

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

## *Skogscertifiering Prosilva AB*

### **SCS-FM/COC-00153G**

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CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
21 October 2021	20 October 2026

DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION
26 April - 12 August 2021
DATE OF REPORT FINALIZATION
20 October 2021, Revised 15 November 2021 Revised 13 September 2022

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## Foreword

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SCS Global Services (SCS) is a certification body accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council to conduct forest management and chain of custody evaluations. Under the FSC / SCS certification system, forest management enterprises (FMEs) meeting international standards of forest stewardship can be certified as “well managed,” thereby permitting the FME’s use of the FSC endorsement and logo in the marketplace subject to regular FSC / SCS oversight.

SCS deploys interdisciplinary teams of natural resource specialists and other experts in forested regions all over the world to conduct evaluations of forest management. SCS evaluation teams collect and analyze written materials, conduct interviews with FME staff and key stakeholders, and complete field and office audits of subject forest management units (FMUs) as part of certification evaluations. Upon completion of the fact-finding phase of all evaluations, SCS teams determine conformance to the FSC Principles and Criteria.

### **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 general 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 30 days after issue of the certificate. Section B contains more detailed results and information for the use of by the FME.

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## SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

### 1. General Information

#### 1.1 Certificate Registration Information

##### Name and Contact Information

<b>Organization name</b>	Skogscertifiering Prosilva AB		
<b>Contact person</b>	Anneli Sandström		
<b>Address</b>	Klostergatan 2B, 753 21 Uppsala, Sweden	<b>Telephone</b>	+46 70 345 08 85
		<b>Fax</b>	
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		<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.skogscertifiering.se">www.skogscertifiering.se</a>

##### FSC Sales Information

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

##### Scope of Certificate

<b>Certificate Type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single FMU	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple FMU
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group	
<b>SLIMF (if applicable)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Small SLIMF certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low intensity SLIMF certificate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group SLIMF certificate	
<b># Group Members (if applicable)</b>	2922	
<b>Number of FMUs in scope of certificate</b>	2922	
<b>Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)</b>	Latitude & Longitude:	
<b>Forest zone</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boreal	<input type="checkbox"/> Temperate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtropical	<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical
<b>Total forest area in scope of certificate which is:</b> Units: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac		
privately managed	9598939,1	
state managed	-	
community managed	45382,6	
<b>Number of FMUs in scope that are:</b>		
less than 100 ha in area	1953	100 - 1000 ha in area 922

1000 - 10 000 ha in area	38	more than 10 000 ha in area	8
<b>Total forest area in scope of certificate which is included in FMUs that:</b>			<b>Units:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac
are less than 100 ha in area	86104,3		
are between 100 ha and 1000 ha in area	230367,4		
meet the eligibility criteria as <i>low intensity</i> SLIMF FMUs	0		
<b>Division of FMUs into manageable units:</b>			
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 )

Name	Contact information	Latitude/ longitude of Non-SLIMF FMUs	
Additional contact and geographical information is available at Prosilva's office			
Kopparfors Skogar AB	Lars Sängstuvall		
Hällefors Tierp Skogar AB	Dan Glöde		
Gysinge skogsfastigheter AB	Vegard Haanaes		
BOXHOLMS SKOGAR AB	Peter Wallin		
Lima Besparingsskog	Fredrik Eriksson		
Transtrands Besparingsskog	Fredrik Eriksson		
Malung-Sälens kommun	Jan-Olof Larsson		
Örebro Kommun	Malin Björk		
NySkog 23 AB	Vegard Haanaes		
Östersunds Kommun	Att: Bernt Nilsson		
Slottstornet AB	Gabriel Danielsson		
Brenäs skogar AB	Ulf Bergkvist		
S-2360			
Stiftelsen Danviks Hospital	Henrik Schmitterlöw		
STOCKHOLM VATTEN VA AB	Linus Henriksson		
FREDRIKSNÄS SÄTERI AB	Anna Nilsson		
S-4888			
Silvestica Green Forest Sverige AB	Henrik Söderberg		
Kristinehamns Kommun	Mikael Olsson		
Oxbergs Gemensamhetsskog Samfällighetsförening	Leif Bergman		

Leksands Kommun	Hans Carlström		
Fagersta kommun	Lisa Ekberg		
Älvdalens kommun	Solveig Strand		
Åkers Kronopark AB	Henrik Karlsson		
Norrköpings kommun	Marianne Lund		
Linköpings kommun	Thomas Weissenberg		
Kvills Bruks AB	Eva Eriksson Brunius		
S-6812			
S-6303			
Harpunds nämnden (SFV)	Christoffer Antonsson		
Tretorp Skog AB	John Hamilton		
Stenhammars godsförvaltning AB (SFV)	Per Rudengren		
S-6810			
S-6804			
S-6800			
Bordsjö Fideikommiss Aktiebolag	Christian Landberg		
S-7147			
Erengisle Förvaltning AB	Christian Landberg		

### Social Information

<b>Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender):</b>		
Male workers: 1,5	Female workers: 2	
<b>Number of accidents in forest work since previous evaluation:</b>	Serious: 0	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	

### Production Forests

<b>Timber Forest Products</b>	<b>Units:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac
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Total area of production forest (i.e. forest from which timber may be harvested)	820620,1
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	Most common
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by natural regeneration, or by a combination of natural regeneration and coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems	In suitable areas
<b>Silvicultural system(s)</b>	<b>Area under type of management</b>
Even-aged management	
Clearcut (clearcut size range 1-30 ha)	820620,1
Shelterwood	
Other:	
Uneven-aged management	
Individual tree selection	
Group selection	
Other:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. nursery, recreation area, windbreak, bamboo, silvo-pastoral system, agro-forestry system, etc.)	Recreation areas often part of production areas
<b>Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)</b>	
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	
<b>Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: (Scientific / Latin Name and Common / Trade Name)</b>	
Pinus silvestris (Scots pine), Picea abies (Norway spruce), Betula pendula/ Betula puberschens (birch), Populus tremula (aspen)	

### FSC Product Classification

Timber products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Species
W1 Rough Wood	W1.1 Roundwood (Logs)	All species
W1 Rough Wood	W1.2 Fuel wood	All species
W1 Rough Wood	W1.3 Twigs	All species
Non-Timber Forest Products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Product Level 3 and Species

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
<b>Total amount</b> of land in certified area protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for conservation objectives (includes both forested and non-forested lands).*	183701,6

*\*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).	<p>This type of areas are presented in two public databases, <a href="https://skyddadnatur.naturvardsverket.se/">https://skyddadnatur.naturvardsverket.se/</a> and <a href="https://kartor.skogsstyrelsen.se/kartor/">https://kartor.skogsstyrelsen.se/kartor/</a>. The databases are run by the Swedish Forest Agency and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, and provide information (map location and description) about protected areas, nationally and internationally important conservation areas, cultural heritage sites, endangered species etc. The databases combine information from forest companies, authorities, international conventions, local knowledge and performed inventories. The databases are constantly updated as new areas are identified and new information is available.</p> <p>Each group member has set aside at least 5% of all productive forest landholdings and 100% of non productive landholdings (growth not exceeding 1m<sup>3</sup>/ha/year). Priorities are made to ensure the highest conservation values are set aside.</p>	45000 estimated
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	Same as above	



	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.	Same as above	
HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).	Same as above	
HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).	Same as above	
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).	Same as above	
<b>Total area of forest classified as 'High Conservation Value Forest / Area'</b>			45000

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

## 1.2 Standards Applicable

All standards employed are available on the websites of FSC International ([www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)) or SCS Global Services ([www.SCSglobalServices.com](http://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' 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' 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 and Version number and check all that apply.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship Standard(s), including version: FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCS COC indicators for FMEs, V7-0
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC Trademark Standard (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups (FSC-STD-30-005), V1-1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

### 1.3 Conversion Table English Units to Metric Units

Length Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Mile (US Statute)	Kilometer (km)	1.609347
Foot (ft.)	Meter (m)	0.3048
Yard (yd.)	Meter (m)	0.9144
Area Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Square foot (sq. ft.)	Square meter (m <sup>2</sup> )	0.09290304
Acre (ac)	Hectare (ha)	0.4047
Volume Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Cubic foot (cu ft.)	Cubic meter (m <sup>3</sup> )	0.02831685
Gallon (gal)	Liter (l)	4.546
Quick reference		
1 acre	= 0.404686 ha	
1,000 acres	= 404.686 ha	
1 board foot	= 0.00348 cubic meters	
1,000 board feet	= 3.48 cubic meters	
1 cubic foot	= 0.028317 cubic meters	

## 2. Description of Forest Management

### 2.1 Management Context

#### 2.1.1 Regulatory Context

<b>Pertinent regulations at the national level</b>	Skogsvårdslag (Forestry Act) Kulturmiljölagen (Protection of Culture Heritage Act) Miljöbalken (Environmental Act) Artskyddsförordningen Timmerförordning (EUTR) Etc., see the Swedish FSC standard for a full list
<b>Pertinent regulations at the state/local level</b>	N/A
<b>Regulatory context description</b>	There are a number of authorities which are responsible for, within their respective areas, applying the regulations and undertake the activities that the government and the parliament have decided on. There are 27 agencies responsible for public statistics in Sweden. One of the main reasons to have several responsible agencies is to improve user influence on the statistics. Several agencies collect statistics on forests, forestry and forest industry, among others the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the Forest Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, Statistics Sweden, and the Swedish Energy Agency.

#### 2.1.2 Environmental Context

<b>Environmental safeguards:</b>
Guidelines from the Forestry Agency (Målbilderna) and a Sector Agreement to abide by them. They concern: Protection of certain forest types and conservation areas, protection of all waterways and water bodies, protection during a certain season, buffer zones around protected areas, site adapted logging technology, training of all types of staff and workers.
<b>Management strategy for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) species and their habitats:</b>
Identification of protection needs through the woodland key habitat inventory and nature value assessment before logging operations.

#### 2.1.3 Socioeconomic Context

About 50% of the forest land in Sweden is owned by private individuals. The forestry is sometimes combined with agriculture, but most forest owners are not occupy full time jobs elsewhere. In many areas, forestry and the forest industry is an important business sector and in smaller communities often the main employer. Most of the private forest owners have grown up with forestry and have inherited forest land. The typical forest owner has good knowledge of nature conservation issues and takes an interest in the ownership.

The Samis are the indigenous people in the North West of Sweden. Very few of the group members in Prosilva have FMUs within these regions.

### 2.1.4 Land use, Ownership, and Land Tenure

The forest owner has the right to extract timber and owns the right for hunting and fishing. Both hunting and fishing can be leased to clubs and private persons. For moose hunting, most forest owners are member in “moose management areas”, where the hunters and forest owners go together in larger areas and themselves agree on how to manage the moose population.

The Swedish customary rights give all people the right to pick berries and mushrooms and also the rights to access all parts of the forest.

The Swedish Agency “Lantmäteriet” governs mapping of the country, demarcate boundaries and help guarantee secure ownership of Sweden’s real property.

## 2.2 Forest Management Plan

<b>Management objectives:</b>
High and valuable forest timber production and conservation of biodiversity.
<b>Forest composition and rationale for species selection:</b>
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> and <i>Picea abies</i> amounts to about 80 %, <i>Betula spp.</i> amounts to about 12%. All species have commercial value. Sweden has a long tradition of further processing these tree species.
<b>General description of land management system(s):</b>
The typical system is final felling, regeneration and 2-4 thinnings. Regeneration is mostly done through soil preparation and planting of a single species. Seed trees are used on dry and mesic pine sites.
<b>Harvest methods and equipment used:</b>
Harvester and Forwarder.
<b>Explanation of the management structures:</b>
The Group Entity is responsible for ensuring all group members are aware of FSC requirements. Group members are responsible for management activities, often be using a local timber purchaser for the actual management activities.

## 2.3 Monitoring System

<b>Growth and yield of all forest products harvested:</b>
Growing stock is estimated every 10 years in connection with the management plan updates.
<b>Forest dynamics and changes in composition of flora and fauna:</b>
Some protected areas are monitored by the local government agency and sometimes also by local NGOs.
<b>Environmental impacts:</b>
Monitored by the regional Forestry Agency and County board.
<b>Social impacts:</b>
Regular contacts with local people and associations. Non SLIMF FMUs are expected to engage with local communities and other stakeholders, there are no requirements for extensive social impacts monitoring for SLIMF FMUs.

<b>Costs, productivity, and efficiency:</b>
Book keeping and tax declaration.

