measures discussed, agreements made and any remaining divergences with rationales. The consultation minutes shall be signed in approval by both parties.</p> <p>3.1.8SA. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall ensure that the consultations are documented, including the areas and measures discussed, agreements made, and any remaining divergences with</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME provides group members with templates for consultation with the representation of indigenous people when this requirement applies.</p>

rationales. The consultation minutes shall be signed in approval by both parties.		
3.1.9. Managers shall obtain information from affected Sami villages on installations and other important objects for reindeer husbandry, as well as on potential substantial impacts on the reindeer husbandry, prior to overall planning of any significant changes in land use. This requirement shall not be subject to the consultation and dispute resolution procedures outlined in Indicators 3.1.2 – 3.1.8.	C	Information collection from Sami villages is a part of the consultation process, as verified through interviews with FME personnel and group members.
3.2 Forest management shall not threaten or diminish either directly or indirectly the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples	C	-
3.2.1S. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall be aware of areas and sites with significant occurrences of arboreal or ground lichens through consultation and access to the Sami villages' land or land use plans for reindeer husbandry use reports.	C	Interview with GM shows conformance with the requirement
3.2.2S. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall leave edge zones with an abundance of arboreal lichens along watercourses and mires, and preserve areas/groups of trees from which arboreal lichens may disperse within or adjacent to the felling area.	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.
3.2.3. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall not establish stands of exotic tree species within areas of particular importance to reindeer husbandry (see 3.3.1) unless agreed upon in consultation. 3.2.3SA. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall not establish stands of exotic tree species within areas of particular importance to reindeer husbandry (see 3.3.1SA) unless agreed upon in consultation.	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.
3.2.4S. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall	C	None of the sampled FMUs have used fertilizers.

<p>not apply fertilizers on land classified as lichen type, lichen-rich type or dry dwarf-shrub types with occurrences of lichens unless agreed upon in consultation (e.g. on forest land degenerated after fire).</p>		
<p>3.2.5S. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall use soil scarification methods which minimises negative impacts on the lichen availability on land classified as lichen type, lichen-rich type and dry dwarf-shrub types with occurrences of lichens unless agreed upon in consultation.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.</p>
<p>3.2.6S. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall not use prescribed burning on lichen areas of importance to reindeer husbandry.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.</p>
<p><i>3.3 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>3.3.1. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall consider and respect areas and sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to the Sami people: old settlements and other Sami cultural remains, migration routes, natural gathering places, overnight resting-places (grazing areas), difficult passages, particularly important arboreal lichen areas, work corrals and calving as well as culturally important paths and sacrificial places. These shall be documented through consultations, in the Sami villages' land-use reports, in land-use plans for reindeer husbandry, or in reports of areas of national interest for reindeer husbandry.</p> <p>3.3.1SA. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall consider and respect areas and sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to the Sami people,</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Information collection from Sami villages regarding these areas is a part of the consultation process.</p>

based on the designation in the Sami villages' land-use reports or in land-use plans for reindeer husbandry.		
3.3.2S. Managers with landholdings within the reindeer husbandry area shall plan and implement forestry measures so that identified areas and sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to the Sami people are maintained and protected.	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.
3.4 Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.
3.4.1. Managers shall provide the reindeer-herding Sami people with financial compensation for reasonable costs when their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems is applied in forest management.¹¹	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement. No such traditional knowledge have been used in the forest management of the sampled FMUs
<i>SLIMF: This criterion was discussed within FSC Sweden during the process of developing a SLIMF-adapted standard. The National Sámi Association was involved in these discussions and concluded that the criterion is not a relevant requirement for smaller forest owners, as these will not be part of formal consultations in the same way as larger owners, and that as a result there will be no transfer/use of traditional knowledge.</i>	-	-
PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS		
Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.		
Not selected for evaluation.		
PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST		
Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.		
5.1 Forest management shall strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental,	C	-

<p><i>social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.</i></p>		
<p>5.1.1. Managers shall practice responsible long-term forest management with high utilization of the forest production potential, taking the natural and cultural environment as well as other interests into consideration, that creates opportunities for forest employment and further processing of forest products.</p> <p>5.1.1SA. Managers shall plan and manage their forests in accordance with the planning documentation. Rationales shall be provided for deviations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Each sampled FMU has a forest management plan, which has been followed.</p>
<p>5.1.2. Managers of major holdings shall make publicly available a general description of how long-term economically viable forest management is combined with maintenance of biodiversity and safeguarding of cultural and social values. For other managers, these aims shall be ensured by compliance with §§ 10 – 11 of the Forest Act and the forest management plan of the property.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Information about the forestry conducted major landholdings available on the FME and/or group member websites.</p>
<p>5.1.3. Managers of major holdings shall utilize forest production in accordance with the general public description (5.1.2.). Other managers shall act according to §§ 10 – 11 of the Forest Act and the forest management plan of the property.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.</p>
<p>5.1.4S. Managers shall utilize a substantial part of the available forest production.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members at active sites verify conformance this requirement. Good utilization observed.</p>
<p>5.1.5. Managers shall plan the forest management, appropriate to the size and conditions of the landholdings, with the aim of achieving a balanced age class distribution, taking account of the growth dynamics of the forest.</p> <p>5.1.5SA. Managers shall plan the forest management, appropriate to the size and</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Forest management plans reviewed confirmed management activities are planned to achieve a balance of age-classes.</p>

conditions of the landholdings, with the aim of achieving a balanced age class distribution.		
5.1.6S Managers shall reforest all forest land after regeneration felling, unless nature conservancy agreements or authority decisions state otherwise.	C	Field site visits to clear felling units verified planting, as did interviews with FME personnel and group members verify conformance with this requirement.
5.1.7S. Managers shall use regeneration, clearing and thinning measures that result in reliable, rapid reforestation and well-stocked productive stands in accordance with § 10 of Forest Act and its regulations.	NC	Minor CAR issued (Finding 2020.6).
5.1.8S. Managers shall employ methods that limit the risks of damage by fungi, wind and insects through application of § 29 of Forest Act and its regulations.	C	Conformance of this requirement verified during field site visits, as well as through interviews with FME personnel and group members. For example, no wind-fellings left behind and no forest area heavily infested by fungus or insects.
5.1.9. Managers shall develop, in consultation with hunters and/or hunter organisations, a programme to limit damage by game. The programme shall take account of the size and conditions of the landholding, and shall be based on the best available knowledge. Potential measures shall include e.g. increased hunting pressure to reduce game populations and increased production of food for game.	C	Many group members hunt on their own landholdings. A system of consultative process for moose-management in Sweden points out how many moose are harvested every year. Hunters, landowners, and agencies take part in this programme.
5.2 Forest management and marketing operations shall encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.	C	-
5.2.1. Managers shall aim for methods of silviculture and forest management that generate optimal utilisation of a diversity of forest products. 5.2.1SA. Managers shall manage their forests so as to generate best possible production and optimal utilisation of a diversity of forest products.	C	Field site visits, as well as interviews with FME personnel and group members, confirm conformance of this requirement.
5.2.2. Managers of major holdings shall implement, where relevant, marketing activities to encourage optimal use of a diversity of forest products, taking account of local economy under	C	Yields from forestry activities on major community-owned landholdings support investments in the local communities.

conditions of the market.		
5.3 Forest management shall minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.	C	-
5.3.1. Managers shall use felling techniques that safeguard the value of the timber and minimise damage to remaining forest and land, and continuously monitor the outcome. 5.3.1SA. Managers shall use felling techniques that safeguard the value of the timber and minimise damage to remaining forest and land.	C	Field site visits, as well as interviews with FME personnel and group members, confirm conformance of this requirement.
5.3.2. Managers shall be aware of the environmental impacts of forest management, of appropriate environmentally and lifecycle-adapted input products, and of technologies that are considerate to people and to nature.	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members shows the required awareness.
5.3.3. Managers that use their own forestry machinery, or that hire contractors, shall implement systematic and documented procedures for minimising hazardous emissions from machinery as well as for monitoring results of the operations and improving environmental performance where necessary. 5.3.3SA. Managers that use their own forestry machinery, or that hire contractors, shall ensure that hazardous emissions from machinery is minimised.	C	Most group members, including SLIMFs, do not own machinery. Hired contractors are normally PEFC-certified; the requirements connected to hazardous emissions are included.
5.3.4. Managers of major holdings shall implement procedures, adapted to the extent and scope of the activity, to ensure a good quality of work within the machine-environmental-technical area.	C	As confirmed through interviews with FME personnel and group members, members with major landholdings have implemented such procedures.
5.4 Forest management shall strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.	C	-
5.4.1S. Managers shall be aware of the potential of the forest to produce various benefits for the local economy.	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members confirm the required awareness.