### 3. Certification Evaluation Process

#### 3.1 Evaluation Schedule and Team

##### 3.1.1 Evaluation Itinerary and Activities

<b>Date: April 21<sup>st</sup></b>	
<b>FMU / location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
Stakeholder consultation	
Remote Opening meeting	Opening Meeting: Introductions, client update, review audit scope, audit plan, intro/update to FSC and SCS standards, confidentiality and public summary, conformance evaluation methods and tools review of open CARs/OBS, emergency and security procedures for evaluation team, final site selection.
<b>Date: April 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Field Office/Area: S-6156, S-4126, S-6245, S-5794, S-5950, S-5821, S-6686, S-7070, S-7071</b>	
<b>FMU / location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
Varios 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 and document/management plan review	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plan. Review of management practices such as planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost pre-commercial thinning and final felling operations and the monitoring of these activities. Review of stakeholder relations, set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW. The (new) indicator 6.5.2 was reviewed, none of the members were aware of the requirement however 4 members (S-6245, S-6686, S-7070 and S-7071) were already in compliance.</p> <p>All group members had management plans younger than 10 years except for S-6156 (new member, plan not ordered at time of field visit) and S5950 (&lt; 20ha).</p> <p>Interviews with group members demonstrated a lack of knowledge on the applicable FSC requirements and none of them were aware of the new FSC FM standard.</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><b>S-6156</b></p>

	<p>No management plan. Field visit of 13 stands. Conservation felling conducted in stand near the farm center. Good quality, favoring a varied stand dominated by deciduous trees.</p> <p><b>S-4126</b> ID 12 Final felling, 14 ha. Spruce dominated stand with larger occurrences of old/semi old birch and aspen. Relatively flat terrain except for one small wooded hill at one end. Several consideration areas including one small spring. Occurrences of small scale soil damages, none affecting water. Two cultural heritage monuments identified, no consideration stumps deemed necessary by the planning personnel/contractor. After excluding retention trees in the consideration area, only 30-40 retention trees was found. Including the consideration area would result in about 110-120 trees which would still be too low. At least 4 old aspen trees (&gt; 100 years old) and 2 older willow trees been logged and taken out.</p> <p>ID 8 Set aside area. Suitable area for conservation purposes, pine and spruce dominated stand with elements of older deciduous trees. Stand is adjacent to a enclosure. Somewhat urgent need for careful conservation management if the deciduous trees and older pines are to be favoured and survive.</p> <p>ID 9 Set aside area. Suitable area for conservation purposes, similar to ID 8. Somewhat patchy overgrown grazing area with several examples of very old deciduous trees. There is need for a careful conservation felling to ensure the conservation values (probably connected to the deciduous trees) are favoured.</p> <p><b>S-6245</b> ID 12 Set aside area with large elements of oak, alder, aspen and birch being overgrown with spruce. Adjacent to a larger stream with beaver. Suitable area for conservation purposes where the spruce have been taken out and deciduous trees favoured. Per interview with the group member the area will be available for grazing shortly.</p> <p>ID 22 Planned pre-commercial thinning, 3 ha. Spruce dominated stand with larger elements of deciduous trees. No urgent need but would need to be remedied within 2-3 years. Good prerequisites for a high deciduous part.</p>
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	<p><b>S-5794</b>  Management plan not available during field audit.  Large second pre-commercial thinning in a stand potentially being exploited as a residential area with the matter being processed 2021. Most pine and spruce has been felled leaving a high percentage of younger oak and other deciduous trees. Good quality.</p> <p>Set aside area  Woodland Key Habitat, approximately 3-4 ha. Older, overgrown, grazing area where most spruce has been removed. Very suitable set aside area with elements of very old oak, hazel, aspen and birch. Good quality.</p> <p>Final felling  Spruce dominated stand, 4-5 ha, partly in a steep slope. At least 15 cultural heritage remains identified (older housing remains, about 1850-1890). Several consideration stumps has been created but in many cases only one belong to each remain. All remains deemed to be intact. Retention trees and high stumps left/created in sufficient numbers. Felling in accordance with FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010 SW.</p> <p><b>S-5950</b>  Final felling, 0,2 ha. Spruce dominated stand, highly affected by Ips Typographus. No high stumps created. All conservation trees left including younger oak and older pine, in total 15 trees.</p> <p>Final felling, ca 0,8 ha. Mixed stand, in hilly terrain, with spruce and pine. Very few deciduous trees. No indication that existing dead wood or conservation trees has been felled. Retention trees will serve as seed trees as well. A very good overall impression.</p> <p>Two pre-commercial thinnings, both on moist soil conditions. One has been governed to be dominated by deciduous trees, mainly warty birch with elements of spruce. Soil conditions are moist/wet and a stream is cutting through the stand. The other is being managed to favour spruce with deciduous trees are deemed to make up 10-20. Good quality operations but the latter one will need to be managed within a few years again.</p> <p><b>S-5821</b>  Set aside area, 0,3 ha. Newly purchased stand, overgrown grazing land with several elements of older noble broadleaf trees and birch/aspen. All spruce has been felled and some deciduous trees given more space. A cultural heritage monument has also been favoured (old stone wall).</p>
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	<p><b>Avd 40/47</b>                  Thinnings. Spruce dominated stands, mostly on old farmland, adjacent to each other. Very few deciduous trees, several examples that these individuals have been favoured since the last management operations. Three very old beech trees identified, these have been left and are being favoured in every operation. In a smaller area, birch and larch have been prioritized. Near a cream/wetter area, alder has been favoured.</p> <p><b>S-6686</b>                  ID 68                  Regeneration, spruce. Well executed plantation in hilly terrain with intermediate scarification method. Plants treated with mechanical protection (Conniflex). Given soil conditions pine would probably have been the better choice but spruce was chosen due to grazing problems. Several plants were identified to have been pulled or pushed up (grazing damages and frostbites respectively).</p> <p>ID65                  Thinning. Good quality thinning in varied mixed stand. Gentle slope with a small swamp forest at the higher end. No damages to the swamp forest but the runoff from it had been crossed, leading to a diversion of the flow. Following the new water way it still ended up in a nearby ditch. No high stumps created.</p> <p>ID 69                  Pre-commercial thinning/thinning. Stand dominated by deciduous trees. A very late pre-commercial thinning leading to a careful operation to avoid problems with snow breaks. Monitoring will be needed to ensure continued good production.</p> <p><b>S-7070 / S-7071</b>                  Separate group members but within the same family. Forest management identical. Field visits conducted on recent management activities for S-7071.</p> <p>ID 1                  Spruce dominated stand in hilly terrain and rough slope down to a woodland lake. Pine domination at the dryer hills. No damages to the soil and no identified runoff to the woodland lake. Buffer zone towards the woodland lake deemed adequate. No evidence to suggest felling of conservation trees or existing dead wood. Several too low high stumps identified, however so many has been created that the requirement is met.</p>
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	<p>ID 2                  Spruce dominated stand in slope towards a lake. A very large number of retention/seed trees has been left and will be left, per interview with the group member. A thin buffer zone has been left towards the lake. No evidence to suggest conservation trees has or existing dead wood has been felled.</p>
<p><b>Date: April 12<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup></b>  <b>Field Office/Area: S-6981, S-7043, S-6368, Stockholm Vatten</b></p>	
<p><b>FMU / location / sites visited</b></p>	<p><b>Activities / notes</b></p>
<p>Interviews and document/management plan review</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 management practices such as planned and closed silviculture operations, pre-commercial thinning and final felling operations and the monitoring of these activities. Review of stakeholder relations, set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW. The (new) indicator 6.5.2 was reviewed, none of the members were aware of the requirement but S-6368 was already in compliance.</p> <p>All SLIMF FMUs have several signs of Ips Typographus over most stands, including set aside areas. S-6981 planned protective management measures with the Forestry Agency has been deemed to be beneficial for conservation purposes.</p> <p>Interviews with SLIMF group members demonstrated a lack of knowledge on the applicable FSC requirements and none of them were aware of the new FSC FM standard.</p> <p>Stockholm Vatten has an appointed forestry manager in charge of monitoring and planning. Occasionally lesser manual fellings are required. Review of managers competences and of internal procedures.</p> <p>Review of areas planned to/undergoing land conversion. Review of 3 areas. One was previously converted from agricultural land to a spruce plantation in 1960-70, now being converted to a meadow. Another will be converted from forest land to an open area. Lastly a nearby reference stand was reviewed. The latter stand low productive forest land, dominated by spruce, ca 50 years old. No species variation and is deemed to be classified as a plantation. The conversion aim is to create a higher biodiversity in connection with a more historically correct land use.</p>
<p>Field visits</p>	<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><b>S-6981</b></p>

	<p>ID 72/73 Review of decision from the Forestry Agency (ST 54-2021) regarding management in set aside area. Mixed and varied stands with a great number of older deciduous trees and spruce. Planned action is to remove all spruce and a part of the younger trees to create a stratified forest dominated by deciduous trees.</p> <p><b>S-7043</b> ID 5.3 Felling in set aside area due to Ips Typographus. No communication with the Forestry Agency prior to this. Review of the stumps demonstrated that the stand previously held low conservation values. Good quality final felling with sufficient consideration trees and existing dead wood left. Some future consideration trees felled due to risk of damaging nearby buildings.</p> <p><b>Stockholm Vatten</b> 1012/1013 Woodland Key Habitats (N 1039-2017) and set aside areas. Spruce dominated stands with extensive damages by Ips Typographus. Consultation was held with the Forestry Agency prior to management activities with regulations being stipulated. The felling was deemed correct and in accordance with the Forestry Agency’s decision. After the felling the management plan was revised to reflect the site. Review of decision from the Forestry Agency, after management activities, the classification as WKHs remain.</p>
<p><b>Date: April 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Field Office/Area: Brevens Bruk</b></p>	
<p><b>FMU / location / sites visited</b></p>	<p><b>Activities / notes</b></p>
<p>Brevens Bruk</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>Stakeholder Consultation</p>	<p>Contact with a sample of identified stakeholders. No information to suggest need for further investigations.</p>
<p>Interviews and document/management plan review</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Interviews with company personnel and external stakeholders where identified. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost pre-commercial thinning and final felling operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of work environment and personnel competence and training. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW.</p>

	<p>Management plan via "Solen", originally from 2009 but revised in 2014. Another revision is planned for 2022 when more information, including set aside areas, will be added. To date 6,7% of the productive forest land is set aside and over 7% is made up of stands dominated by deciduous trees. Large areas with great damages from Ips Typographus making these areas the focus for 2021.</p> <p>Stakeholder relations partly direct and in direct. When planning fellings near residential areas or cottages a contact is made directly, review information letter sent 2020-10-15. Information on planned management activities also included in the companies own magazine (2 times/year) which is printed in 16 000 issues.</p>
<p>Field visits</p>	<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><b>Botten 430-20</b>                  Final felling. Spruce dominated stand with a high element of pine trees. Stand divided by a road. On the lower side of the road the stand is on a steep slope towards a small lake/wetland on one side and adjacent to a house in the other. Per interview with the group member, a consultation was done with house owner and the felling adapted accordingly with most of the trees left close to the garden to maintain a "forest feel".                  Good overall impression. Retention trees well over the minimum requirements and a sufficient number of high stumps created. No evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged.                  An adequate buffer zone has been left towards the lake/wetland.</p> <p><b>Magnehult 2429-19 SA</b>                  Final felling, 32,7 ha. Spruce dominated stand with several consideration areas, amounting to 4,5 ha. Stand is adjacent to a road along one end. Several cultural heritage monuments (old house foundations, cultivation cairns and low stone walls) identified. Stand previously exposed to small regular felling operations due to Ips Typographus. Several retention trees left as solitary trees and in tree groups. Close to the road, soil conditions are poorer with soil damages as a result. These does not affect any water ways or the cultural remains however.</p> <p>1806                  Set aside area, 1 ha, deemed appropriate for burning. Situated between a road and a lake. Pine dominated stand with dryer soil conditions. A small felling has been done prior to burning removing mainly spruce.                  A few older pines have been removed as well.</p>

	<p>Good quality conservation burning, some of the remaining trees have been killed by the smoke but most have survived. Several younger pine trees have been damaged but will survive which is a perfect result to increase the variation in the stand.</p> <p><b>Lilla smedstorp 309-21 &amp; 308-19</b> Final felling. Two separate stands of different age felled due to Ips Typographus and will be treated as one stand after regeneration. The first stand is 3 ha and 60 years old, the other 1,6 ha and 80 years. Overall a good impression, the younger stand contains smaller water bodies. Retention trees predominately left in the older stand along with existing and created dead wood (high stumps). Water bodies unaffected, no soil damages near them identified.</p> <p><b>Dytaget 1981-20</b> Pre-commercial thinning, 12,8 ha. Spruce/pine 60/40 with clear transitions between dryer and wetter soil conditions. Larger wetter area in the middle of the stand with alder and birch. Overall a good quality pre-commercial thinning operation where deciduous trees are deemed to make up 10%.</p> <p><b>Näbbetorp 1938-20</b> Pre-commercial thinning, 6,17 ha. Spruce plantation with 10-15% deciduous trees. Stand adjacent to a creak/ditch which has not been planted and is managed correct. Review of contractor instructions which were deemed clear and in accordance with requirements. Good overall impression.</p>
<p><b>Date: April 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Field Office/Area: S-5156, S-5129, S-6975, S-6923</b></p>	
<p><b>FMU / location / sites visited</b></p>	<p><b>Activities / notes</b></p>
<p>Stora Mellösa, Ervalla, Ramsberg</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 and document/management plan review</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. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW. The (new) indicator 6.5.2 was reviewed, 3 members were aware of the requirement (S-5156, S-5129, S-6975) and S-6975 was already in compliance.</p> <p>Review of management plans, all group members had plans younger than 10 years except for S-6975 who had commissioned an update of the existing one.</p>

	<p>Interviews with group members demonstrated a lack of knowledge on the applicable FSC requirements and none of them were aware of the new FSC FM standard.</p>
<p>Field visits</p>	<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><b>S-5156</b> ID 320 Spruce dominated stand, 45-50 years, with large damaged by Ips Typographus. Consultation with the Forestry Agency done since the final felling is planned before lowest final felling age. Flat terrain with planted spruce and elements of birch, adjacent to agricultural land. A 3-6 meter zone has previously been managed to create a forest edge zone. Per interview with the group member, the aim is to plant regenerate the stand with deciduous trees.</p> <p>ID 326 Thinning. Stand dominated by deciduous trees by self-regeneration. A good quality thinning with a good result.</p> <p>ID 324 Conservation area. Old wooded grazing land, dominated by very old noble broadleaf trees. Managed to favour deciduous tree. Very appropriate set aside area, per interview with the group member the stand might be up for permanent legal protection.</p> <p>ID 329 Pre-commercial thinning. Stand dominated by self-regenerated oak. Large grazing damages but most individual have survived and will within a few years be old enough to be less sensitive to grazing. Overall impression is very good.</p> <p><b>S-5129</b> ID 16 Pre-commercial thinning. Management by the group member. Spruce dominated stand with elements of birch left predominately in natural gaps. Deciduous trees deemed to make up 10% of the stems, making it important to make sure coming management favours these trees.</p> <p>ID 1 Conservation stand with old pine and deciduous trees and characteristics of a spruce dominated natural forest. Stand adjacent to a creek. Originally the conservation values would have</p>

	<p>been tied to the more open area and the pine/birch but the management plan indicates that the spruce is now more important. Per interview, the group member is concerned about Ips Typographus and will consult with the Forestry Agency to decide where the conservation values lie.</p> <p><b>ID 6</b> Pre-commercial thinning. Mixed stand with spruce/birch 50/50. Good quality and possible to manage towards deciduous focus.</p> <p><b>ID 12</b> Final felling and regeneration, 3,6 ha. Mixed stand, predominately with spruce and pine, in varied terrain. Slope down towards a flatter area and onward towards a stream. A future buffer zone has been identified towards the stream. No evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged. One high stump identified. Spruce has been planted by the group member over the entire area, including in the identified buffer zone and very close to the water.</p> <p><b>S-6975</b> <b>ID 11/112</b> Final felling, 9,3 ha. Spruce dominated stand with a few areas with dryer soil conditions and pine domination. Two parts divided by a road and a younger stand, both parts are adjacent to a lake. Elements of deciduous trees. Due to Ips Typographus there is a lot of dead wood. No indication that any has been taken out, some trees has been felled due to identified risks but left on site. Buffer zone towards lake consists mainly of a single tree line. Retention trees has been left as solitary trees or in groups to meet indicator 6.6.3.</p> <p>Signs that the contractor has identified an unspecified potential cultural heritage site. Site deemed a possible coal loading area during the field audit. Site damaged but was close to impossible to discern and not previously noted.</p> <p><b>S-6923</b> Consideration area. Pine dominated stand, partly rocky terrain. Some variation in age and size of the trees. In management plan identified as an area to be without management, however spruce will be, and have already in some parts, taking over requiring some operations. Typically, the stand would need some conservation management to remove spruce and thin out the pine trees to create sun lit gaps and dead wood.</p> <p><b>ID 18/19</b></p>
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	Final felling, mixed stand (pine/spruce), adjacent to a mire and a consideration area. In parts of the stand, seed trees have been left and an adequate buffer zone left towards the mire. As long as most seed trees are left on site, the felling will meet indicator 6.6.2. Note that most trees in the buffer zone does not meet the dimension requirements.
<b>Date: May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Field Office/Area: S-6303, S-6812</b>	
<b>FMU / location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
Växjö, Vimmerby	
Interviews and document/management plan review	<p>Review of management plan and interview with group members. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, mainly pre-commercial thinning and final felling operations and the monitoring of these activities. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW. Stakeholder relations reviewed. The (new) indicator 6.5.2 was reviewed, S-6812 was aware of the requirement but none of them had identified suitable areas.</p> <p>Review of management plans, both group members had plans younger than 10 years.</p> <p><b>6303</b> Planning and monitoring together with an agent from Vida Skog who also produces the felling instructions. Group member regularly hire 3 contractors and are using Vida Skogs agreement template. Agreement with Borensved Skogs (E-2110) and Lovdea AB (E-5139) reviewed.</p> <p><b>6812</b> Planning and monitoring together with various timber purchasers who also produces the felling instructions. Group member regularly hire contractors and are using Holmen Skogs agreement template. Agreement with Jonas Johansson (2020-01-01) reviewed. For thinning operations, group member has a long term agreement signed with Vida Skog. Final felling operations are subject to bidding.</p> <p>Work is being done to identify areas to meet indicator 6.5.2, however 0,9% is still to be identified and it is not clear if all additional stands can be credited as sample of 4 stands demonstrated (ID 3, 120, 306 and 456). Per interview with the group member, the management plan is not fully consistent with the overall aim and will be revised shortly.</p>
Field visits	Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, roadwork, public recreation access points, etc.

	<p><b>S-6303</b>  ID 42  Final felling, 7 ha. Mixed stand, dominated by spruce and with elements of deciduous trees. Stand is divided by a younger stand with the two parts amounting to about 5 ha and 2 ha respectively. While planning, a cultural heritage remain was identified and subsequently noted in the felling instructions. The contractor has placed consideration stumps around it, some of them are however quite high and might be confused with high stumps. Per interview with the group member, it will be noted in the management plan as well.  No evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged. Retention trees are left as solitary trees or in tree groups.</p> <p>Furuby 5:14  Old sandpit, surrounded by younger forest. The middle has been converted to a wetland and deciduous trees has been favoured in the near vicinity.</p> <p>ID 107  Pre-commercial thinning, 7,1 ha. Stand dominated by warty birch, about 20-25 years. Stand identified as potential area to meet indicator 6.5.2. If managed without clear cutting the stand is deemed very appropriate for this purpose.</p> <p>ID 238  Thinning, 7,5 ha. Stand dominated by warty birch and managed for production. Very nice production stand with clear intentions of producing timber quality birch.</p> <p>ID 245  Regeneration. Scarified and planted area, spruce. Shoots have mechanical protection (wax/latex). Tops and branches left at the side and are awaiting transport, one stem identified and assumed to be existing dead wood (ID nr 708684).</p> <p><b>S-6812</b>  ID 280  Conservation area, recently thinned. Stand in three parts, dominated by noble broadleaf trees with a larger element of overgrowing spruce and birch. Traces of historical grazing. All spruce removed to favour a stratified forest, dominated by deciduous trees. Very good overall impression. No damages to adjacent stone wall (cultural heritage remain).</p> <p>Tuna Lövpark</p>
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	<p>Planting of every Nordic deciduous tree, with name tags and trails, open to the public. Overall goal is to produce oak timber but 20-30% of the stand will, per interview with the group member and review of management plan, be managed for social benefits.</p> <p>ID XX Final felling, 2,7 ha. Pine dominated stand with larger elements of spruce and minor elements of birch. Stand divided in 2 parts, the larger part includes 3 ditches, 2 of which have been overgrown, creating prerequisites for a swamp forest, currently dominated by deciduous trees. Area left as a consideration area. Seed trees have been left together with older birch, alder and aspen. A few very old aspen trees and oak was also identified. A great deal of existing dead wood has been left and high stumps created in sufficient number. No soil damages identified. Overall impression is very good with only one question mark regarding dead wood left in a pile, close to a pile of tops and branches.</p> <p>ID 306 Stand identified to possible meet indicator 6.5.2. Mixed stand with a high number of very old pine trees ranging from 100 to 200 years old and somewhat younger spruce (app. 100 years). 20% of the area is planned for conservation purposes, as per review of forest management plan. Group member, however, would rather like to see a continuous/regular felling operation of spruce.</p> <p>ID 456 Stand identified to possible meet indicator 6.5.2. Mixed and varied stand with a high number of very old pine trees and large elements of semi old oak trees. Large range of ages from younger to older trees. Stand adjacent to a residential area and stakeholder consultations were held prior to felling (review of protocol dated 2020-10-10). In accordance with this, the felling was done to create a stratified forest. Overall impression is very good and deemed to meet the requirements in indicator 6.5.2.</p>
<p><b>Date: May 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Field Office/Area: Boxholm Skogar</b></p>	
<p><b>FMU / location / sites visited</b></p>	<p><b>Activities / notes</b></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>Stakeholder Consultation</p>	<p>Contact with a sample of identified stakeholders. 2 stakeholders comments was pursued further during the audit with no identified NCs as a result.</p>
<p>Interviews and document/management plan review</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Interviews with company personnel and external stakeholders</p>

	<p>where identified. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost final felling operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of work environment and personnel competence and training.</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 (Skyddsdikning/Dikesrensning) was to be renewed this year but had been cancelled due to Covid-19.</p> <p>Regular monitoring includes pre-commercial thinning from January, review of protocol template "Rutin för efterkontroll av föryngringsavverkning". Interviews with employees demonstrated that the actual monitoring process was not fully implemented and that other ways, perceived easier and more practical, was utilized. Review of protocols from April 2021, Rövareberget 803325 - thinning - and March 2021, Älgaberget Öster 502747 - pre-commercial thinning.</p> <p>Interviews with operations manager and field personnel demonstrated good relations to contractors and identified stakeholders.</p> <p>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>New and revised indicators in FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW was known. Work is ongoing to identify additional stands to comply with 6.5.2.</p>
<p>Field visits</p>	<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>502884 Pre-commercial thinning, 2,6 ha. Spruce dominated stand with patches of birch domination. Several examples of deciduous trees, especially willow, oak and aspen, being left, however almost exclusively where spruce have not been present. On this site, several cases were identified when spruce have been favoured and willow, rowan and alder have been felled.</p> <p>803136</p>

	<p>Conservation felling on spruce dominated, older, wooded grazing area. Several older linden and oak trees have been favoured and all spruce removed. Per interview with the forest manager, the aim is to let the stand self-regenerate and create a stratified stand, dominated by noble broadleaf trees.</p> <p>502821 Pre-commercial thinning, 3,2 ha. Spruce dominated stand with two larger consideration areas, left at the previous final felling, dominated by deciduous trees. Consideration areas have been left and most of the deciduous trees have been cleared in the production stand. Monitoring activities shows 20% of the stand consists of deciduous trees. Overall impression during field visit is that 10% would be more accurate. Per interview with the forest manager, more birch/aspen can be favoured closer to the consideration areas.</p> <p>803118 Final felling, 14,3 ha. Pine dominated stand in hilly terrain. Two larger tree groups left, one on rocky terrain and one on a wetter area. Both deemed as productive forest land. Seed trees left throughout the stand. One pine, larger than average (app. 60 cm across), identified to have been felled, unclear if this constituted any conservation values. Several examples of great care concerning existing dead wood and when fresh dead wood have been left in piles. No soil damages identified.</p> <p>150044 Planned conservation felling. Stand dominated by linden, hazel and oak with spruce overgrowing them. Per interview with the forest manager, the plan is to remove all spruce. Review of felling instructions to corroborate.</p> <p>803266 Final felling, 5,5 ha. Mixed stand in varied terrain. Retention trees left as solitary trees or in tree groups to meet indicator 6.6.3. One high stump created of a pine with an older damage. One birch with conservation values has been felled but left on site.</p> <p>040528 and more Approximately 20 stands, in all 80 ha, identified as potentially meeting indicator 6.5.2. Stands very close to the city and contain a ski slope and several trails. Per interview with forest manager, the aim would be to manage the forests in accordance with identified social values. In 2021/2022, an action plan will be produced based on information received in the stakeholder consultation process.</p>
<p><b>Date: May 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 26<sup>th</sup></b></p>	

<b>Field Office/Area: S-4834, S-4853, S-5251, S-4923, S-4771, S-5635, S-3982, Transtrands Besparingsskog,</b>	
<b>FMU / location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
Various sites	
Interviews and document/management plan review	<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. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW. The (new) indicator 6.5.2 was reviewed, none of the members were aware of the requirement but S-5251 were already in compliance.</p> <p>Review of management plans, all group members had plans younger than 10 years except for S-5635 (&lt; 20ha).</p> <p>Interviews with group members demonstrated a lack of knowledge on the applicable FSC requirements and none of them were aware of the new FSC FM standard.</p> <p>Transtrands Besparingsskog Management plan recently moved from an older system (Solen) to BESK and will shortly receive access to VSOP as well which has/will improved monitoring and tracking of management needs. Annual harvesting levels identified using HEUREKA for 10 year periods. A new calculation will be done 2021. Forestry operations are being imported into the system and will continue during 2021.</p> <p>To comply with FSC indicator 6.5.2, a consultant was hired in 2020 to review all stands over the coming years. This will include silviculture needs as well and will be finished in 2022 as per interview with the Forest Manager. 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 (Ryens Skogsservice - PEFC certified).</p> <p>Document review of procedures for regeneration, pre-commercial thinning, thinning, final felling, conservation areas and burning. Ecological Landscape Plan reviewed, not revised to meet requirements in FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW. Has been notified by the Group Entity on this matter and is aware of the update need.</p>
Field visits	Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, roadwork, public recreation access points, etc.

	<p><b>S-4834</b> ID 1 Final felling. Mixed stand. Retention trees left consists of spruce, older pine and older deciduous trees. High stumps created of both spruce and birch. When crossing a ditch, the harvester has not fully avoided damaging the sides with a slight mud slide as an effect. Some of the logs used to get across are also left in the ditch. The effect was deemed minor as the ditch is seasonally dry. No evidence to suggest that conservation trees or existing dead wood being have felled.</p> <p><b>S-4853</b> No ID - 3 stands Continuity fellings. Spruce dominated stands with varied soil structure and partly with elements of pine and deciduous trees. Overall good quality fellings where suitable trees has been cut and about 60-70% of the stems remain. In one area operations was aborted due to poor soil conditions. No evidence of conservation trees or existing dead wood being felled.</p> <p><b>S-5251</b> ID 27 Final felling, 5,7 ha. Spruce dominated stand with elements of pine and birch. Stand in a gentle slope with few structures to consider. No evidence to suggest conservation trees has been felled. No soil damages or damages to small spring. Several tree groups have been left. Sufficient amount of high stumps. Several examples of existing dead wood (app. 2 years) being taken as fire wood.</p> <p><b>S-4923</b> Björka 12:6, ID 8 Adjacent to a nature reserve. Stand dominated by deciduous trees with a recent conservation felling where spruce has been felled.</p> <p><b>S-4771</b> Skifte 2 Final felling, 10 ha. Mixed stand, slightly hilly. Sufficient number of (future) conservation trees and high stumps. Both tree groups and solitary trees left. No damages on the path, consideration stumps created along it. One example of a conservation tree being felled and taken as firewood. The felling is deemed OK due to the tree leaning over a road, however it should have been left on site.</p> <p><b>S-5635</b> ID 13</p>
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	<p>Final felling. Review of stream/creak crossings. Felling instruction has clearly marked where crossings were to be done. The stream/creak has also been marked with stripes on site. On two occasions soil damages has been caused in or near the water body, once in the East and once in a smaller off shoot where the stream is divided for a stretch before joining again.</p> <p><b>Transtrands Besparingsskog</b> Lövåstjärn Thinning, 90,3 ha. Large stand on flatter terrain, largely dominated by pine, but with scattered elements of birch within the area. Several examples found of deciduous trees being favoured. Very few examples of damages to the remaining stand, overall a good quality thinning. Stand too young for high stumps to be created. Evidence found of future conservation trees being left. No evidence of soil damages.</p> <p>Horrmond Final felling. Larger final felling, pine and spruce dominated, on very flat terrain. None to little variation in tree age or size. Retention trees left as solitary trees and as tree groups are representative for the stand. No evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been felled. No soil damages.</p>
<p><b>Date: May 25<sup>th</sup> &amp; 27<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Field Office/Area: Stenhammars godsförvaltning AB (SFV), Harpsundsnämnden (SFV)</b></p>	
<p><b>FMU / location / sites visited</b></p>	<p><b>Activities / notes</b></p>
<p>Flen, Mellösa</p>	
<p>Stakeholder Consultation</p>	<p>Contact with 6 Stakeholders during field audit, no information to pursue during audit. No other information given during Consultation period.</p>
<p>Interviews and document/management plan review</p>	<p>Both FMUs managed by personnel with a large collaboration. Statens Fastighetsverk is the owner of both FMUs.</p> <p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditor conducted interviews with elected representatives. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost pre-commercial thinning and final fellings 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. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW. When counting forest grazing areas indicator 6.5.2 is deemed to be met by Stenhammar. Currently these areas are excluded as they were not believed to meet the requirements but will shortly be incorporated. Harpsund is in the</p>