<p>5.4.2. Managers shall take account of the views expressed by local economy representatives under normal conditions of the market. Managers of major holdings shall have procedures in place for documenting such views.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>For major landholdings, the yields from forestry activities goes back to investments in the local community.</p>
<p>5.5 Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>5.5.1. Managers shall be aware of the potential of the forests to produce benefits and resources such as outdoor recreation, hunting and fishing and, where appropriate, implement demonstrable measures to maintain and enhance these values.</p> <p>5.5.1SA. Managers shall be aware of the potential of the forests to produce benefits and resources such as outdoor recreation, hunting and fishing.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members confirm the required awareness.</p>
<p>5.5.2. Managers shall use procedures, adapted to the size of the holdings, for taking account of views expressed by representatives of affected interest organisations, general public and authorities on forest benefits and resources in relation to harvesting and other forest management activities.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members confirm that consultation processes are used.</p>
<p>5.5.3. Managers shall agree, through contracts or other arrangements, on joint management of various natural resources in the same area where the parties find it necessary.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>There have been no requests for joint management.</p>
<p>5.5.4. Managers shall plan and implement forest management activity measures that affect recreational values with particular attention.</p> <p>5.5.4SA. Managers shall ensure that forest management activity measures that affect recreational values are implemented with particular attention.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members confirm conformance. For example, pathways are cleared from felling residues and no driving in pathways.</p>
<p>5.5.5. Managers shall plan and implement forest management activity measures so</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members confirm conformance. For example,</p>

<p>as to maintain accessibility and avoid damage to frequently used paths.</p> <p>5.5.5SA. Managers shall ensure that forest management activity measures are implemented so as to maintain accessibility and avoid damage to frequently used paths.</p>		<p>pathways are cleared from felling residues and no driving in pathways.</p>
<p>5.5.6. Managers shall document hunting rights on the landholding and ensure that hunting is conducted sustainably in compliance with relevant hunting laws and regulations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Conformance verified per Indicator 5.1.9.</p>
<p>5.5.7. Equivalent to 6.5.17.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Management plans show demonstrated that managers consider wetland and aquatic habitats in their management. This was confirmed during field visits</p>
<p><i>5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>5.6.1. Managers of major holdings shall ensure that timber harvesting and other forest utilisation is sustainable in the long term. Documentation of long-term sustainable harvesting levels shall be available.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of management plan, planned fellings, and harvesting documentation during audit confirms on conformance.</p>
<p>5.6.2. Other managers shall ensure that levels of timber harvesting are long-term sustainable through compliance with §§ 10-11 of the Forest Act and the forest management plan of the property.</p> <p>5.6.2SA. Equivalent to 5.1.1SA.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All sampled group members have a management plan, which have been followed.</p>
<p>5.6.3. Managers of major holdings shall implement procedures to ensure that harvesting over longer periods do not exceed stated long-term sustainable levels.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of management plans felling estimations, and harvesting documentation for sampled FMUs demonstrates.</p>
<p>PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p>		
<p><i>6.1 Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources - - and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall</i></p>	<p>NE</p>	<p>Not selected for evaluation.</p>

<p><i>include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.</i></p>		
<p>6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>6.2.1S. Managers shall exempt the following habitats from measures other than management required to maintain or promote natural biodiversity or biodiversity generated by traditional practices¹⁷.</p> <p>a) Natural, conspicuously un-even-aged and stratified forests with an abundance of old/large trees and a high frequency of coarse dead woody debris in different stages of decomposition¹⁸.</p> <p>b) Woodland key habitats according to the definitions and methodology of the Swedish Forest Agency, 1995.</p> <p>c) Low/non-productive forest land (land with a total annual volume increment less than 1 cubic meter per hectare).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as assessment of forest management plans and field visits confirms conformance.</p> <p>These areas are documented in each group member’s FMP and maps and not included in areas for felling operations.</p>
<p>6.2.2S. Managers shall ensure that woodland key habitats requiring active interventions are managed in accordance with defined and documented management objectives.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members confirm that such active interventions would be undertaken, if required.</p>
<p>6.2.3. Managers shall evaluate and document information about occurrences of red-listed species (Annex 5) outside delimited woodland key habitats, and about consideration measures to be taken as regards such occurrences.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Preparing the forest management plan includes evaluation of occurrences of red-listed species for all forestlands. Detection of red-listed species are documented in the FMP in connection to any measures needed to be taken.</p>
<p>6.2.4. Managers shall take demonstrable measures to protect occurrences of red-listed species (in accordance with 6.2.2)</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Contractors used for forest management activities are well trained to handle this (as part of their certification), as confirmed during</p>

<p>outside delimited woodland key habitats. These can be generic, including detailed consideration or care-demanding patches at felling, or specific such as small-scale measures or setting aside forest land for nature conservation purposes.</p> <p>6.2.4SA. Managers shall consider known occurrences of red-listed species (Annex 5) outside delimited woodland key habitats and take demonstrable measures to protect them. Such measures can be generic, including detailed consideration or care-demanding patches at felling, or specific such as small-scale measures or setting aside forest land for nature conservation purposes.</p>		<p>field visits where examples of detailed considerations were found, e.g., along streams or wetlands. Some managers have attended trainings in nature value assessments.</p>
<p>6.2.5. Managers shall document known raptors’ nests and capercaillie leks and take demonstrable measures to protect them.</p> <p>6.2.5SA. Managers shall consider known raptors’ nests and capercaillie leks and take demonstrable measures to protect them.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as review of records, confirms the presence of documentation and the protection of such sites.</p>
<p>6.2.6S. Managers shall avoid harvesting operations in stratified forests dominated by broad-leaf trees during the breeding season of birds.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirms conformance. No sign of harvesting operations in forests dominated by broad-leaf trees during the breeding season of birds during site visits.</p>
<p>6.2.7. Managers shall not establish forests on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) delimited patches of open or spontaneously overgrowing cultural land less than 0.5 hectare in the forest landscape; b) open and spontaneously overgrowing cultural land where the species composition is still conditioned by former traditional management practises (crofters’ holdings, old cultivations). c) <p>6.2.7SA. Managers shall not establish forests on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) delimited patches of open or spontaneously overgrowing cultural land 	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members confirm awareness of this requirement. No establishment of forest on such land has occurred.</p>

<p>less than 0.5 hectare¹⁹ in the forest landscape; open and spontaneously overgrowing cultural land where the species composition is still conditioned by former traditional management practises (crofters' holdings, old cultivations).</p>		
<p>6.2.8S. Managers shall maintain or create, preferably traditionally managed, open forest edge zones as part of the regular management of the stand.</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance.
<p>6.2.9S. Managers shall plan their forest management so as to avoid future shading of sun-exposed forest edges, forest islets on arable land and other small habitats.</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance.
<p>6.2.10S. Managers shall strive to maintain the biological diversity of uncultivated meadows and pastureland where the species composition is still conditioned by former traditional management practises. Biodiversity values associated with large previously solitary trees and with tree and shrub species characteristic of traditionally managed areas shall be promoted.</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. For example, old meadows along rivers are managed in accordance with traditional practices, including solitary shade trees and pasture.
<p>6.2.11S. Managers shall manage, where possible, any other afforested, previously open, cultural areas so that deciduous trees dominate throughout the rotation period in areas immediately adjacent to non-forested cultural land.</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members confirm awareness of this requirement. However, no afforested, previously open, or cultural areas immediately adjacent to non-forested cultural land were found in field visits other than the example described in Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance.
<p>6.2.12. Managers shall monitor their landholding for signs of illegal hunting and fishing and take corrective and preventive measures as required.</p> <p>6.2.12SA. Equivalent to 1.5.1SA.</p>	C	No illegal activities on any of the group member properties has been detected.
<p>6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:</p> <p>a) Forest regeneration and succession.</p> <p>b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem</p>	C	-