	<p>process of evaluating areas and is preliminary meeting the requirement as well.</p> <p>Social consideration reviewed along the trail “Lidaleden” where the stand has been left and younger trees removed to increase line of sight.</p> <p>Review of personnel training, competence and work environment.</p> <p>Larger occurrences of Ips Typographus in the geography has led to a change in forestry operations for 2020/2021. All or most forestry operations have been focused on managing stands with Ips Typographus cutting spruce trees. For this reason, there has been no pre-commercial thinnings in 2021. Internal monitoring shows there is no immediate need for this, and operations will resume 2022.</p>
<p>Field visits</p>	<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><b>Stenhammar</b> 80.1 Final felling, 0,5 ha, due to Ips Typographus. Spruce dominated stand with large elements of aspen and oak. Flatter terrain which at one end transitions to a slope down towards open water and a hiking trail. All oak and most aspen have been left. No evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged. No identified damages on the trail.</p> <p>ID 91 Final felling, 10 ha. Mixed stand with seed trees left. One large consideration area identified in the West on rocky terrain (pine dominated), another in the far end on wetter soil conditions (dominated by deciduous trees). Per interview the seed trees will be felled in 5-10 years and a sufficient number left to meet indicators 6.6.2 and 6.6.4. High stumps created in sufficient numbers. No indication of soil damages or that consideration trees or existing dead wood has been logged.</p> <p>ID 132 Pre-commercial thinning. Pine dominated stand with large elements of oak and rowan. The stand is largely situated on a hill, surrounded by grazing areas. A very good overall impression with oak and rowan favoured regularly.</p> <p>ID 131</p>

	<p>Stand, 1,7 ha, identified as potentially meeting indicator 6.5.2. Varied stand, originally a wooded grazing area, now overgrown. Per interview with forest manager the aim is to restore it by removing all spruce and creating gaps. Pine with bird of prey nest identified and left. If managed with sufficient tree coverage the site is deemed to be meet requirements in indicator 6.5.2.</p> <p>ID 158:1                  Conservation area, wooded grazing land. Varied and open stand with occurences of very old linden, juniper, hazel and oak trees. Canopy closure ranging from 15-50% with larger open areas as well. Overall canopy coverage estimated to 25-35%. Stand deemed to have very high biological values. Several younger broadleaf trees protected from grazing to enable a new generation.</p> <p><b>Harpsunds nämnden</b>                  ID 185                  Premature final felling due to <i>Ips Typographus</i>. Seed trees left as complement to planting operations. Potential cultural heritage remain identified and protected. High stumps will be created when the seed trees are felled as per interview with forest manager. No evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged.</p> <p>ID 155                  Stand identified as potentially meeting indicator 6.5.2. Oblong stand with the trail “Sörmlandsleden” going along in the middle and a cliffside along a lake down from that in the West. Pine dominated stand with great variation in age and size with the stand between the trail and the cliffside/lake being much older than the stand East of the trail. The older part deemed during the audit to be a Woodland Key Habitat due to structure and average age. Several trees found to have <i>Porodaedalea Pini</i> growing on them.</p> <p>ID 146                  Final felling. Mixed stand with all spruce removed and seed trees left. The stand is divided by two oblong lowland areas who at the time of field visit were very wet. Where the harvester has passed the crossings have been properly protected but the scarification has been done throughout the area with soil damages as a result. Scarification has also been done in the riparian zone next to a small swamp forest. Damages deemed to have little effect on water. Retention trees and high stumps will be left/created in sufficient numbers when felling the seed trees, per interview with the forest manager.</p>
<p><b>Date: June 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Field Office/Area: Kopparfors Skogar AB</b></p>	



FMU / location / sites visited	Activities / notes
Falun, various sites	
Stakeholder Consultation	Contact with 4 stakeholders during field audit, no information to pursue during further audit. No other information given during Consultation period.
Interviews and document/management plan review	<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 thinning and final felling operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW.</p> <p>Young company, only 2 years 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 and one contractor on site with only positive feedback.</p> <p>Review of personnel training showed that the obligatory course Skyddsdikning/Dikesrensning needs to be taken again. However courses has been cancelled due to Covid-19 until further notice.</p> <p>The company is working to identify areas to meet indicator 6.5.2. A first selection of all potentially suitable areas have been done, resulting in 10,18% set aside areas. All stands are to be identified by 2031 and quality assured by 2051 in accordance with action plan.</p>
Field visits	<p>Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV areas, public recreation access points, etc. Planning was well executed for all operations with all required information available and several maps, including waterways and wetter consideration areas</p> <p>502477 Ramflygfältet Ramkasern Pre-commercial thinning, 32,5 ha. Pine dominated stand, mainly dryer ground conditions, with larger wetter areas, dominated by</p>

	<p>birch. 2 streams and one ditch crossing the site in the NW and SE. Ancient remain identified by the contractor and cleared. No damages.</p> <p>Some grazing damages. Good quality thinning, in the wetter areas as well. Deciduous trees has been favoured in connection with thinning operations in areas dominated by deciduous trees. All rowan and pine trees with grazing damages has been left. Deciduous trees has been favoured closer to water.</p> <p>263195486 11 Persbo SA Final felling, 10,5 ha. Pine dominated stand, ca 70 years, adjacent to a lake and divided by a road. A very well executed final felling with good planning and clear instructions to the contractors. No evidence of felling of existing dead wood or nature conservation trees (review of logs awaiting transport). Trees, high stumps and consideration areas has been left to reduce the impression of a larger clear cut area. A good buffer zone has been left and no ground damages. Overall impression is excellent. Because the area exceeds 10 ha then the trees in the buffer zone is not to be included when compiling consideration trees and the felling fails to meet indicator 6.6.2, despite very clear instructions.</p> <p>263200413 20 Rudtjärnsvägarna SA Final felling, 16,7 and 5,1 ha. Two separate stands about 450 metres apart, specified in one management instruction. Pine dominated stands with elements of birch. A boulder rich stand which has provided challenges when planning and executing the felling. Several consideration areas (wetter areas) identified and clearly marked in the field. No damages identified in or near these. No identified ancient remains. To meet indicator 6.6.2 and 6.6.3, several tree groups has been left along with the consideration areas, on occasion as a zone near/around the consideration area. Solitary trees and high stumps has also been left to lessen the impression of large clearcut areas. No evidence to suggest felling of nature conservation trees or outtake of existing dead wood. High stumps has been left in sufficient amount. A very well executed felling.</p> <p>263200413 avd 2, NS Stand with Woodland Key Habitat qualities, 4,1 ha, adjacent to 263200413 20 Rudtjärnsvägarna SA. Identified during planning and defined by external competence (Forestry Administration Board) before announced to the authorities. Older, pine dominated stand with great age variation, concentrated around a steep, blocky, decline. The entire area has been clearly marked in field and set aside in accordance with FSC indicator 6.5.1.</p>
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	<p>Need of conservation management, mainly to simulate a large forest fire.</p> <p>263188858 20 Gammelsåggropen SA                  Final felling, 1,7 ha. Pine and spruce dominated stand, located 200 metres from nearest road. Partly hilly terrain, in the SW corner a ditch crosses the stand. Stand also adjacent to a small mire in the West. Retention trees in buffer- and riparian zones are of good quality and more than sufficient in numbers. Tree group left in the center of the stand, around a small rocky hill. No evidence to suggest felling of nature conservation trees or outtake of existing dead wood. High stumps has been left in sufficient amount. The ditch was crossed at one point, round wood placed in the it and tops/branches before and after. When clearing the round wood some tops/branches was left in the ditch, there was also mud slides from this operation in the ditch at two points. Eventual mud would, however, never be transported open water due to natural collection “down stream”. Main operation road not placed in accordance with instructions but over a wetter area. Sufficient means have however been taken to avoid damages to the ground.</p> <p>263196188 24 Mörttjärnsvägen SA                  Final felling, 3,3 ha. Pine dominated stand, located about 350 metres from nearest road. Oblong stand, stretching NW - SE. Two streams crosses the SE part and in the far east corner a consideration area of about 0,2-0,3 ha. When including retention trees in the consideration areas about 3 times as many as required has been left. No evidence to suggest felling of nature conservation trees or outtake of existing dead wood. High stumps has been left in sufficient amount. A tree group has been left despite there being no requirement to do so. The stream crossings are very good with large round wood bridges. A few spruces has been wind felled around the opening with no severe consequences. No evidence to suggest felling of nature conservation trees or outtake of existing dead wood. High stumps has been left in sufficient amount.</p> <p>67F616401                  Stand identified as potential area for FSC indicator 6.5.2. In BESK identified as low-productive land. Field visit proved the stand, 1,9 ha, is to be counted as productive forest. The stand is of mixed species, on humid soil, with differences in diameter and height. Adjacent to a mire and a younger pine stand.</p> <p>67F6H6295                  Final Felling, 14,2 ha. Spruce dominated stand in hilly and rocky terrain, with dryer areas dominated by pine. Tops and branches</p>
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	<p>has been used in the roads and not saved for bio fuel. On at least 4 occasions the harvester has driven through wetter areas, outside the designated planned road, with ground damages as a consequence. The stand was cut during the winter which may explain this. Several conservation areas identified (wetter areas) and marked clearly in field, containing several nature conservation trees. FSC indicator 6.6.3 was deemed to be met.</p> <p>Indicator 6.6.2 was unclear because of the greater number of consideration areas. In total the stand is just shy of, of just over the, required amount of retention trees.</p> <p>No evidence to suggest felling of nature conservation trees or outtake of existing dead wood. High stumps has been left in sufficient amount.</p>
<p><b>Date: May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Field Office/Area: Silvestica Green Forest AB - Sweden</b></p>	
<p><b>FMU / location / sites visited</b></p>	<p><b>Activities / notes</b></p>
<p>Remote, Torsby</p>	
<p>Stakeholder Consultation</p>	<p>No stakeholder comments.</p>
<p>Interviews and document/management plan review</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 thinning and final felling operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW.</p> <p>The FMU is owned by a company started to manage pension funds by owning forest land. SEB, Folksam, FPK, KLP are owners. The company have no employees and are using consultants. Agreements with MittNorr Skog och Fastighet AB reviewed, signed 2020-02-24.</p> <p>In total there are about 20 different management plans of various quality. The poorer plans, such as for the landholdings in Torsby, are being revised. Ecological Landscape Plan is being produced.</p> <p>Because of rapid expanse the company does not have full monitoring over all landholdings and no figures can be presented. An agreement has been signed with a forest company to manage the landholdings in Northern Sweden. Monitoring of FM activities is also governed in the agreement. Procedure "Rutin för kontroll och uppföljning" reviewed. Instructions are not fully developed and it is unclear how the forestry company is monitoring the forestry operations in accordance with FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW.</p>

	<p>Information to affected Sami Community, as part of the consultation process, does not contain information on regeneration/scarification method or planned consideration. The protocol has not been signed by the Community and information of when the meeting is taking place has only been sent via letter or e-mail. Stakeholder Consultation process does not clarify when stakeholders are to be informed or consulted.</p> <p>It is unclear how information on the FSC certification is forwarded to the contractors. On reviewed felling instruction (185294) there is no information on the FSC certification.</p>
<p>Field 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>80422801 Final felling, 8 ha. The stand is divided in 3 parts. The first two areas are divided by a road. The area on the lower side of the road is dominated by spruce and the other dominated by pine. Three different forest types in the stand as a total, roughly the same size. 2 of the forest types are located in the lower part of the spruce dominated stand in a slight slope. Some soil damages to this part which has been mended.</p> <p>The upper part has several cultural heritage remains (cultivation cairns, low stone walls etc.). All remains clearly marked with consideration stumps, no damages to the remains identified. At the top an old abandoned cottage with a lawn and several deciduous trees. Per interview with the consultant this area is to be remained open.</p> <p>The third area is located about 100 meters further on from the second area. Pine dominated stand with sufficient retention trees and high stumps. No soil damages or evidence that conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged.</p> <p>ID XX Planned final felling. Oblong stand in a slope with the short side down towards a large stream. Spruce dominated stand with elements of semi old deciduous trees. Two consideration patches identified and will be left with a good buffer zone towards them. Good plan for creating/leaving the riparian zone. In this zone the high stumps will be created per interview with the consultant.</p> <p>ID Ganterud Planned thinning, 60-70 ha. Several different stands of similar age. In total the landholding include ca 15 different stands, situated as an oblong area. Parts of it in very steep and hilly terrain. The</p>

	variation in the stands have offered an opportunity for thinning for production purposes and with greater consideration. Parts of the stand with the greatest boulders and the steepest terrain will likely be left as consideration areas.
<b>Date: June 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Field Office/Area: Hällefors-Tierp Skogar AB</b>	
<b>FMU / location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
Remote, Tierp	
Stakeholder Consultation	No stakeholder comments.
Interviews and document/management plan review	<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 pre-commercial thinning and final felling operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW.</p> <p>Young company, only 2 years. 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. On a part of the landholdings in Hällefors, thinning operations are from 2021 governed by the FMU.</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. 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>11,2% of productive the forest land is set aside for conservation purposes, meeting indicator 6.5.2.</p>
Field visits	Evaluation of sites: active operations, recently closed units, planned harvests, riparian buffer, species protection areas, HCV

	<p>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>148359 Bergskogen FA                  Final felling. 4 separate stands, adjacent towards one another two and two in North and South respectively. Combined area of 13,9 ha.                  North: Mixed stand with but dominated by spruce. Including a consideration patch the site meets the requirement concerning retention trees. Existing dead wood has been felled but left on site.</p> <p>South: Mixed stand with good soil conditions and a lowland part in the South West, adjacent to a field. Tops and branches are to be removed as biofuel. Occurrences of cultural heritage remains. Two tree groups has been left, well placed and consideration trees as well. A small forest edge has been left towards to field with a reinforced zone of spruce behind it. Biofuel production deemed inefficient as many of the piles of tops and branches are very small and low. No damages in remains or soil. No evidence to suggest consideration trees of existing dead wood has been logged.</p> <p>146269 Allerbäck FA                  Final felling, 5,4 ha. Mixed stand divided over three areas. The most western area adjacent to a nature reserve. The eastern area comprised of a larger open surface with a tree group in the middle and two consideration trees. One older willow tree felled but left on site.                  The middle part oblong and curved, about 15-20 retention trees identified. Between the middle and the eastern area a cuts a larger wetter area dominated by semi old aspen.                  The western part is smaller and square shaped, clearly marked boundaries adjacent to the nature reserve and a tree row has been left along that side.</p> <p>Somewhat low high stumps but deemed to be sufficient. A cultural heritage remain, a boundary cairn, identified, no damages identified. No evidence to suggest existing dead wood or conservation trees has been logged.                  The main harvester road in to the east area has been placed in an older tractor road on wetter soil with large soil damages as a consequence. Review of felling instructions showed that the road was supposed to be placed on rockier terrain with better soil conditions.</p> <p>ID, 6176, 6377, 6179, 6381</p>
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	<p>4 separate stands, all adjacent to a larger landholding set aside to favour <i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>. Close to 20 ha in total, all stands are meant to be a reinforcement to the set aside area. 6381 is already dominated by deciduous trees, the others will preliminary be managed towards deciduous domination. All stands have clear signs of Ips Typographus. At all sites deciduous trees has been left, leaving good potential for natural regeneration with birch, aspen, and hazel.</p> <p>146301 Hastelbo FA Final felling in two stands, 7,3 ha and 1,2 ha. Pine dominated stands with elements of spruce. Two power lines are crossing the larger stand, there are also three small swamp forests, between two of them is a wetter lowland. No evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged. High stumps created in sufficient numbers. Retention trees sufficient in numbers. Several passages has been made across the wetter lowland area with soil damages as a consequence. The harvester has driven to close to two of the swamp forests with soil damages in the buffer zone. At one point in the larger area, indicator 6.6.3 is not met.</p> <p>500588 V Vallaboda Pre-commercial thinning, 6,5 ha. 12-13 years, spruce planted in an area historically more suitable for pine. Some lower parts of the stand are wetter however. Deemed to be the consequence of a high grazing pressure. Deciduous trees amounts to about 10% with several examples identified of favoured birch. 2-3 consideration patches has not been planted and not managed.</p> <p>500586 Kebenekajsevägen Pre-commercial thinning, 49 ha. Very good quality, pine dominated, stand with about 20% deciduous trees. Very large elements of alder and willow, extensively favoured. Somewhat hilly terrain and several consideration patches and retention trees contribute to create the feeling of a smaller stand.</p>
<p><b>Date: June 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Field Office/Area: Gysinge Skogsfastigheter AB</b></p>	
<p><b>FMU / location / sites visited</b></p>	<p><b>Activities / notes</b></p>
<p>Remote, Uppsala, Tierp</p>	
<p>Stakeholder Consultation</p>	<p>No stakeholder comments.</p>
<p>Interviews and document/management plan review</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 pre-commercial thinning and final felling operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of</p>



	<p>set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW.</p> <p>Young company, only 2 years old. 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, 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.</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>Action plan to meet indicator 6.8.5 is to be produced Q3/Q4 2021. During 2022, instructions will be produced and/or revised to favour deciduous trees.</p> <p>Approximately 11% of productive forest land is set aside, meeting indicator 6.5.2.</p>
<p>Field 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>Söderfors - 4829 m fl          Burning after final felling, situated next to a lake, in total 53 ha. Approximately 29 ha was burnt including adjacent Woodland Key Habitat (WKH). An additional 24 ha was originally included but was aborted due to an Osprey breeding site. Buffer zone towards lake left.</p> <p>Larger, wetter, consideration areas have not been burnt. Instruction to contractors to fell spruce in the buffer zone has not been followed, manual felling is being planned as a consequence. Scarification has not been planned. Felling done according to previous FSC FM standard and meets requirements on</p>

	<p>conservation trees, dead wood and consideration to soil and water.</p> <p>Söderfors - 4629 Nature Conservation burning in a Woodland Key Habitat. WKH includes a long and thin buffer zone adjacent to a lake and a final felling, 7 ha. Many pine trees of 200 - 300 years old with clear signs of previous burning damages. A stand of younger pine has been favored in parts of the WKH, many of which have survived the burning. No evidence of felling of old growth trees. Good quality.</p> <p>8145 Final felling, 23,14 ha. Mixed stand, predominately Scots Pine and Norway Spruce. Multiple older house foundations. Several cultural relics identified in the planning stage, though one had been missed and not communicated to the contractor. This was however identified during felling with great care taken to it.</p> <p>Several wetter forested consideration areas, in some cases trees had been felled out from these, forcing the forwarder to drive closer than needed risking damaging the buffer zone/consideration area in question.</p> <p>Sufficient number of high stumps and conservation/retention trees, several of which (mainly <i>Salix caprea</i> and <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>) are left along an old stone wall. No evidence to suggest existing dead wood or conservation trees has been felled or taken out. At one point the distance between retention trees/tree groups exceed 140 meters.</p> <p>6033 Pre-commercial thinning, 39,1 ha. Varied stand, predominately Scots Pine and Norway Spruce with good conditions for deciduous trees. In certain areas smaller gaps created and wrong tree species favored. 1 example found of a cut willow tree and 1 alder. Estimated 10% deciduous trees in the stand.</p> <p>5650 Pre-commercial thinning, 7,2 ha. Mixed stand with a high percentage of deciduous trees. Also higher number of oak than is normally occurring in the geography. In certain areas gaps have been created and on several occasions, prioritized deciduous species have been cut. This was identified by the group member and instructions clarified to the contractor. Field review of the remaining site was better but still with examples of felled conservation trees/future conservation trees. 15 willow trees and 1 oak was noted to have been cleared. Several <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> has also been felled.</p>
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	<p>3431 Final felling, pine dominated stand, 43 ha. Larger stand surrounding an oblong set aside area, approximately 1,3 ha. Several consideration areas identified where spruce has been felled to favor deciduous trees. Several tree groups has also been left as has individual conservation trees. Buffer zones in connection with set aside areas created. No evidence of felling of existing dead wood.</p> <p>The set aside stand, 1,3 ha, about 120 years old, is in need of management. Originally planned in connection with the final felling but aborted due to poor soil stability. The stand has previously been subjected to drainage. A mixed stand with older pine, birch and aspen with spruce slowly taking over. Review of the felling instruction, all spruce is to be removed with consideration taken to all other species. Good crossing built for the harvester/forwarder to enter the stand.</p> <p>Soil damage in connection with crossing between a wetter area and a set aside area (swamp forest). 3 consideration trees felled and removed (2 older aspen trees and 1 older birch).</p> <p>7117 Final felling, 6,64 ha of which 2,5 has been planned for production due to Ips Typographus. Overall aim to connect this area with a larger conservation area set aside to favor Dendrocopos leucotos. A Y-shaped stand where the border for production is “naturally” set in a wider ditch. Good crossing, no soil damages or negative impact on the waterway.</p> <p>The conservation part is managed to favor deciduous trees with all spruce felled. Due to very poor soil conditions during the felling most felled trees has been used by the harvester to drive on. Very little negative impact on the soil but could have been done during winter.</p> <p>The production part well executed with a large portion of deciduous trees left along with existing dead wood. During field visit the company decided to rejuvenate the production part with deciduous trees.</p>
<p><b>Date: June 11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 30<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Field Office/Area: S-7036, S-6675, S-4061, S-5739, S-5672</b></p>	
<p><b>FMU / location / sites visited</b></p>	<p><b>Activities / notes</b></p>
<p>Remote, various sites</p>	
<p>Interviews and document/management plan review</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, foremost pre-commercial thinning and final felling operations and the</p>

	<p>monitoring of these activities. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW. The (new) indicator 6.5.2 was reviewed, 1 of the members were aware of the requirement.</p> <p>Review of management plans, all group members had plans younger than 10 years (including S-5672 with &lt; 20ha) except for S-4061 (plan commissioned but delayed).</p> <p>Interviews with group members demonstrated a lack of knowledge on the applicable FSC requirements and none of them were aware of the new FSC FM standard.</p>
<p>Field 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><b>S-7036</b> ID 18/19 Final felling. Spruce dominated stand in gentle slope and overall good soil condition. Little variation in the stand. No evidence to suggest logging of conservation trees or existing dead wood. Retention trees left mainly as solitary trees, 2 tree groups identified. Created high stumps and retention trees meet the requirement. No soil damage.</p> <p><b>S-4061</b> Planned thinning. Stand almost exclusively consisting of pine in somewhat hilly terrain. The operation had begun but was halted at prior to the field visit. Very few deciduous trees found, no evidence of logging of these. Per interview with the group member all deciduous trees shall be left if possible. Little to no existing dead wood.</p> <p><b>S-5739</b> 11/13 Final felling, 1,8 ha. Pine dominated stand crossed by a hiking trail which has been passed by the harvester/forwarder. Small damage to the trail, the logs used to drive on has been left at the side as dead wood. Damage is deemed insignificant and should not affect negotiability. Sufficient number of retention trees and high stumps left. No evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged.</p> <p><b>S-5672</b></p>

	<p>Final felling, 1,3 ha. Spruce dominated stand with elements of semi old aspen and birch. Mostly moist soil conditions with wetter lowland parts. No evidence to suggest logging of existing dead wood or conservation trees. Several examples of soil damages where sufficient actions have not been taken to avoid it. Deemed less severe as these damages does not affect water ways. Retention trees and high stumps are meeting the requirements.</p>
<p><b>Date: June 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup></b>  <b>Field Office/Area: Fagersta kommun, Leksands kommun, Malung-Sälens kommun</b></p>	
<p><b>FMU / location / sites visited</b></p>	<p><b>Activities / notes</b></p>
<p>Fagersta, Leksand, Malung</p>	
<p>Stakeholder Consultation</p>	<p>No stakeholder comments needing further investigation.</p>
<p>Interviews and document/management plan review</p>	<p>Document review of management plan and procedures, guidelines, policies, agreements and relations to identified stakeholders. Auditor conducted interviews with elected representatives. Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost pre-commercial thinning and final felling operations and the monitoring and procedures concerning these activities. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW.</p> <p>Fagersta kommun  Municipality in the county of Västmanland. A Nature Conservation Officer (NCO) is responsible for the forest management with help from a former NCO, now a consultant. The revised requirements are known by the group member. Indicator 6.5.2 is identified as the requirement needing most attention and work is ongoing to identify suitable areas. Presently 8,2% of productive forest land is set aside.  Areas dominated by deciduous trees are concentrated to the landholdings close to the city.  Review of stakeholder consultation 2020-02-11 regarding a final felling close to a residential area.  Smaller, non-complicated, forestry operations is done by own personnel. Felling operations is done by a forestry company, agreement is signed for 3 years before being offered for bidding.</p> <p>Leksands kommun  Municipality in the county of Dalarna. Municipal board has the overall responsibility and has delegated the practical responsibility to the Muncipal Ecologist. A purchaser from a forestry company is involved for planning support. The revised requirements are known by the group member. Indicator 6.5.2 is already met with about 14% of productive forest land being set aside.</p>

	<p>Areas dominated by deciduous trees are concentrated to the landholdings close to the city and is currently meeting the requirements.                  Review of stakeholder consultations 2021-03-12 (Nedre Heden 9:12) and 2018-01-10 (Kärringberget).                  Smaller, non-complicated, forestry operations is done by own personnel. Felling operations is done by a forestry company.</p> <p><b>Malung-Sälen kommun</b>                  Municipality in the county of Dalarna. Largest municipal forest owner. Municipal board has the overall responsibility and has delegated the practical responsibility to the Nature Conservation Officer and an employed trustee. The revised requirements are known by the group member. Indicator 6.5.2 is already met with about 11% of productive forest land being set aside.                  Areas dominated by deciduous trees are not meeting the requirements, an action plan has been produced as a result.                  Thinnings are regularly done with hired contractors while final felling operations is done by a forestry company.</p>
<p>Field 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><b>Fagersta kommun</b>                  ID 207 - part of                  Final felling on 6 ha of a stand amounting to 15,1 ha in total. The stand is to be cut in sections to avoid creating a large clear cut area. Pine dominated stand on good soil conditions with about 30% spruce and 10% deciduous trees. Seed trees left. Rocky and somewhat hilly terrain. 70-80 seed trees/ha, large occurrences of existing dead wood of same age. Good quality high stumps. A larger wetter area identified and marked on site with clear ribbons. Despite this the area has been cleared for final felling and run through with soil damages as a consequence. Two older pines felled and a semi old willow and an old birch identified in the bio fuel pile.</p> <p><b>Avd 208</b>                  Pre-commercial thinning, 7,4ha. Mixed stand 60/40 pine/spruce with deciduous trees in the wetter areas. 3 cleared willow trees identified in or near the wetter areas. In some parts the main stems has not been set apart.</p> <p><b>Avd 48</b></p>