<p><i>diversity.</i> Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</p>		
<p>6.3.1. Managers shall adapt forest management measures to site conditions and document the measures. 6.3.1SA. Managers shall adapt forest management measures to site conditions.</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. Meeting this requirement is central to forest operations and also regulated in the Forest Act.
<p>6.3.2. Managers shall have knowledge about management methods that mimic important aspects of natural and traditional forest dynamics and when such management methods are preferable.</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. Management plans reviewed demonstrated planned forest management activities consistent with this requirement.
<p>6.3.3S. Managers shall make use of stands of seed trees, shelterwoods, group or tree selection systems and exploitation felling, when these methods produce successful regeneration with tree species that are appropriate for the site and for management objectives.</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. During field visits, several examples of seed trees were found. Natural regeneration of pine is common in areas which are suitable.
<p>6.3.4S. Managers shall retain all snags, windthrows and other trees that have been dead for more than 1 year except when they: a) constitute a safety risk for forestry workers or for the general public within recreation areas, b) block up frequently used paths and roads, c) constitute small-dimension felling residues, d) constitute breeding substrate for pest insects in case there is a documented risk of mass propagation²⁰.</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. Examples of snags, windthrow, and other trees that have been dead for more than one (1) year were found to be retained at visited felling areas.
<p>6.3.5S. Managers shall retain all snags, windthrows and other trees that have been dead less than 1 year²¹: a) that originate from trees with high biodiversity values (6.3.18) or other trees previously retained for nature conservation purposes b) in areas set aside for nature conservation including care-demanding patches on low/non-productive forest land with an annual</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. Examples of snags, windthrow, and other trees that have been dead for more than one (1) year were found to be retained at visited felling areas.

<p>increment less than 1 cubic metre per hectare.</p>		
<p>6.3.6S. Managers shall retain, on average, at least two coarse new windthrows per hectare when harvesting windthrown stems on final felled areas (in addition to windthrows addressed in 6.3.4S and 6.3.5S).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. During field visits, no harvesting of windthrown stems on final felled areas had occurred.</p>
<p>6.3.7S. Managers shall create, in average, at least three²² high stumps²³ or girdled trees per hectare of areas harvested through regeneration felling and thick-stem thinning, striving to select for this purpose equal numbers of coarse pine, spruce, birch and aspen trees without high biodiversity values.</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>A Minor CAR was issued (Finding 2020.7).</p>
<p>6.3.8. Managers shall plan and implement forestry measures so that, wherever natural conditions permit, broad-leaf trees constitute a minimum average of 10% of the stand volume²⁴, including immediately adjacent land, at the time of regeneration felling, (5 % in areas north of the <i>limes norrlandicus</i>). Naturally present broad-leaf tree species shall generally be maintained in the stand.</p> <p>6.3.8SA. Managers shall plan and implement their management so that, wherever natural conditions permit, general nature consideration measures in pre-commercial thinning, thinning and regeneration felling prioritise broad-leaf trees, with the aim that such trees, together with broad-leaf trees managed for production purposes, constitute 10% of the stand volume prior to regeneration felling (5 % north of <i>limes norrlandicus</i>). Naturally present broad-leaf tree species shall generally be maintained in the stand. Lower stand level proportions of broad-leaf trees are acceptable on holdings where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservation set aside areas (as defined in 6.4.1S) dominated by broad-leaf trees constitute at least 10 % of the productive forest land; or 	<p>C</p>	<p>The audited group members provided access to management plans, which address this requirement. Field visits confirmed promotion of deciduous trees, when possible.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> stands that are, and/or in the near future will be dominated by broad-leaf trees constitute at least 20 % of the productive forest land (10% north of limes norrlandicus). 		
<p>6.3.9S. Managers shall plan and manage the landholdings so that, over time, an area equivalent to at least 5 % of the total area of mesic and moist forest land²⁵, suitable for natural regeneration and growth of broadleaf trees, carry deciduous rich stands dominated by broadleaf trees during the major part of the rotation period. The stands shall be managed in order to promote favourable conditions for biodiversity associated with broadleaf trees.</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>A Minor CAR was issued (Finding 2020.8).</p>
<p>6.3.10S. Managers with landholdings in the nemoral zone outside the natural range of spruce shall plan and manage the holdings so that, over time, less than 50 % of the productive forest land carries stands dominated by spruce (in addition to any stands dominated by exotic tree species).</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>All group member landholdings are in the boreal zone.</p>
<p>6.3.11. Managers of major holdings shall take demonstrable measures²⁶ to allow tree species sensitive to browsing by game to develop naturally into normal arborescent individuals.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Hunting is carried out on most major landholdings, and broadleaves are generally saved during silvicultural activities. In areas where severe browsing occur, especially deciduous trees are promoted.</p>
<p>6.3.12. Managers of major holdings shall take all reasonable measures to burn an area equivalent to at least 5 % of the regeneration area²⁷ on dry and mesic forest land over a five-year period. Felling and burning operations shall be designed to promote fire-dependent species and measures shall be taken to minimize leaching of plant nutrients directly into watercourses. (See also Annex 6 on burning.)</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of management plans regarding burning, along with interviews and site visits, confirms this practice.</p>
<p>6.3.13. Managers of major holdings shall document all burning measures in planning documentation and forest registers.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of management plans regarding burning confirms conformance.</p>

<p>6.3.14S. Managers shall demarcate, preferably when the ground is free from snow cover, as care-demanding patches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. small habitats with specific biodiversity values b. any buffer zones required adjacent to habitats with specific biodiversity values 	<p>C</p>	<p>Harvest planning is normally made when the ground is free from snow cover, as confirmed through field observation and interviews.</p>
<p>6.3.15S. Managers shall promote continuously forested, if possible stratified, transition zones conditioned by topographical, hydrological and ecological features adjacent to wetlands and low/non-productive forest land. Demarcation is preferably performed when the ground is free from snow cover.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Harvest planning is normally made when the ground is free from snow cover, as confirmed through field observation and interviews. Examples of transition zones were seen during field visits.</p>
<p>6.3.16S. Managers shall retain wind resistant trees of different species with good potentials to develop into large and old trees during the next rotation period, with the aim that the next stand shall contain at least 10 such trees²⁸ (including relevant biodiversity value trees according to 6.3.18S) per hectare (in average for the productive forest land within the unit of operation, including transition zones and care-demanding patches).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. Several clear-felled areas were visited during the audit, confirming the presence of retention trees in line with this requirement.</p>
<p>6.3.17S. Managers shall retain care-demanding patches, edge zones, groups of trees and biodiversity value trees (6.3.18S), so as to avoid large treeless areas.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. Site visits confirmed the presence of well-distributed retention trees and edge zones in each FMU.</p>
<p>6.3.18S. Managers shall retain and safeguard as part of all forestry measures all trees with high biodiversity values²⁹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. aberrant, particularly large and/or old trees, b. large trees with notably wide girth and thick-branched and/or flat crowns, c. large, previously solitary growing spruces on pasture land, d. large aspen and alders where these do not occur in abundance, in stands dominated by conifers, e. arborescent goat willow, mountain ash, whitebeam, 	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. Several clear-felled areas were visited during the audit, confirming the presence of retention trees in line with this requirement.</p>

<p>maple, lime, bird-cherry, wild cherry and large hazel in stands dominated by conifers,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. large junipers, g. trees with distinct open bole fire scars, h. hollow trees and trees with stick nests of birds of prey, i. trees with evident features of cultural importance, j. individual or small groups of valuable broad-leaf trees in the boreal forest landscape. 		
<p>6.3.19S. Managers shall plan and manage their landholding so as to promote that a significant number of broadleaf trees, and an appropriate number of other trees, develop into trees with high biodiversity values.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as site visits, confirm conformance. Site visits showed where trees in line with the requirement could be found at felling areas. Interviews confirmed that managers and contractors have good awareness of the values of broadleaf trees; broadleaf trees are promoted in thinnings and regeneration fellings.</p>
<p>6.3.20. Managers shall monitor and document compliance with Indicators 6.3.14-6.3.19 and take corrective and preventive measures in case of non-compliance.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Monitoring is normally carried out and documented by the wood procurement organizations that organize the harvesting operations, as confirmed through review of group member records. The wood procurements organizations in the event of non-compliances, such as conducting trainings of harvest contractors. Group members typically conduct field checks after the completion of operations and communicate any deviation from the plan to the manager.</p>
<p>6.3.21. Managers shall aim to maintain the natural processes and long-term productivity of soils, and to avoid negative impacts on other ecosystems and biodiversity values. Managers adding or restoring nitrogen/mineral plant nutrients shall demonstrate, with the support of generic documentation³⁰, that these measures do not conflict with this aim.</p> <p>6.3.21SA. Managers shall aim to maintain the natural processes and long-term productivity of soils, and to avoid negative impacts on other ecosystems and</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of sampled group member FMPs confirmed that environmental values are assessed and documented. Forest management planning and implementation considers biodiversity values and maintains the natural processes and long-term productivity of soils to avoid negative impacts on other ecosystems and biodiversity values. Examples of soil protections, such as watercourse management and maintenance of old ditches, were seen in the field.</p>

biodiversity values.		
<p>6.3.22. Managers shall ensure that nitrogen fertilisers are used in accordance with the Swedish Forest Agency’s regulations, general guidelines and recommendations and in accordance with Indicator 6.3.21.</p> <p>6.3.22SA. Managers shall ensure that nitrogen fertilisers are used in accordance with the Swedish Forest Agency’s regulations, general guidelines and recommendations and in accordance with the recommendations of Indicator 6.3.21SA³⁰.</p>	NA	None of the sampled FMUs use fertilizers, as verified through interviews and site visits.
<p>6.3.23. Managers shall ensure that extraction of biofuel complies with the recommendations of the Swedish Forest Agency and that such practices are documented at stand level.</p> <p>6.3.23SA. Managers shall ensure that extraction of biofuel complies with the recommendations of the Swedish Forest Agency.</p>	C	Group members utilize certified contractors for biofuel extraction generally sourced by the wood procurement organization. By utilizing certified contractors that extract biofuel in line with certification standards, the managers are ensured that extraction of biofuel complies with the recommendations of the Swedish Forest Agency. Managers also notify the Swedish Forest Agency about biofuel extraction six (6) weeks in advance of harvest, per the Swedish forest legislation. This allows the authority to provide guidance in cases of uncertainty regarding compliance. This was confirmed through interviews.
<p>6.3.24S. Managers shall ensure that any spread of ash, lime or nutrients to compensate for biofuel extraction, soil acidity, or nutritional imbalances, complies with the Swedish Forest Agency’s regulations and general guidelines.</p>	NA	None of the sampled group members spread ash, lime, or nutrients on their landholdings, as confirmed through interviews and site visits.
<p>6.3.25. Managers shall apply updated research-based knowledge about long-term forest land productivity in planning and implementation of their management activities.</p>	C	Managers showed awareness about their sources of information. By utilizing certified contractors for planning and implementation of their management activities in line with certification standards, the managers ensure that updated research-based knowledge about long-term forest land productivity is applied. Many of the agents and group members participate in “forest days” where specialists from the faculty and research institute demonstrate trials and research findings.

6.4 – 6.8	NE	Not selected for evaluation.
6.9 The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.	C	-
6.9.1. Managers who establish and/or manage stands with exotic tree species shall be aware of production and quality advantages compared to native tree species, and of potential negative impacts, through generic documentation, trials and/or experience.	C	No new stands of exotic tree species have been established since last audit.
6.9.2S. Exotic tree species may be used, with considerable restraint, after trials or experience have demonstrated that the species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provides considerable production benefits or other advantages over native tree species; - is ecologically well adapted to the conditions of the sites where it is used; - is not invasive; - does not cause significant negative impacts on other ecosystems or biodiversity; - does not cause substantial negative impacts on natural soil processes or long-term productivity. 	C	No new stands of exotic tree species have been established since last audit.
6.9.3. Managers shall limit any use of exotic tree species so that the total area of newly established stands of such species, as from 2009, does not exceed 5 % of the productive forest area³⁹. 6.9.3SA. Managers shall limit any use of exotic tree species so that the total area of newly established stands of such species, as from 2009, does not exceed 5 % of the productive forest area ³⁹ . Managers of holdings of less than 50 hectares shall limit any use of exotic tree species so that the total area of newly established stands of such species does not exceed 2.5 hectare of the productive forest land.	C	No new stands of exotic tree species have been established since last audit. Existing stands with exotic trees are under the required threshold.
6.9.4. Managers that establish or manage stands with exotic tree species shall implement procedures for such tree	C	No new stands of exotic tree species have been established since last audit.

<p>species.</p>		
<p>6.9.5. Managers who establish new stands with exotic tree species in accordance with 6.9.2S shall take additional and more extensive consideration measures in support of important biodiversity and environmental values. The scope and implementation of the measures shall clearly relate to the area of newly established stands of exotic tree species. Measures shall be selected and implemented based on analyses of important biodiversity and environmental values in need of enhancement in the landscape. Managers shall regularly report on their plans and measures in a publicly available format⁴⁰.</p> <p>6.9.5SA. Managers who establish new stands with exotic tree species in accordance with 6.9.2S shall take additional and more extensive consideration measures in support of important biodiversity and environmental values. The scope and implementation of the measures shall clearly relate to the area of newly established stands of exotic tree species⁴⁰.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No new stands of exotic tree species have been established since last audit.</p>
<p>6.9.6. Managers of major holdings who establish new stands with exotic tree species shall adapt conservation strategies and landscape planning to conform with 6.9.5.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No new stands of exotic tree species have been established since last audit.</p>
<p>6.97. Managers of major holdings that establish or manage stands with exotic tree species shall plan the use in a landscape perspective so as to avoid and minimise adverse ecological effects, e.g. invasive propagation and negative impacts on areas of high biodiversity value. This shall imply e.g. that exotic tree species are not established in the majority of landscapes that contain less than 2% of such species at the landscape level.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No new stands of exotic tree species have been established since last audit.</p>
<p>6.9.8. Managers shall actively monitor their use of exotic tree species, through</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No new stands of exotic tree species have been established since last audit.</p>

<p>procedures adapted to the extent and intensity of the use, so as to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p>		
<p>6.9.9. Managers that use exotic tree species shall have a programme for mitigating potential adverse ecological impacts that include active measures, e.g. limitation and removal of self propagated seedlings.</p> <p>6.9.9SA. Managers that use exotic tree species shall limit self-propagation and remove unwanted self-propagated seedlings.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No new stands of exotic tree species have been established since last audit.</p>
<p>6.9.10. Managers that use exotic tree species shall document and monitor their measures.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No new stands of exotic tree species have been established since last audit.</p>
<p>PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLAN 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>Not selected for evaluation.</p>		
<p>PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Not selected for evaluation.</p>		
<p>PRINCIPLE 9: MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS Management activities in High Conservation Value Forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding High Conservation Value Forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.</p> <p>Not selected for evaluation.</p>		
<p>9.1 – 9.3</p>	<p>NE</p>	<p>Not selected for evaluation.</p>
<p>9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>9.4.1. Managers of major holdings with landholdings that contain High Conservation Values shall annually monitor measures taken to maintain or enhance these values, and evaluate the effectiveness of the measures at appropriate intervals⁴⁵.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as review of monitoring records, confirms that HCV areas are annually monitored consistent with this requirement.</p>
<p>9.4.2. Other managers with landholdings that contain High Conservation Values shall monitor measures taken to maintain or enhance these values and evaluate the effectiveness of the measures when updating or revising their forest management plans.</p> <p>9.4.2SA. Managers with landholdings that contain High Conservation Values shall monitor measures taken to maintain or enhance these values when revising their planning documentation.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members, as well as review of monitoring records, confirms that HCV areas are annually monitored consistent with this requirement. These areas are documented in the FMPs and values are maintained. In most cases, the values are maintained through no active management (although the values are monitored).</p>
<p>PRINCIPLE 10: PLANTATIONS</p> <p>Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 - 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world’s needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.</p> <p>No plantations on landholdings of audited group members. Audit Team has determined that management practices and species composition constitute natural/ semi-natural forest management and that P10 is not applicable.</p>		

Appendix 6 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table

Chain of Custody indicators were not evaluated during this evaluation.