	<p>Set aside area, newly formed and notes as requiring management. Stand close to the city and identified through stakeholder consultation as an important stand for schools and pre-schools. Stratified forest with an older tree coverage of pines, many of them 150-200 years old. The middle tree layer has older birch, aspen and spruce trees, about 60 years old. The younger tree layer consists of a large number of Sorbus aucuparia.</p> <p><b>Avd 49</b> Set aside area, newly formed and notes as requiring management. Stand close to the city and consists of two bulging areas of trivial production forest (spruce dominated) in between. One area has several denser and younger parts dominated by deciduous trees. The other is more open with older deciduous trees and semi old to old spruce. The preliminary aim is to remove spruce in the parts where small game does not seem to be seeking shelter.</p> <p><b>Leksands kommun</b> ID 4087 Final felling, spruce dominated stand, 4ha, in steep terrain with a large element of birch. Adjacent to a residential area. All semi old and old deciduous trees left, no evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged. No soil damages.</p> <p>ID4048 Final felling, spruce dominated stand. About 5 ha, semi wet and wet soil conditions, 90-100 years old. Adjacent to a swamp forest and a wetter area, previously set aside. Retention trees and high stumps left predominately near the swamp forest and set aside area. No evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged. The harvester has driven through an outflow between the swamp forest and the set aside area with minor soil damages as an effect.</p> <p>ID 4051/4053 Set aside area. Spruce dominated swamp forest, 15 ha. Unclear age, estimated to be somewhat younger, but with several indicators matching the natural forest dynamics of variation in diameter and natural regeneration in small gaps.</p> <p>ID 4046 Pre-commercial thinning, 10 ha. Mixed stand with spruce and pine with an original high presence of deciduous trees, mainly in gaps. Large amount of grazing damages on the pine trees, estimated to 50%. Several examples identified of areas where deciduous trees have been cut in order to favour pine trees with grazing damages or poor quality spruce. Own monitoring show 6-7% deciduous trees which could be confirmed during field visit.</p>
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	<p>ID 4052 Pre-commercial thinning, 11 ha. Spruce dominated stand with an original high presence of deciduous trees. Several examples identified of areas where deciduous trees have been cut in order to favour spruce. 8 willows identified to have been cut. Deciduous trees elements estimated to 5% during field visit.</p> <p><b>Malung-Sälen kommun</b></p> <p>Lugnet 2799 Thinning, 8,46 ha. Pine dominated stand in steep slope towards a creek, going along the slope top to bottom, and a railroad at the bottom. A small trail runs along the creek. Good quality high stumps, no soil damages or damage to the trail/creek. Nearest the railroad all trees have been cut including a large number of semi old aspen and birch.</p> <p>Lugnet 2805 Pine dominated stand, 3,14 ha, situated at/near a rest area, adjacent to the river Västerdalälven. Noted as a production stand (to be clear cut) in the management plan but is, per interview with the NCO, to be managed continuity forestry methods or set aside (parts of). Several semi old pine trees on sandy soil favoured to develop high conservation values. No indication of existing dead wood.</p> <p>Lugnet 2809 A small island in the river Västerdalälven. 2 separate stands, one is set aside and the other noted as production with enforced conservation. Both stands are comprised of spruce and pine with very good buffer zones towards the water. Larger presence of existing dead wood and older spruce forest with elements of a natural forest dynamic. At one end of the island there is a larger presence of alder and birch. Per interview with the NCO, the island might be exempt from forestry.</p> <p>Malung 2018 Final felling, 5,28 ha, planned by a previous employee. Mixed stand spruce/pine on moist/wet soil conditions, adjacent to a mire. 4 ditches going along the stand. A passage between the mire and a swamp forest/consideration patch has been logged. In this passage most of the felled trees have been placed on the ground for the harvester to drive on. No soil damages and all ditch crossings have been well executed. 2 consideration patches and 1 cultural heritage area (old shed) with a small trail leading from it identified and left. The 2 consideration patches is left in connection to the mire. no evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged</p>
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<b>Date: June</b> <b>Field Office/Area: S-6659, S-7281, S-6797, S-5710, S-6652, S-6650</b>	
<b>FMU / location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
Various sites	
Interviews and document/management plan review	<p>Review of planned and closed silviculture operations, foremost pre-commercial thinning and final felling operations and the monitoring of these activities. Review of set aside areas, areas dominated by deciduous trees (or planned to) and adaptation to FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW. The (new) indicator 6.5.2 was reviewed, 1 of the members were aware of the requirement.</p> <p>None of the group members had access to management plans. 3 members; S-6659, S-7281 and S-6650 were exempt from the requirement as they each had &lt; 20ha of productive forest land. The remaining 3 members; S-6797, S-5710 and S-6652, had commissioned management plans but these had not yet been delivered.</p> <p>Interviews with group members demonstrated a lack of knowledge on the applicable FSC requirements, only one member were aware of the new FSC FM standard.</p>
Field visits	<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.</p> <p><b>S-6659</b>                      Part of 36:1 och 36:3                      Final felling, approximately 7-8 ha. Older, spruce dominated, stand 110-130 years old with large damages due to Ips Typographus. Oblong stand, divided in east/west by a larger creek that has historically been converted to a ditch, however with natural meandering and rock bottoms and small waterfalls. Overall flat terrain. 2 identified consideration patches, both wetter.</p> <p>Pre-thinning by group member, no buffer zone left/created nearest the creek/ditch. On two occasions the harvester/forwarder has driven close to the creek/ditch with soil damages as a consequence. No evidence to suggest existing dead wood has been logged, one old pine, 150 years found to have been felled. In the pile marked as “wood for private use” two older willow trees was identified.</p> <p><b>S-7281</b>                      12427835ErikssonNås FA                      Final felling, 1,97 ha. Stand in a slight slope. The southern part dominated by spruce while the eastern part has only had elements</p>

	<p>of spruce. In the latter part the felling is more like a conservation felling with most of the tree coverage intact, the aim is to treat this part more as a set aside area as per interview with the group member. Very good result, the felling has favoured the pine and birch, creating a lighter forest. Some pines have been damaged during the felling which will have appositve effect on the stand dynamics.</p> <p>In the Southern part wind thrown trees caused the need for felling. Regeneration with noble broadleaf species are planned. High stumps and retention trees in sufficient numbers, retention trees mainly left along one side. No evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged.</p> <p>12427835ErikssonNås GA          Thinning, 0,4-0,5 ha. Small, pine dominated stand, in a steep slope with large elements of willow trees. Very well executed thinning, both production wise and from a diversity perspective. Several willow trees have been favoured by creating solitary stems or to favour them in a bunch.</p> <p><b>S-6797</b>          Fältbesök, del av 39:1.          Final felling, 5 ha. Stand in steep slope in a Southwestern direction towards a creek. The stand is divided by a road, creating a higher and a lower area. The upper area dominated by pine and the lower by spruce. Average age 110-130 years. Seed trees left on the upper area along with identified consideration trees. A well in use has been marked and is left without damage.</p> <p>Good quality felling on the upper area, where most of the retention trees and high stumps are/will be created. 25-30 trees has been marked to be left and an additional 25-30 will need to be left on top of those to meet indicator 6.6.2.</p> <p>On the lower, spruce dominated, area, several soil damages were identified. In two cases with muddy runoff towards the creek. An adequate buffer zone has been created and runoff is caught in this. On one occasion the harvester has driven too close to the buffer zone with soil damage as an effect.</p> <p>2 small trail clearly marked with consideration stumps and without damage. Review of biofuel pile, no evidence to suggest conservation trees or existing dead wood has been logged.</p> <p><b>S-5710</b>          Lerbäcken 1:4          Group member legally hindered from performing regular forest management the past years due to “omarrondering”, the</p>
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	<p>rationalization of forest landholdings in certain areas. Only smaller thinning operations has been allowed and silviculture has been “neglected”. Several creeks in the landholdings, as well as stands on moist/wet soil conditions.</p> <p>Field visit in a thinning of a mixed stand, spruce/birch 50/50, 7-8 ha. Close to all spruce has been felled leaving a stand dominated by birch. Good quality but very late, leaving a stand which is long and thin.</p> <p><b>S-6652</b> 34:13 och 63:1 Pre-commercial thinning, 11,5 ha. Somewhat late operation in a naturally regenerated stand. Management done late intentionally to force the stand to grow past grazing height. The operation has also left more stems than appropriate to accommodate for snow breaks come winter. Overall impression is very good, late and too many stems but according to plan. In the stand is an area 1,5-2 ha, managed to be dominated by deciduous trees. Several examples identified in the rest of the stand where deciduous trees have been favoured.</p> <p>Del av 34:13 Planned for final felling. Pine dominated stand, adjacent to a lake, with summer cottages in the stand or close to it. Per interview with the group member the stand might be managed to comply with indicator 6.5.2. During field visit <i>Hydnellum peckii</i> was found, indicating long tree cover continuity and older trees. Deemed suitable to manage with continuity forestry.</p> <p><b>S-6650</b> Part of Sör Romme 13:10 - South Natural regeneration, 0,8-0,9 ha. Somewhat patchy regeneration but deemed to meet the legal requirements. A very varied stand with pine, birch and spruce. Large elements of rowan.</p> <p>Part of Sör Romme 13:10 - North. Conservation area. Pine dominated stand surrounding a summer cottage owned by the group member. Large variation in age and diameter. Small amount of dead wood. <i>Hydnellum ferrugineum</i> identified during field visit indicating a long tree cover continuity.</p>
<p><b>Date: August 26<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Field Office/Area : Prosilva Central Office</b></p>	
<p><b>FMU / location / sites visited</b></p>	<p><b>Activities / notes</b></p>
<p>Uppsala</p>	<p>Closing Meeting Preparation: Auditor(s) take time to consolidate notes and confirm evaluation findings</p>

Closing meeting	Closing Meeting: Review preliminary findings (potential non-conformities and observations) and discuss next steps.
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### 3.1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation

A. Number of days spent on-site for evaluation:	39,5
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 post-site follow-up:	10
<b>E. Total number of person days used in evaluation:</b>	<b>50,5</b>

### 3.1.3 Evaluation Team

<b>Auditor name:</b>	Patrik Vendel	<b>Auditor role:</b>	Audit team leader
<b>Qualifications:</b>	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.		
<b>Auditor name:</b>	Stefan Bergmann	<b>Auditor role:</b>	Witness Auditor
<b>Qualifications:</b>	N/A		
<b>Auditor name:</b>		<b>Auditor role:</b>	
<b>Qualifications:</b>			

## 3.2 Evaluation of Management System

### 3.2.1 Methodology and Strategies Employed

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 her or his 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.

### 3.2.2 Pre-evaluation

- A pre-evaluation of the FME *was not* required by FSC norms.
- A pre-evaluation of the FME was conducted as required by and in accordance with FSC norms.

### 3.3 Stakeholder Consultation Process

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 company 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. A public notice was sent to stakeholders at least 6 weeks prior to the audit notifying them of the audit and soliciting comments.

#### 3.3.1 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.

#### 3.3.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses

The table below summarizes the major comments received from stakeholders and the evaluation 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.

Stakeholder Comment	SCS Response
Too many wild boars.	Wild boar is not explicitly mentioned in the FSC FM standard as it has a limited effect in forest management. The group member shall, however, manage relations with stakeholders and the matter was raised during the audit. There are agreements in place with the hunting parties governing levels of game to keep damages on an acceptable level. There are also regulations on where feeding stations may be placed. Issues relating to wild boar is primarily referenced to each hunting party.

Sad to see that they have put up signs stating "private road".	The matter was raised during the audit of [the group member]. As per interview with the GM: Historically the roads have been publically accessible but the past years the GM has had problems with people illegally dumping trash and destroying the road by driving recklessly. This has also posed a problem for timber transports who on occasion has been boxed in by people who has parked in the way.
Good working relations.	Duly noted.
Feel that [group member] have done a nice job.	Duly noted.
No issues with [group member], they are a good employer.	Duly noted.
They have good management practices regarding cultural heritage sites.	Duly noted.
Feel that they are respecting us and letting [the matter] take its time.	Duly noted.

## 4. Results of Evaluation

### 4.1 Notable Strengths and Weaknesses of the FME Relative to the FSC P&C

Table below contains the evaluation team’s findings as to the strengths and weaknesses of the subject forest management operation relative to the FSC Principles of forest stewardship. Weaknesses are noted as Corrective Action Requests (CARs) related to each principle.

This was an audit of the group entity, and strengths and weaknesses are not noted for each individual group member or connected FME’s. The system in place of group entity consists of an ISO 14001-certified system for connecting members to the group, define share of responsibilities, internal control system and corrective actions as well as processes for exclusion of members.

Principle / Subject Area	Identified Strengths Relative to Conformity to the Standard	Identified Weaknesses Relative to Conformity to the Standard
<b>P1: FSC Commitment and Legal Compliance</b>	Access to a legal service for all group members. A generally good knowledge on applicable laws. No violations, outstanding complaints or investigations concerning lawful matters identified.	No weaknesses noted.
<b>P2: Workers’ Rights and Employment Conditions</b>	High lawful compliance, no evidence to suggest workers’ rights are violated.	See Minor Cars 2021.1 and 2021.2 on indicators 2.1.5 and 2.3.9.
<b>P3: Indigenous Peoples’ Rights</b>	Group members with landholdings in northern regions are aware of	See Minor CAR 2021.3, on indicator 3.2.3.

	Sami Communities and have a generally good relation.	
<b>P4: Community Relations</b>	“Allemansrätten” ensures every person’s right to visit the forests. No evidence to suggest this has been infringed. Overall good stakeholder identification and relations.	No weaknesses noted.
<b>P5: Benefits from the Forest</b>	Group members generally use forestry companies for management activities. All group members with >20 ha have (or have commissioned) a forest management plan containing all required information. FMUs < 20ha have access to rough volumes from data from the Forestry Agency.	No weaknesses noted.
<b>P6: Environmental Impact</b>	Most management activities are done via certified forestry companies and trained contractors. Prior to fellings, nature value assessments are done. A minimum of 5% of productive forest land are set aside with a priority of high conservation values. No chemical pesticides or biological control agents are used within the group. Conversion of forest land are documented and lawful requirements are met.	See OBS/CARs 2021.4 - 2021.14 on indicators 6.5.1, 6.5.2, 6.5.4, 6.6.2, 6.6.3, 6.6.8, 6.6.11, 6.6.12, 6.6.13, 6.7.6, 6.8.5,
<b>P7: Management Plan</b>	All group members with >20 ha have (or have commissioned) a forest management plan containing all required information. FMUs < 20ha have access to rough volumes from data from the Forestry Agency.	No weaknesses noted.
<b>P8: Monitoring &amp; Assessment</b>	Monitoring of silviculture practices are normally done by the contractors hired by the forestry companies. Group members are normally monitoring operations as well. Non SLIMF members have regular monitoring activities to draw conclusions on quality with feedback to contractors.	No weaknesses noted.
<b>P9: High Conservation Value Forests</b>	HCVFs are normally identified in the management plans and prioritized	No weaknesses noted.

	as set aside areas. Nature Value Assessments are conducted prior to every thinning and final felling.	
<b>P10: Plantations</b>	N/A	No weaknesses noted.
<b>Chain of Custody</b>	Group Members’ forest products are sold to certified forestry companies. Group Entity has no connection to this process.	No weaknesses noted.
<b>Group Management</b>	Group Entity has a Management System according to ISO 14001 which is complemented with requirements in FSC STD 30-005. Group members is given access to relevant requirements upon joining the group. Group Entity continuously train affiliated agents who in turn has a more regular contact with group members. Internal auditors are trained according to requirements and have regular calibrations. All required data is collected in WebCRM.	See OBS, indicator 30-005, 1.5 and Minor CAR, indicator 30-005, 10.1iii

## 4.2 Process of Determining Conformance

### 4.2.1 Structure of Standard and Degrees of Nonconformance

FSC-accredited forest stewardship standards consist of a three-level hierarchy: principle, the criteria that correspond to that principle, and the performance indicators that elaborate each criterion. Consistent with SCS Forest Conservation Program evaluation protocols, the team collectively determines whether or not the subject forest management operation is in conformance with every applicable indicator of the relevant forest stewardship standard. Each nonconformance must be evaluated to determine whether it constitutes a major or minor nonconformance at the level of the associated criterion or sub-criterion. Not all indicators are equally important, and there is no simple numerical formula to determine whether an operation is in nonconformance. The team therefore must use their collective judgment to assess each criterion and determine if the FME is in conformance. If the FME is determined to be in nonconformance at the criterion level, then at least one of the applicable indicators must be in major nonconformance.

Corrective action requests (CARs) are issued for every instance of a nonconformance. Major nonconformances trigger Major CARs and minor nonconformances trigger Minor CARs.