<p>REQUIREMENT</p>	<p>C/NC</p>	<p>COMMENT / CAR</p>
<p>1. Quality Management</p>		
<p>1.1 The organization shall appoint a management representative as having overall responsibility and authority for the organization’s compliance with all applicable requirements of this standard.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Prosilva is not involved in any CoC activities carried out on group member FMUs. All harvest and CoC activities are handled by the group members themselves and the wood procurement organizations of independent sawmills.</p>

		Among audited group members, the owner of the property is typically the management representative, as confirmed in interviews.
1.2 The FME shall maintain complete records of all FSC-related CoC activities, including sales and training, for at least 5 years.	C	Prosilva does not carry out any CoC activities. All CoC activities conducted by the agents and wood procurement organizations are carried out under their own FSC CoC certificates. Group members maintain sales records for more than five years to comply with Swedish accounting legislation.
1.3 The FME shall define its forest gate(s) (check all that apply): <i>The forest gate is defined as the point where the change in ownership of the certified-forest product occurs.</i>	C	<p>Stump</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Stumpage sale or sales of standing timber; transfer of ownership of certified-forest product occurs upon harvest.</i></p> <p>On-site concentration yard</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at concentration yard under control of FME.</i></p> <p>Off-site Mill / Log Yard</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Transfer of ownership occurs when certified-product is unloaded at purchaser's facility.</i></p> <p>Auction house / Brokerage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Transfer of ownership occurs at a government-run or private auction house / brokerage.</i></p> <p>Lump-sum sale / Per Unit / Pre-Paid Agreement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>A timber sale in which the buyer and seller agree on a total price for marked standing trees or for trees within a defined area before the wood is removed — the timber is usually paid for before harvesting begins. Similar to a per-unit sale.</i></p> <p>Log landing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at landing / yarding areas.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe):</p>

<p>1.4 The FME shall have sufficient control over its forest gate(s) to ensure that there is no risk of mixing of FSC-certified forest products covered by the scope of the FM/COC certificate with forest products from outside of the scope prior to the transfer of ownership.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The audited group members utilize certified contractors for harvesting activities, generally sourced by wood procurement organizations. As soon as logs are forwarded to the roadside, load tickets are applied to the log piles by the contractor. Each harvest site has an individual identification number that is printed on the load tickets. Load tickets also include information on the certification status of the wood.</p>
<p>1.5 The FME and its contractors shall not process FSC-certified material prior to transfer of ownership at the forest gate without conforming to applicable chain of custody requirements. <i>NOTE: This does not apply to log cutting or de-barking units, small portable sawmills or on-site processing of chips / biomass originating from the FMU under evaluation.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No processing occur before ownership of certified material is transferred.</p>
<p>2. Product Control, Sales and Delivery</p>		
<p>2.1. Products from the certified forest area shall be identifiable as certified at the forest gate(s).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>As soon as logs are forwarded to the roadside, load tickets are applied to the log piles. Each harvest site has an individual identification number that is printed on the load tickets. Load tickets include carry information on the certification status of the wood.</p>
<p>2.2 The FME shall maintain records of quantities / volumes of FSC-certified product(s).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Group members maintain sales records for more than five years to comply with Swedish accounting legislation.</p>
<p>2.3. The FME shall ensure that all sales documents issued for outputs sold with FSC claims include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) name and contact details of the organization; b) name and address of the customer; c) date when the document was issued; d) description of the product; e) quantity of the products sold; f) the organization’s FSC Forest Management (FM/COC) or FSC Controlled Wood (CW/FM) code; g) clear indication of the FSC claim for each product item or the total products as follows: 	<p>C</p>	<p>All audited group member FMEs utilize the wood sale/purchasing contracts provided by the wood procurement organizations they sell their wood to, as confirmed through interviews. FMEs do not issue invoices.</p> <p>Inspected contracts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) name and contact details of the organization; b) name and address of the customer; c) date when the document was issued; d) description of the product; e) estimated quantity of the products sold; f) certification status of the group member FME, which can be controlled by the purchaser by contacting the group entity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the claim “FSC 100%” for products from FSC 100% product groups; ii. the claim “FSC Controlled Wood” for products from FSC Controlled Wood product groups. <p>h) If separate transport documents are issued, information sufficient to link the sales document and related transport documentation to each other.</p>		<p>Prosilva, that can provide FSC claims of products as well as the FSC certification code g) clear indication of the FSC claim for the total products</p> <p>Additionally, for h: Load tickets are supplied by the purchasing organization and applied to logs in log piles at roadside by the forwarder (usually contracted by the purchaser). The load tickets are used as transport documents and tickets from a specific harvest site have an individual identification number that is printed on the load tickets. Load tickets carry information that links the ticket to the sales document.</p> <p>Exact quantities of products sold are reported by the purchasers upon completion of delivery of the harvest volumes to the industries that the purchasers resell the wood to. All commercially sold wood volumes in Sweden are recorded in a third party measurement system (SDC VIOL) upon arrival at the purchasing industries. Payment is made according to the measurements. The wood procurement organizations keep control of the wood in the supply chain by measuring harvested, forwarded and transported volumes, which are compared to the third party measured volumes.</p>
<p>2.4 The FME shall include the same information as required in 2.3 in the related delivery documentation, if the sales document (or copy of it) is not included with the shipment of the product.</p> <p>Note: 2.3 and 2.4 above are based on FSC-STD-40-004 V2-1 Clause 6.1.1 and 6.1.2</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Load tickets are supplied by the purchasing organization and applied to logs in log piles at roadside by the forwarder (usually contracted by the purchaser). The load tickets are used as transport documents and tickets from a specific harvest site have an individual identification number that is printed on the load tickets. Load tickets carry information that links the ticket to the sales document.</p>

<p>2.5 When the FME has demonstrated it is not able to include the required FSC claim as specified above in 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 in sales and delivery documents due to space constraints, through an exception, SCS can approve the required information to be provided through supplementary evidence (e.g. supplementary letters, a link to the own company’s webpage with verifiable product information). This practice is only acceptable when SCS is satisfied that the supplementary method proposed by the FME complies with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There is no risk that the customer will misinterpret which products are or are not FSC certified in the document; b) The sales and delivery documents contain visible and understandable information so that the customer is aware that the full FSC claim is provided through supplementary evidence; c) In cases where the sales and delivery documents contain multiple products with different FSC Claims, a clear identification for each product shall be included to cross-reference it with the associated FSC claim provided in the supplementary evidence. <p><i>FSC-ADVICE-40-004-05</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No space constraints in sales and delivery documents.</p>
<p>3. Labeling and Promotion <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>		
<p>3.1 Describe where / how the organization uses the SCS and FSC trademarks for promotion.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Prosilva uses the FSC trademark in several off-product manners, including on the Prosilva website, in informational packets, in presentations, and on some group member websites. The FME does not use the SCS trademark.</p>
<p>3.2 The FME shall request authorization from SCS to use the FSC on-product labels and/or FSC trademarks for promotional use.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Records of authorization requests since 2016 were examined. An in-depth examination of four (4) promotional use requests from 2020 was conducted by the Audit Team. All of these sampled requests demonstrated conformance with this requirement. The FME has not requested use of the SCS trademark.</p>

3.3 Records of SCS and/or FSC trademark use authorizations shall be made available upon request.	C	Records of FSC trademark use authorizations were made available to the Audit Team. The FME has not requested use of the SCS trademark.
4. Outsourcing		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
4.1 The FME shall provide the names and contact details of all outsourced service providers.	-	-
4.2 The FME shall have a control system for the outsourced process which ensures that: a) The material used for the production of FSC-certified material is traceable and not mixed with any other material prior to the point of transfer of legal ownership; b) The outsourcer keeps records of FSC-certified material covered under the outsourcing agreement; c) The FME issues the final invoice for the processed or produced FSC-certified material following outsourcing; d) The outsourcer only uses FSC trademarks on products covered by the scope of the outsourcing agreement and not for promotional use.	-	-
5. Training and/or Communication Strategies		
5.1 All relevant FME staff and outsourcers shall be trained in the FME’s COC control system commensurate with the scale and intensity of operations and shall demonstrate competence in implementing the FME’s COC control system.	C	FME personnel and group members demonstrated knowledge of FME’s COC control system, as verified through interviews. Additionally, training records confirmed appropriate training has occurred.

<p>5.2 The FME shall maintain up-to-date records of its COC training and/or communications program, such as a list of trained employees, completed COC trainings, the intended frequency of COC training (i.e. training plan), and related program materials (e.g., presentations, memos, contracts, employee handbooks, etc).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Group members are introduced to the CoC requirements when they become members of the group. This is part of the checklist that FME personnel agents walk through together with each new member. The checklist contains information on who attended the introduction and is signed upon completion by the group member. The member and the agent keep separate copies that are filed. The checklist function as a documentation of the training, record of trained employees and a reference material for later refreshment of knowledge. Audited group members provided access to the checklist in interviews.</p>
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Appendix 7 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table

- N/A, does not use/intend to use FSC trademarks for any purposes (finished with this section); or
- N/A, is fully integrated and all trademark uses are treated under the COC Annex to this report that includes a full review of FSC-STD-40-004 and FSC-STD-50-001.

1. General Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks (FSC “checkmark-and-tree” logo, initials “FSC,” and/or name “Forest Stewardship Council”)		
Trademark uses reviewed:		
Trademark Application (on-product/promotional)	Case Approval #, or Email (include approver name & date), or other appropriate documentation	Are all elements correct? (e.g., trademark symbol, color scheme, size, etc.) If not, describe in Nonconformities below.
Smallholder group informational material	Case 309809, approved 2 July 2020	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Group member website	Case 310288, approved 8 July 2020	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Presentation for forest landowners	Case 327920, approved 13 November 2020	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Public summary on website from internal audit	Case 328029, approved 16 November 2020	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> All known uses reviewed.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample reviewed. Rationale that sample choice is sufficient to confirm requirements are met: As evidenced by a review of the history of off-product requests for use of the FSC trademark, Prosilva has a good track record of verifiable requests for use the trademark. As a result, a random sample of the many uses of the trademark was reviewed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trademark uses detected include those grandfathered in under prior FSC trademark rules (e.g., FSC-TMK-50-201). Place the initials “GF” by the specific Trademark Applications above. <i>Note: This only applies to printed items or physical promotional materials (e.g., hats, load tickets) in stock. New printings, items, and websites must be updated per FSC-STD-50-001 requirements. If the organization only has GF uses and no new uses, the rest of this checklist is NA.</i></p>		

<p>1.2 Trademark License Agreement and valid certificate In order to use these FSC trademarks, the FME shall have a valid FSC trademark license agreement and hold a valid certificate. <i>Note: Consultations for certification Organizations applying for forest management certification or conducting activities related to the implementation of controlled wood requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.</i></p>	Maintained on file by SCS Main Office
<p>Evidence 1.2: Maintained on file by SCS Main Office.</p>	
<p>1.6 Product Group List The products intended to be labeled or promoted as FSC certified have been included in the organization’s certified product group list.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS
<p>Evidence 1.6: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Product Groups List in Public Summary Report; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected in Product Groups: ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS related to Product Groups:</p>	
<p>1.3 Trademark License Code The FSC trademark license code assigned by FSC to the organization accompanies any use of the FSC trademarks. It is sufficient to show the code once per product or promotional material.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS
<p>1.4 Trademark Symbol The FSC logo and the ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks shall include the trademark symbol ® in the upper right corner when used on products or materials to be distributed in a country where the relevant trademark is registered. For use in a country where the trademark is not yet registered, use of the symbol ™ is recommended. The Trademark Registration List document is available in the FSC trade-mark portal and marketing toolkit. The symbol ® shall also be added to ‘FSC’ and ‘Forest Steward-ship Council’ at the first or most prominent use in any text; one use per material is sufficient (e.g. website or brochure). <i>NOTE: The use of the trademark symbol is not required for FSC claims in sales and delivery documents, or for the disclaimer statement specified in requirement 6.2.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, one or more of noted exceptions applies
<p>2.1 Restrictions on using FSC trademarks The organization has not used the FSC trademarks in the following ways: a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the FSC certification scheme; b) in a way that implies that FSC endorses, participates in, or is responsible for activities performed by the organization, outside the scope of certification; c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification; d) in product brand or company names, such as ‘FSC Golden Timber’ or website domain names; e) in connection with FSC controlled wood or controlled material – they shall not be used for labelling products or in any promotion of sales or sourcing of controlled material or FSC controlled wood; the initials FSC shall only be used to pass on FSC controlled wood claims in sales and de-livery documentation, in conformity with FSC chain of custody requirements.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS
<p>2.2 Translations</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C

<p>The name 'Forest Stewardship Council' has not been replaced with a translation. A translation may be included in brackets after the name, for example: Forest Stewardship Council® (translation)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no translations
<p>Evidence 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 2.2: <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	
<p>Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules The organization has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • color and font (8.1-8.3); • format and size (8.4-8.9); • label placement (8.10); and • 'Forests For All Forever' marks (9.1-9.7). 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS
<p>1.5 Trademark Use Approval The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval. OR The organization has an approved trademark use management system in place. (If the organization has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS
<p>4.6 FSC trademarks may be used to identify FSC-certified materials in the chain of custody before the products are finished. It is not necessary to submit such segregation marks for approval. All segregation marks shall be removed before the products go to the final point of sale or are delivered to uncertified organizations.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, trademarks no used for segregation marks
<p>Evidence Graphic Rules, 1.5, and 4.6: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	

2. On-Product Use of FSC Trademarks
 NA, no use of on-product trademarks (*on-product checklist may be deleted*)

3. Promotional Use of FSC Trademarks
 NA, no use of promotional trademarks (*promotional checklist may be deleted*)

<p>6.1 Catalogues, Brochures, and Websites When the FSC trademarks have been used in catalogues, brochures, or websites, the following requirements apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is sufficient to present the promotional elements only once in catalogues, brochures, websites, etc. • If both FSC-certified and uncertified products are listed then a text such as "Look for our FSC®-certified products" shall be used next to the promotional elements and the FSC-certified products shall be clearly identified. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks in catalogues/ brochures/websites
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If some or all of the products are available as FSC certified on request only, this is be clearly stated. 	
<p>6.2 Sales and Delivery Documents When the FSC trademarks are included on sales or delivery document templates that may be used for both FSC and non-FSC products, the following or a similar statement is included: “Only the products that are identified as such on this document are FSC certified”. <i>NOTE: Use of the FSC claim and certificate code on the invoices does not qualify as FSC trademark use.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks on templates for FSC & non-FSC products
<p>6.3 Promotional Items All promotional items (e.g., mugs, pens, T-shirts, caps, banners, vehicles, etc.) have displayed, at minimum, the FSC logo and FSC trademark license code.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not labeling promotional items
<p>6.5 Trade Fairs When the FSC trademarks are used for promotion at trade fairs, the organization has: a) clearly marked which products are FSC certified, or b) add a visible disclaimer stating “Ask for our FSC®-certified products” or similar if no FSC-certified products are displayed. <i>NOTE: Use of text to describe the FSC certification of the organization does not require a disclaimer.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks at trade fairs
<p>Section 6.6 and 6.7 Investment/Financial Claims 6.6 When investment companies or others are making financial claims based on the organization’s FSC certified operations, the organization has taken full responsibility for the use of the FSC trademarks. 6.7 Any such claims have been accompanied by the disclaimer, “FSC is not responsible for and does not endorse any financial claims on returns on investments.”</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not making financial claims about FSC status
<p>7.1 and 7.2 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos The FSC trademarks have not been used together with the marks of other forest certification schemes in a way which implies equivalence, or in a way which is disadvantageous to the FSC trademarks in terms of size or placement.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not using other scheme logos
<p>7.3 Business Cards The FSC trademarks have not used on business cards to promote the organization’s certification. The FSC logo or ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks are not used on business cards for promotion. A text reference to the organization’s FSC certification, with license code, is allowed, for example “We are FSC® certified (FSC® C#####)” or “We sell FSC®-certified products (FSC® C#####)”.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, approval granted prior to July 1, 2011
<p>7.4 Promotion with CB Logo FSC certified products have not been promoted using only the SCS Kingfisher and/or SCS Global Services logo.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS

<p>Evidence 6.1-6.3, 6.5-6.7, 7.1-7.4: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	
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<p>Annex A: Trademark use management system</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not using a trademark management system (<i>Annex A checklist may be deleted</i>)</p>

<p>Annex B, Additional trademark rules for group FM certificate holders</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA, not a group FM certificate or group does not use FSC trademarks (<i>Annex B checklist may be deleted</i>)</p>
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<p>Annex B, 1.1 The group entity (or manager, or central office) shall ensure that all uses of the FSC trademarks by the group entity or its individual members are approved by the certification body prior to use, or that the group and its members have an approved trademark use management system in place. When seeking approval by the certification body, group members shall submit all approvals via the group entity or central office, and keep records of approvals. Alternative submission methods may be approved by the certification body.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p>
<p>Evidence 1.1:</p>	
<p>Annex B, 1.2 The group entity shall not produce any document similar to an FSC certificate for its participants. If individual membership documents are issued, these statements shall be included:</p> <p>a) "Managing the FSC® group certification program of SCS Global Services"</p> <p>b) "Group certification by SCS Global Services"</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA, not issuing individual membership documents</p>
<p>Annex B, 1.3 No other forest certification schemes' marks or names shall appear on any membership documents (as per clause 1.2) issued by the group in connection with FSC certification.</p> <p><i>Note: This only applies to documents issued per Annex B, 1.2 and NOT other documents such as group procedures.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p>
<p>Annex B, 1.4 Subcodes of members shall not be added to the license code.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p>
<p>Evidence 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4:</p>	

Appendix 8 – Group Management Program

This is not a group certificate, so this appendix is not applicable.

Group Management Conformance Table

Group Standard was not evaluated as part of this evaluation.

Requirement	C/NC	Comment / CAR
PART 1 QUALITY SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS		
C1 General Requirements		
1.1 The Group entity shall be an independent legal entity or an individual acting as a legal entity.	C	Prosilva is a registered stock company.
1.2 The Group entity shall comply with relevant legal obligations, as registration and payment of applicable fees and taxes.	C	The Prosilva annual report is reviewed by a third-party auditor. The tax record was presented to the audit team and reviewed. No pending claims from the tax authority.
1.3 The Group entity shall have a written public policy of commitment to the FSC Principles and Criteria.	C	Prosilva management system is available on the company website. This system includes commitment to FSC. The FME’s website is http://skogscertifiering.se/ .
1.4 The Group entity shall define training needs and implement training activities and/or communication strategies relevant to the implementation of the applicable FSC standards.	C	Prosilva offers training in nature values to all group members. Prosilva has performed trainings for its agents who, in turn, inform the group members about FSC requirements when they sign the certification contract. Records include information for agents about internal audit results, questionnaires, website news, and training days for agents on nature evaluation and the certification standard. Training needs are evaluated every year based on internal and external audits.
C2 Responsibilities		
<p>2.1 The Group entity shall clearly define and document the division of responsibilities between the Group entity and the Group members in relation to forest management activities (for example with respect to management planning, monitoring, harvesting, quality control, marketing, timber sale, etc).</p> <p><i>NOTE: The actual division of responsibilities may differ greatly between different group certification schemes. Responsibilities regarding compliance to the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard may be divided between the Group entity and Group members in order to take into account of a landscape approach.</i></p>	C	<p>The division of responsibilities between the group entity and group members is described in the agreement signed by Prosilva and each member.</p> <p>The group entity is responsible for developing all routines and procedures for the group, legal documents, monitoring, marketing, and FSC coordination and training.</p> <p>Group members are responsible for all field operations, contacts with local clients, stakeholders and contractors, and FSC training for contractors.</p>
2.2 The Group entity shall appoint a management representative as having overall responsibility and authority for the	C	Prosilva has appointed an FSC coordinator who is responsible for compliance of the group entity with the FSC standard.

Group entity's compliance with all applicable requirements of this standard.		
2.3 Group entity staff and Group members shall demonstrate knowledge of the Group's procedures and the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard.	C	Group entity personnel have good knowledge of FSC, as verified through interviews. Likewise, group members were knowledgeable about the standard and procedures.
C3 Group entity's procedures		
3.1 The Group entity shall establish, implement and maintain written procedures for Group membership covering all applicable requirements of this standard, according to scale and complexity of the group including:	C	The management system was reviewed by the audit team. The system includes all relevant routines for management of the group members, as described below.
I. Organizational structure;	C	Contained in the Prosilva company description of the management system.
II. Responsibilities of the Group entity and the Group members including main activities to fulfill such responsibilities (i.e. Development of management plans, sales and marketing of FSC products, harvesting, planting, monitoring, etc);	C	Contained in agreement between group entity and each group member. Responsibilities are clearly defined in the management system.
III. Rules regarding eligibility for membership to the Group;	C	The rules are included in the contract for the connection in the group.
IV. Rules regarding withdrawal / suspension of members from the Group;	C	Described in the agreement between group entity and each group member.
V. Clear description of the process to fulfill any corrective action requests issued internally and by the certification body including timelines and implications if any of the corrective actions are not complied with;	C	CARs are issued during audits conducted internally by Prosilva personnel.
VI. Documented procedures for the inclusion of new Group members;	C	Procedures are described in the management system and communicated to agents.
VII. Complaints procedure for Group members.	C	A complaint submission function is available on the Prosilva website.
3.2 The Group entity's procedures shall be sufficient to establish an efficient internal control system ensuring that all members are fulfilling applicable requirements.	C	Prosilva has developed a checklist to be used in the internal audits. Prosilva conducts an extensive internal audit of the group members. The results of the audit were presented to the Audit Team.

<p>3.3 The Group entity shall define the personnel responsible for each procedure together with the qualifications or training measures required for its implementation.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All responsibilities are described in the management system. The management system includes a job description for all staff. Current personnel have professional backgrounds in forestry or ecology and have all been trained in FSC certification.</p>
<p>3.4 The Group entity or the certification body shall evaluate every applicant for membership of the Group and ensure that there are no major non-conformances with applicable requirements of the Forest Stewardship Standard, and with any additional requirements for membership of the Group, prior to being granted membership of the Group. <i>NOTE: for applicants complying with SLIMF eligibility criteria for size, the initial evaluation may be done through a desk audit.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There is a checklist to be filled in by the applicant. The checklist covers the FSC P&C. The checklist is signed by the agent and the applicant to concern the knowledge of the agreement and the requirements in the FSC standard. A checklist is completed by the applicant, and the agent has an introduction to FSC certification.</p>
<p>C4 Informed consent of Group members</p>		
<p>4.1 The Group entity shall provide each Group member with documentation, or access to documentation, specifying the relevant terms and conditions of Group membership. The documentation shall include:</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>i. Access to a copy of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard;</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The standard is available on the Prosilva website. Group members receive a leaflet with the basic FSC considerations in forestry operations.</p>
<p>ii. Explanation of the certification body's process;</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The checklist completed by the applicant includes an explanation of the certification process.</p>
<p>iii. Explanation of the certification body's, and FSC's rights to access the Group members' forests and documentation for the purposes of evaluation and monitoring;</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>This is described in the agreement between Prosilva and each the member.</p>
<p>iv. Explanation of the certification body's, and FSC's requirements with respect to publication of information;</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Information about the Swedish FSC standard regarding public information is included in the agreement between the group entity and each group member.</p>
<p>v. Explanation of any obligations with respect to Group membership, such as: <i>NOTE: In some groups, it may be sufficient to provide individual members with a</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Any obligations are explained to the group member during the application process.</p>