### 4.2.2 Interpretations 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.

### 4.3. Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations

<b>Finding Number: 2020.1</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Lima Besparingsskog and Malung-Sälen Kommun FMUs	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 4.1.11
<p><b>Non-Conformity</b> (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><b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation):                  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><b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)</p>	<p>Individual corrective actions:                  Both FMUs have been contacted and written agreements have now been displayed for all contractors. Both FMUs are prioritized for internal audits the next coming years.</p>
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	<p>Evaluation of internal audit result of both FMUs. External audit of Malung-Sälens kommun. Malung-Sälen has identified all contractors and are working on signing agreements with them. Internal audit have raised the issue with both FMUs.</p> <p>Two existing members, joined 2014 and 2017, were found to not be in compliance to the new indicator 2.1.5 during the 2021 external evaluation However these contractors did not have any employees at the time and has been graded a separate CAR (see CAR 2021.1).</p> <p>Information on the requirement is included in the introduction training of new members. No findings relating to this requirement in the sample audits for 2021. CAR recommended to be closed.</p>
<p><b>Status of CAR:</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed  <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major  <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

<b>Finding Number: 2020.2</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): S-6213, S-6215, S-5971 and S-4065 FMUs	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 4.1.11SA
<p><b>Non-Conformity</b> (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><b>Corrective Action Request</b> (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>	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	<p>General corrective and preventing actions:</p> <p>The FMU’s responsibility of verifying contractors has been highlighted in the material provided to FMUs and to agents in their contact with FMUs. The collaboration with the agents is an important part in providing FMUs contractors that conform with FSC requirements. It is also an own section in the annual FMU survey. The survey serves both as an information campaign and a follow up of individual FMUs. The FMU’s responsibility is repeatedly described in newsletter by the FME. Identified subgroups of FMUs with a risk of a higher occurrence of the non-conformity are prioritized for audit sampling.</p> <p>In total the surveillance shows that commissioned contractors to a high extent confirm with FME routines concerning FSC requirements, and preventing actions serves to lower the occurrence further.</p>

	<p>Individual corrective actions:                  Three of the FMUs (S-6213, S-6215, S-5971) were prior to external audit selected for internal audit based on their background history when joining the group certificate (the FMUs belong to a subgroup of FMUs previously certified by another FME).</p> <p>The FMUs to which the CAR has been issued have shown to have inadequate knowledge of the FSC indicators concerning contractors. Since the audits, contractors have been controlled and confirmed comply with FME routines concerning S-6213 and S-4065. Regarding S-5971 auditors concluded it to be a situation with neighborhood collaboration. S-6215 was issued with a CAR and a corrective action plan was stated and followed through.</p>
<b>SCS review</b>	<p>One existing member, joined 2009, were found to not be in compliance to the new indicator 2.1.5 during the 2021 external evaluation. However this contractor did not have any employees at the time and has been graded a separate CAR (see CAR 2021.1).</p> <p>Information on this requirement is included in the introduction training of new members.</p> <p>The finding was not observed in the sampled FMUs 2021. Therefor the CAR is recommended to be closed.</p>
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (<i>refer to description above</i>)</p>

<b>Finding Number: 2020.3</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):</b> S-6213, S-6215, and S-5971 FMUs	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 4.2.6S
<b>Non-Conformity</b> ( <i>or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations</i> ): 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.	

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.

Since the occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 8% of the sampled FMUs), it has been graded as Minor.

**Corrective Action Request (or Observation):**

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.

**FME response (including any evidence submitted)**

General corrective and preventing actions:  
 The FMU’s responsibility of verifying contractors has been highlighted in the material provided to FMUs and to agents in their contact with FMUs. The collaboration with the agents is an important part in providing FMUs contractors that conform with FSC requirements. It is also an own section in the annual FMU survey. The survey serves both as an information campaign and a follow up of individual FMUs. The FMU’s responsibility is repeatedly described in newsletter by the FME. Identified subgroups of FMUs with a risk of a higher occurrence of the non-conformity are prioritized for audit sampling.

In total the surveillance shows that commissioned contractors to a high extent confirm with FME routines concerning FSC requirements, and preventing actions serves to lower the occurrence further.

Individual corrective actions:  
 The FMUs were prior to external audit selected for internal audit based on their background history when joining the group certificate (the FMUs belong to a subgroup of FMUs previously certified by another FME).

The FMUs to which the CAR has been issued have shown to have inadequate knowledge of the FSC indicators concerning contractors. Since the audits contractors have been controlled and confirmed comply with FME routines concerning S-6213. Regarding S-5971 auditors concluded a situation with neighborhood collaboration. S-6215 was issued with a CAR and a corrective action plan was stated and followed through.

**SCS review**

Review of internal audit plan and result from external audit. Review of information given to group members.  
 One existing member were found to not be in compliance to the new indicator 2.1.5 during the 2021 external evaluation. However this contractor did not have any employees at the time and has been graded a separate CAR (see CAR 2021.1).

	<p>Information on this requirement is included in the introduction training of new members.</p> <p>The finding was not observed in the sampled FMUs 2021. Therefor the CAR is recommended to be closed.</p>
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (<i>refer to description above</i>)</p>

<b>Finding Number: 2020.4</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Lima Besparingsskog and Malung-Sälen Kommun FMUs	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 4.3.7
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (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>	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation):	
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.	
<b>FME response</b> (	Individual corrective actions:

<i>including any evidence submitted )</i>	Both FMUs have been contacted and written agreements have now been displayed for all contractors. Both FMUs are prioritized for internal audits the next coming years.
<b>SCS review</b>	<p>Review of results from internal audit 2021 and review of information send to group members. Interviews with group members demonstrated a general awareness of the requirement and the external audit of one of the group members (Malung-Sälens kommun) demonstrated compliance. .</p> <p>One existing member were found to not be in compliance to the new indicator 2.1.5 during the 2021 external evaluation. However this contractor did not have any employees at the time and has been graded a separate CAR (see CAR 2021.1).</p> <p>The finding was not observed in the sampled FMUs 2021. Therefor the CAR is recommended to be closed.</p>
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (<i>refer to description above</i>)</p>

<b>Finding Number: 2020.5</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Lima Besparingskog, Malung-Sälen kommun, S-6213, S-6215, and S-5971	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 4.3.7SA
<b>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</b>	
<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</p>	

<p>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><b>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</b> 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><b>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</b></p>	<p>General corrective and preventing actions: The FMU’s responsibility of verifying contractors has been highlighted in the material provided to FMUs and to agents in their contact with FMUs. The collaboration with the agents is an important part in providing FMUs contractors that conform with FSC requirements. It is also an own section in the annual FMU survey. The survey serves both as an information campaign and a follow up of individual FMUs. The FMU’s responsibility is repeatedly described in newsletter by the FME. Identified subgroups of FMUs with a risk of a higher occurrence of the non-conformity are prioritized for audit sampling.</p> <p>In total the surveillance shows that commissioned contractors to a high extent confirm with FME routines concerning FSC requirements, and preventing actions serves to lower the occurrence further.</p> <p>Individual corrective actions: Lima Besparingskog, Malung-Sälen kommun have been contacted and written agreements have now been displayed for all contractors. Both FMUs are prioritized for internal audits the next coming years. S-6213, S-6215 and S-5971 were prior to external audit selected for internal audit based on their background history when joining the group certificate (the FMUs belong to a subgroup of FMUs previously certified by another FME).</p> <p>The FMUs to which the CAR has been issued have shown to have inadequate knowledge of the FSC indicators concerning contractors. Since the audits contractors have been controlled and confirmed comply with FME routines concerning S-6213. Regarding S-5971 auditors concluded a situation with neighborhood collaboration. S-6215 was issued with a CAR and a corrective action plan was stated and followed through.</p>
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	<p>Review of internal audit plan and result from external audit. Review of information given to group members. Information on this requirement is included in the introduction training of new members. All newly joined members were found to be in compliance. NC not observed in the sampled FMUs 2021.</p>
<p><b>Status of CAR:</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed  <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major  <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (<i>refer to description above</i>)</p>



<b>Finding Number: 2020.6</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Transtrands Besparingsskog, S-5216, S-5551, S-6219, and S-5136 FMUs	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 5.1.7S
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (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 Besparingsskog, 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.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (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.	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	<p>General corrective and preventing actions:          Every FMU are obligated to have individual management plans (with the exception of FMUs &lt; 20 ha, where the management plans can be simplified and focused on nature and cultural values). The management plan is the overall tool for planning silvicultural activities and ensuring that vital activities are carried out. The management plan is updated systematically and earlier performed activities are thereby reviewed.</p> <p>The period of validity and the need of updates are annually reviewed by the FME. All FMUs are obligated to hand in plan data to the FME. The FME verifies that plan updates are performed correctly and according to the time plan. If a FMU doesn't follow the scheme or doesn't hand in required data the FMU is suspended from the FME. Also, the importance of the management plan and how it shall support and direct the FMU is highlighted in all communication with FMUs and agents. It has been used as a parameter during audit sampling and there is an ongoing work within the FME concerning the FMU's knowledge and usage of management plans.</p> <p>Individual corrective actions:          Two of the FMUs (S-5136 and S-6219) were prior to the external audit selected for internal audit. Both were issued with a CAR regarding inadequate performed silvicultural activities. Corrective action plans were stated and</p>

	<p>followed through. The membership and FSC group certification of S-5136 has thereafter been suspended due to other requirements. S-6219 was lacking a valid management plan and therefore the forestry was put on hold or performed at a low scale, awaiting a new management plan. Since then, the management plan has been completed and delivered to the FMU.</p> <p>Regarding the other FMUs, S-5216 has performed all pre-commercial thinning in accordance with the management plan. The FMU has ordered an update of the management plan. There has been a final felling cover all the forest area of S-5551 and there is no area requiring pre-commercial thinning. The FMU of Transtrand is undergoing a reconstruction within the organization. This includes i.a. a monitoring of contractors and a more systematic follow up of performed activities. The FMU is prioritized for internal audit the next coming years.</p>
<b>SCS review</b>	Review of internal audit result 2020/2021 and review of internal and external audit result 2021. Transtrands Besparingsskog was audited 2021 and deemed to be in compliance. No NCs identified 2021.
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision ( <i>refer to description above</i> )

<b>Finding Number: 2020.7</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Kopparfors Skogar, Boxholm Skogar, Gysinge Skogsfastigheter, Kristinehamns kommun, and S-5802 FMUs	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 6.3.7S
<b>Non-Conformity</b> ( <i>or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations</i> ): 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.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> ( <i>or Observation</i> ): 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.	
<b>FME response</b> ( <i>including any evidence submitted</i> )	General corrective and preventing actions: Final felling and thick-stemmed thinning are primarily performed by contractors. The activities are also primarily planned and organized by wood-procurement companies, e.g. agents of the FME. The FME supports agents in

	<p>training and educational material to the personnel and contractors. The FME verifies that wood-procurement companies and contractors have written agreements with a third-party regarding a number of requirements, including education and training activities. The FME also reviews routines of FMUs with independent forestry organisations. This type of FMUs have a certain prioritization for internal audits. Training activities and educational material is also provided for FMUs that performs felling and thinning on their own. The later is a subgroup that in periods is prioritized for internal audits.</p> <p>Individual corrective actions:                  S-5802 were prior to external audit selected for internal audit based on its background history when joining the group certificate (the FMUs belong to a subgroup of FMUs previously certified by another FME). The FMU perform thick-stemmed felling on its own and it was concluded that the FMU had inadequate knowledge of the FSC indicators concerning high stumps. Therefore, a CAR was issued and a corrective action plan was stated and followed through.</p> <p>The non-conformity at Kopparfors was due to a newly employed that was not aware of the routines and the specific FSC requirement. The employee has been educated and a checklist has been developed within the organization. The FSC requirement concerning high stumps is well described in the routines.</p> <p>Boxholm Skogar performs internal audits on their own. The audits are summarized annually in a management report. The number of high stumps is closely monitored between years, routines are adapted to FSC requirements and the FMU has active dialogue and feedback with the contractors. Since the external audit guidelines have been further developed according to new FSC standard concerning high stumps and their characteristics (distribution among tree species, dimensions etc).</p> <p>Gysinge Skogsfastigheter has experienced non-conformities concerning high stumps. Therefore, the subject is prioritized within the organization and during their own internal audits. The non-conformity has been highlighted to one specific business partner. As a result, the partner has implemented a system where each high stump is geotagged. Follow ups have shown good development concerning the FSC requirement and it is systematically monitored during internal audits.</p> <p>Since the external audit Kristinehamns kommun has had a change in personal. A new forest manager is to be employed and their business partner/wood-procurement company also has a temporary contact person (due to parental leave). The upcoming felling has been discussed and highlighted concerning creating high stumps. The FMU is prioritized for internal audit the next coming years.</p>
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	<p>Review of internal audit result 2020 and 2021. Review of external audit result 2021, including audits for Kopparfors Skogar, Gysinge Skogsfastigheter and Boxholm Skogar who were all in compliance. Information on the requirement</p>

	is included in mandatory training for all new members. All newly joined members (from April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2020) were found to be in compliance. NC observed in only 4% of the sampled FMUs, down from 14% in 2020, indicating information has reached the group members and that the CAR has been managed on Group level. CAR recommended to be closed.
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision ( <i>refer to description above</i> )

<b>Finding Number: 2020.8</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Oxbergs Gemensamhetsskog Samfällighetsförening, Lima Besparingskog, Malung-Sälen Kommun, Transtrands Besparingskog, S-6213, S-4064, and S-4065 FMUs	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010, Indicator 6.3.9S
<b>Non-Conformity</b> ( <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.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> ( <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.	
<b>FME response</b> ( <i>including any evidence submitted</i> )	General corrective and preventing actions: Every FMU are obligated to have an individual management plans (with the exception of FMUs < 20 ha, where the management plans can be simplified and focused on nature and cultural values). The management plan is the overall tool for managing the landholdings. The management plan is updated systematically, this includes a review of the occurrence of deciduous forests. As mentioned, deciduous trees have historically been disfavored and there is a long rotation period for increasing the area of deciduous forests. It is a