<p><i>summary of these items, provided that full documentation is readily available on request at the Group entity's offices. The information should be presented in a way adapted to the language and knowledge of the Group members.</i></p>		
<p>a. maintenance of information for monitoring purposes;</p>	C	The group entity keeps records of internal audits and questionnaires.
<p>b. use of systems for tracking and tracing of forest products;</p>	C	The log buyers have a system for marking and tracing of log piles.
<p>c. requirement to conform with conditions or corrective action requests issued by the certification body and the group entity</p>	C	Contained in the checklist for group applicants
<p>d. any special requirements for Group members related to marketing or sales of products within and outside of the certificate;</p>	C	This issue is included in the agreement between Prosilva and each member.
<p>e. other obligations of Group membership; and</p>	NA	There are no other obligations
<p>f. explanation of any costs associated with Group membership.</p>	C	In the agreement between the group entity and group member. Every member gets an invoice from Prosilva for their membership.
<p>4.2 A consent declaration or equivalent shall be available between the Group Entity and each Group member or the member's representative who voluntarily wishes to participate in the Group. The consent declaration shall:</p> <p><i>NOTE: A consent declaration does not have to be an individual document. It can be part of a contract or any other document (e.g. meeting minutes) that specifies the agreed relationship between the Group member and the Group entity.</i></p>	C	-
<p>i. include a commitment to comply with all applicable certification requirements;</p>	C	Contained in the checklist for applicants and the agreement between group entity and group member.
<p>ii. acknowledge and agree to the obligations and responsibilities of the Group entity;</p>	C	
<p>iii. acknowledge and agree to the obligations and responsibilities of Group membership;</p>	C	

iv. agree to membership of the scheme, and	C	
v. authorize the Group entity to be the primary contact for certification and to apply for certification on the member's behalf.	C	
C5 Group Records		
5.1 The group entity shall maintain complete and up-to-date records covering all applicable requirements of this standard. These shall include: <i>NOTE: The amount of data that is maintained centrally by the Group entity may vary from case to case. In order to reduce costs of evaluation by the certification body, and subsequent monitoring by FSC, data should be stored centrally wherever possible.</i>	C	-
i. List of names and contact details of Group members, together with dates of entering and leaving the Group scheme, reason for leaving, and the type of forest ownership per member;	C	Prosilva has a database with all the signed agreements.
ii. Any records of training provided to staff or Group members, relevant to the implementation of this standard or the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard;	C	Prosilva has records of both external (Forest Service) and internal training, as verified through record review.
iii. A map or supporting documentation describing or showing the location of the member's forest properties;	C	All group members have maps with the location of the forest and stand borders on their FMU(s). Maps are included in the management plans.
iv. Evidence of consent of all Group members;	C	Contained in the agreements database. The signing of the agreement is the evidence of consent.
v. Documentation and records regarding recommended practices for forest management (i.e. silvicultural systems);	C	Group members are recommended to follow <i>Regelrätt Skogsbruk</i> , a guide developed by the Forest Research Institute, Skogforsk. The guide covers all aspects of forestry regarding laws and regulations. The members only use certified contractors that are trained in FSC and government regulations.
vi. Records demonstrating the implementation of any internal control or monitoring systems. Such records shall include records of internal inspections, non-compliances identified in such	C	Prosilva conducts internal audits annually and keep the results in the management system.

inspections, actions taken to correct any such non-compliance;		
viii. Records of the estimated annual overall FSC production and annual FSC sales of the Group.	C	This is a part of the annual self-inspection checklist from group members.
5.2 Group records shall be retained for at least five (5) years.	C	Prosilva keeps a database with group member records. Records of the members are kept in a cloud-based server.
5.3 Group entities shall not issue any kind of certificates or declarations to their group members that could be confused with FSC certificates. Group member certificates may however be requested from the certification body.	C	Group entity does not issue any certificates.
PART 2 GROUP FEATURES		
C6 Group Size		
6.1 There is no restriction on the maximum size that a group certificate can cover in terms of number of group members, their individual forest property size or total forest area. The Group entity shall have sufficient human and technical resources to manage and control the Group in line with the requirements of this standard. <i>NOTE: The number of Group members, their individual size and the total area will however influence the evaluation intensity applied by the certification body in their annual audits.</i>	C	This group contains of both SLIMF and non-SLIMF members. The group entity has sufficient resources to manage the group and has been able to support rapid growth in the number of members.
6.2 The Group entity shall specify in their procedures the maximum number of members that can be supported by the management system and the human and technical capacities of the Group entity.	C	The group entity has specified the maximum number of group members in its group management procedures.
C7 Multinational groups		
7.1 Group schemes shall only be applied to national groups which are covered by the same Forest Stewardship Standard.	NA	Prosilva is not a multi-national group.
7.2 In cases where homogeneous conditions between countries / regions may allow an effective and credible cross-border or multi-regional monitoring system, the Group entity shall request formal approval by FSC IC through their accredited Certification Body to allow certification of such a group scheme.	NA	
PART 3 INTERNAL MONITORING		
C8 Monitoring requirements		

<p>8.1 The Group entity shall implement a documented monitoring and control system that includes at least the following:</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>i. Written description of the monitoring and control system;</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The monitoring and control system is described in the management system.</p>
<p>ii. Regular (at least annual) monitoring visits to a sample of Group members to confirm continued compliance with all the requirements of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard, and with any additional requirements for membership of the Group.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Internal audit is carried out every year on a sample basis.</p>
<p>8.2 The Group entity shall define criteria to be monitored at each internal audit and according to the group characteristics, risk factors and local circumstances.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Contained in the checklist for internal audits. Criteria to be monitored are evaluated every year after the internal audit. The criteria are based on risk for non-conformance with the FSC standard.</p>
<p>8.3. The minimum sample to be visited annually for internal monitoring shall be determined as follows:</p> <p><i>NOTE: for the purpose of sampling, FMUs < 1,000 ha and managed by the same managerial body may be combined into a 'resource management unit' (RMU) according to the proposal made in FSC-STD-20-007 Annex 1.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>A minimum sample is calculated as described in 8.3 a.</p>
<p>a) Type I Groups with mixed responsibilities (see section D Terms and definitions) Groups or sub-groups with mixed responsibilities shall apply a minimum sampling of $X = \sqrt{y}$ for 'normal' FMUs and $X = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}$ for FMUs < 1,000 ha. Sampling shall be increased if HCVs are threatened or land tenure or use right disputes are pending within the group.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Prosilva uses this sampling formula. Group members typically receive management plan review and regular inspections in the field by the group entity. All management activities carried out on the land of group members and reported to the GE.</p>
<p>b) Type II Resource Manager Groups (see section D Terms and definitions) Group entities who also operate as resource managers may define the required internal sampling intensity at their own discretion for the forest properties they are managing, independent of their size and ownership (the minimum numbers as defined above do not apply here).</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Prosilva is not a Type II group.</p>

8.4 For monitoring purposes the Group entity should use the same stratification into sets of 'like' FMUs as defined by the certification body in their evaluation.	C	For internal audits, stratification is made regarding group member FMU size and location, as well as activity level and management plan revision period. The FSC Audit Team used similar parameters in its FMU sample selection process.
8.5 The Group entity should visit different members in their annual monitoring than the ones selected for evaluation by the certification body, unless pending corrective actions, complaints or risk factors are requiring a revisit of the same units.	C	The group entity and FSC Audit Team met this requirement.
8.6 In the selection process of members to be visited, the Group entity should include random selection techniques.	C	A random selection within each stratum is made.
8.7 The Group entity shall issue corrective action requests to address non-compliances identified during their visits and monitor their implementation.	C	A system for internally issuing CARs is developed as described in group management procedures.
8.8 Additional monitoring visits shall be scheduled when potential problems arise or the Group entity receives information from stakeholders about alleged violations of the FSC requirements by Group members.	C	The group entity has resources to follow up on any problems related to FSC compliance.
C9 Sales of forest products and use of the FSC trademark		
9.1 The Group entity shall document and implement a system for tracking and tracing of forest products produced by the Group members which are supposed to be sold as FSC certified.	NA	Sales of FSC-material is done through FSC-certified agents.
9.2 For the purpose of ensuring that non-certified material is not being mixed with FSC certified material, FSC products shall only be sold according to a sales protocol agreed by the Group members and the Group entity.	NA	Group entity is not responsible for sales of FSC certified material.
9.3 The Group entity shall ensure that all invoices for sales of FSC certified material are issued with the required information (see FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0 Clause 6.1.1) and are filed by the group members.	NA	
9.4 The Group entity shall ensure that all uses of the FSC Trademark are approved by the responsible certification body in advance.	C	Prosilva uses the SCS Logo generator approval system.

Group Management Program Members

Non-SLIMF group members are identified above in Section 7. SLIMF group members have been withheld from the audit report to protect privacy.

**Group member names must not be listed unless express written permission to do so is provided to SCS.*