	<p>continuous work and the plan update is an important tool to identify new areas suitable for deciduous forests.</p> <p>The period of validity and the need of updates are annually reviewed by the FME. All FMUs are obligated to hand in plan data to the FME. The FME verifies that plan updates are performed correctly and according to the time plan. If a FMU doesn't follow the scheme or doesn't hand in required data the FMU is suspended from the FME. The subject of deciduous forests is also an own section in the annual FMU survey. The survey serves both as an information campaign and a follow up of individual FMUs.</p> <p>Individual corrective actions:                  The majority of the stated FMUs are in, or soon to be in, the process of updating the management plans (S-4064, S-4065, S-6213, Lima Besparingsskog, Transtrands Besparingsskog and Oxberg Gemensamhetsskog Samfällighetsförening). S-4064 and S-4065 will update their management plan during 2023 and can provide examples on areas where silvicultural activities have been adapted to develop stands with deciduous trees. S-6213 were prior to external audit selected for internal audit. The internal audit resulted into a CAR within the subject and a corrective action plan was stated and followed through (an update of the management plan).</p> <p>Lima Besparingsskog, Transtrands Besparingsskog and Oxberg are in the process of updating their management plans. Forest manager and/or business partners are aware of the requirement, the requirement and activities to fulfill it is described in guidelines or instructions. As the new management plans develop the current area of deciduous forest can be verified and additional suitable areas for conversion can be identified.</p> <p>Malung-Sälens kommun has a compilation of current deciduous forests. Additional areas will be identified continuously by the forest manager and by contractors. The forest manager is newly employed and the FMU is in the process to increase their forestry management. This will enhance and speed up the managing of and conversion to deciduous forests. The FMU is also in the process of review supporting documents and instructions concerning the management plan and the forestry. Contractors are continuously instructed regarding the requirement of deciduous forests.</p>
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	<p>Review of internal audit result 2020 and 2021. Review of external audit result 2021, including audits of Malung-Sälens Kommun and Transtrands Besparingsskog who were both in compliance. Review of information on this requirement included in the introduction training of new members. Only identified in 6% of all sample audits 2021 as compared to 20% in 2020 indicating information has reached the group members and that the CAR has been managed on Group level. For this reason CAR is recommended to be closed.</p> <p>OBS</p>

<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision ( <i>refer to description above</i> )
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#### 4.4. New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

<b>Finding Number: 2021.1</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Fagersta kommun, S-6981	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 2.1.5
<b>Non-Conformity</b> ( <i>or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations</i> ): The two members did not have written agreements with contractors/consultants as outlined in indicator 2.1.5.  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 4% of the sampled FMUs). It was also not identified at new members. Therefore, the CAR is graded as Minor.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> ( <i>or Observation</i> ): Written business agreements with applicable terms shall be established between employers/contract employers.	
<b>FME response</b> ( <i>including any evidence submitted</i> )	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision ( <i>refer to description above</i> )

<b>Finding Number: 2021.2</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Leksands kommun, Malung-Sälens kommun	

<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 2.3.9
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):	
<p>Two group members did not have written health and safety instructions, available to field personnel. Interview with managers and personnel demonstrated a lack of awareness of health and safety procedures. No procedure could be presented upon request.</p> <p>No one in the staff was worried about health and safety issues when interviewed and had not seen the need for written instructions/procedures. Additionally, the occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 4% of the sampled FMUs). Therefore, the CAR has been graded as a Minor.</p>	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation): Health and safety instructions, together with emergency procedures, shall be:	
a) available at the workplace, c) known by those affected by the work	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.3</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Silvestica Green Forest AB	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 3.2.3
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):	
<p>One member had not had a participatory planning process with affected Sami Community. The member had sent out an invitation but not taken steps to make sure it was received. As a consequence no planning meeting was held as the meeting invitation was never responded to.</p>	

<p>Since the occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 2% of the sampled FMUs), it has been graded as Minor.</p>	
<p><b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or <i>Observation</i>): The participatory planning process is conducted in good faith with representatives for the Sami reindeer herding in order to secure the rights that are affected by the forest management.</p>	
<p><b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)</p>	
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	
<p><b>Status of CAR:</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<p><b>Finding Number: 2021.4</b></p>	
<p><b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR    <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation</p>	
<p><b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): S-5950, S-6659</p>	
<p><b>Deadline</b></p>	<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):
<p><b>FSC Indicator:</b></p>	<p>FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.5.1</p>
<p><b>Non-Conformity</b> (or <i>Background/ Justification in the case of Observations</i>):            Members S-5950 and S-6659 could not provide evidence of set aside areas, such as information on overview maps. Since areas had been set aside and since this only concerned SLIMFs with &lt; 20 ha, this is graded as an observation.</p>	
<p><b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or <i>Observation</i>): A selection of the productive forest land area is set aside and exempt from measures other than management to maintain and promote natural biodiversity or biodiversity conditioned by traditional land use practice.</p>	
<p><b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)</p>	
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	
<p><b>Status of CAR:</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)



<b>Finding Number: 2021.5</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Boxholm Skogar AB, Fagersta Kommun, Harpsunds Jord & Skog, S-5129, S-6812, Silvestica Green Forest AB, Transtrands Besparingskog, S-4036, S-4126, S-4834, S-5672, S-5739, S-5794, S-5821, S-5950, S-6156, S-6303, S-6675, S-6923, S-7036	
<b>Deadline</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.5.2
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): These group members had not yet identified areas according to the new indicator 6.5.2. All non SLIMFs had begun identifying areas. Interview with Group Entity personnel and review of action plan (“Handlingsplan 6.5.2_20210824”) to meet 6.5.2 on member level. Action plan is very comprehensive and includes a timeline for when indicator 6.5.2 is deemed to be met.  Information on this requirement has been sent to all members previously. Several of the sampled FMUs were already in compliance and several more had begun working to identify suitable areas. Action plan deemed to be sufficient and according to a potential corrective action request. Therefore, this is graded as an observation.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation): At least 5 % of the productive forest land area is managed with long-term protection and enhancement of conservation values and/or social values as the primary objective. Areas according to 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 together comprise at least 10 % of the productive forest land area.	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.6</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Brevens Bruk	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.5.4
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Interview and review of management plan for this group member demonstrated that no long-term nature conservation objectives had been formulated for the set aside areas.  The occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 2% of the sampled FMUs). Therefore, the CAR has been continued as Minor.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation): Long-term nature conservation objectives are formulated and documented for set aside areas, based on the analysis and assessment as per 6.3.1 and 6.3.2, and with the purpose of maintaining or enhancing biodiversity.	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	FMU is no longer part of the Group Certificate.
<b>SCS review</b>	Member status in Group Entity verified, they are now part of another group certificate.
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.7</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): S-4126	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.6.2
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Field visit at final fellings with these group members showed a lack of retention trees. On final fellings at S-4126 (Site ID: 12), 80-100 retention trees to few had been left. The trees in the consideration patches mustn't be counted as the felling is larger than 4ha.  The occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 2% of the sampled FMUs) and only identified for one stand, the CAR has been graded as Minor.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation): During regeneration felling, on average at least 10 trees per hectare are retained on the felled area.	

<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.8</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): S-5794, Kopparfors Skogar AB, Gysinge Skogsfastigheter AB, Hällefors-Tierp Skogar AB	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.6.3
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Field visit at final fellings with these group members showed that the distance to a consideration object, from any point in the stand, in some cases exceeded 70m. For S-5794, this was found at the latest final felling (ID not available). For Kopparfors Skogar AB, this was identified on site ID: 263195486 11 Persbo SA, for Gysinge Skogsfastigheter AB it was identified on site ID: 8145 and for Hällefors-Tierp Skogar AB on site ID 146301 Hastelbo FA.  The occurrences of this non-conformity was limited to 8% of the sampled FMUs and only identified once per FMU. It was also not identified with new members. Therefore, the CAR has been graded as Minor.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation): Consideration patches, buffer zones, groups of trees and single wind-resistant coarse trees are retained during regeneration felling so as to avoid large treeless areas. On felling areas that are larger than 4 hectares south of Limes Norrlandicus, and on felling areas that are larger than 10 hectares north of Limes Norrlandicus, the distance from any point in the felling area to the nearest consideration, object or clearcut edge shall not exceed 70 meters.	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.9</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Boxholm Skogar AB, Fagersta kommun, Leksands kommun, Gysinge Skogsfastigheter, S-6368	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.6.6
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Field visits on pre-commercial thinnings at these group members showed that management activities in conifer-dominated stands had not always been carried out so that deciduous trees constituted at least 10 % of the dominant or co-dominant stems  The occurrence of this non-conformity was limited to 10 % of the sampled FMUs, therefore, the CAR has been graded Minor.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation): Management activities in conifer-dominated stands are carried out so that deciduous trees constitute at least 10 % of the dominant or co-dominant stems in the stand, where conditions allow.	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.10</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Boxholm Skogar AB, Fagersta kommun, Leksands kommun, S-6368	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.6.8
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Field visits on pre-commercial thinnings at these group members showed that on several occasions, trees favored by game for browsing had not been favored to a great extent.  The occurrence of this non-conformity was limited (observed in 8% of the sampled FMUs), therefore, the CAR has been graded Minor.	

<b>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</b> Trees favored by game for browsing (aspen, mountain ash, goat willow, willow, noble broad-leaf trees, juniper and wild apple) are retained to a great extent during precommercial thinning.	
<b>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</b>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.11</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):</b> S-6303, S-5251	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.6.11
<b>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</b> Field visits at final fellings at these group members showed that dead wood and other trees that have been dead for more than one year had not been retained. Interviews with the group members demonstrated a lack of awareness of this requirement.  The occurrence of this non-conformity was limited 4% of the sampled FMUs. It was also not identified with new members. Therefore, the CAR has been graded Minor.	
<b>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</b> High stumps, lying coarse dead wood and other trees that have been dead for more than one year are retained. Forest management is carried out so that damage to dead wood is minimized.	
<b>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</b>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.12</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	

<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): S-4771	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.6.12
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Field visit at a final felling (Site ID: 2) at this group member showed that fresh dead wood, previously retained as nature consideration, had been taken out.  The occurrence of this non-conformity was limited to 2% of the sampled FMUs. It was also not identified with new members. Therefore, the CAR has been continued as Minor.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation): In conjunction with management activities, fresh dead wood is retained, and considerations are made for fresh dead wood: a) originating from trees with high biodiversity values and other trees previously retained as nature considerations,	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.13</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): S-5129, S-6686	
<b>Deadline</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.6.13
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Field visits at final fellings at these group members showed that standing fresh dead wood/high stumps had not been created in sufficient amounts. The occurrence was limited (observed in 4% of the sampled FMUs) and much less common than in 2020 (14%). It was also not identified with new members, indicating information has reached the group members and that the CAR has been managed on Group level Therefore, the CAR has been graded as an Observation.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation): The amount of fresh dead wood of different tree species is increased after regeneration fellings and second thinnings by: a) creating, on average, at least three high stumps or girdled trees per hectare on	

harvested areas	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.14</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): S-5635	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.7.6
Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): Field visit at a final felling showed soil damages to a creek/stream.	
Effect on waterway deemed serious, therefor NC is graded Major despite only being identified once.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation): Soil damage is prevented when management activities are carried out.	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	<p>One of the "damages" are old tracks used by the locals and not connected to the final felling. When harvesting the soil was hard and no damages was done to the water way. Field visit confirmed that any attempt to mend the "damage" would increase the risk of mud slides into the water and not create any significant benefits.</p> <p>The damages to the smaller creek has been identified and the contractor should have built a "bridge" (normal procedure when crossing waterways). Interview with the planning officer confirm this. The affiliated agent and planning officer will meet with the contractor to discuss what has happened and how this will be avoided in the future.</p> <p>Field visits confirm that the damage to the smaller creek is not suitable to mend since this will only worsen the effect and not improve it. Photos will be taken and will be available upon request.</p> <p>Prosilva has set together a question battery which needs to be answered by the planning officer to make sure this does not occur again.</p>
<b>SCS review</b>	Interview with the group entity, undertaken actions deemed justified and sufficient. NC only identified once and NC deemed closed.

<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision ( <i>refer to description above</i> )
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<b>Finding Number: 2021.15</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Hällefors-Tierp Skogar AB, S-4834, S-6923	
<b>Deadline</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.8.5
<b>Non-Conformity</b> ( <i>or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations</i> ): Interviews with these three 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.  The occurrence of this non-conformity was limited to 6 % of the sampled FMUs compared to approximately 20% in 2020. Additionally, it was also not identified with new members, indicating information has reached the group members and has been managed on Group level .Therefore, this has been graded as an Observation.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> ( <i>or Observation</i> ): The landholding is planned and managed so that an area equivalent to at least 5 % of the total area of mesic and moist forest land consists of deciduous-rich stands dominated by deciduous trees during most of the rotation period. Those that have not yet reached the target shall establish an action plan to reach the target.	
<b>FME response</b> ( <i>including any evidence submitted</i> )	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision ( <i>refer to description above</i> )

<b>Finding Number: 2021.16</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Skogscertifiering Prosilva AB	



<b>Deadline</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC STD 30-005, 1.5
<b>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</b>	
Interviews with group members S-4126, S-4834, S-5672, S-5710, S-5794, S-5821, S-5950, S-6156, S-6245, S-6303, S-6650, S-6652, S-6675, S-6686, S-6923, S-7070, S-7071 and S-7281 demonstrated a lack of awareness of the revised Swedish FM standard.	
Several of the members was found to be in compliance with the new requirements and the Group Entity has produced action plans to address the information gaps. All non SLIMFs had received the information and were in compliance or working on it. Therefor this is graded as an observation.	
<b>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</b> The Group Entity shall make sure that all actors in the group demonstrate sufficient knowledge to fulfil their corresponding responsibilities within the group.	
<b>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</b>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2021.17</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):</b> Skogscertifiering Prosilva AB	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC STD 30-005, 10.1iii
<b>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</b>	
Review of management plans for group members Brevens Bruk, Hällefors-Tierp Skogar, Kopparfors Skogar AB, S-4771, S-5129, S-5156, S-5794, S-5710, S-5821, S-6650, S-6812, S-7281, Silvestica Green Forest AB and Stenhammar. The areas specified there does not match the information the group entity has registered.	
All FMUs > 10 000ha are subject to annual internal audits where actual forest area is reviewed. FMUs in the category 1000 - 10 000 ha are audited every 5 years on average and forest area reviewed. For all FMUs, including SLIMF FMUs, surveys are sent out yearly to a sample of the group members in which forest area updates are requested. The Group is also surveying management	

<p>plans' age and notifies members when plans are nearing their expiration date. In connection with this contact, actual forest areas are requested. Areas are also updated in connection with the internal audit, as witnessed for member S-4771.</p> <p>All members except S-5156, S-5821 and S-6650 will be covered by annual/planned actions as per notification by the Group Entity via email September 6<sup>th</sup>. Therefor, this NC is graded Minor.</p>	
<p><b>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</b> The Group Entity shall maintain up-to-date records covering all applicable requirements of this standard and the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard. These shall include:</p> <p>a) A list of the members of the group, including for each member:</p> <p>iii. number and area of management units included in the group</p>	
<p><b>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</b></p>	
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	
<p><b>Status of CAR:</b></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><b>Finding Number: 2021.18</b></p>	
<p><b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR    <input type="checkbox"/> Observation</p>	
<p><b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Fagersta kommun, Harpsunds Jord &amp; Skog, Hällefors Tierp Skogar AB, S-6686, S-5672</p>	
<p><b>Deadline</b></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><b>FSC Indicator:</b></p>	<p>FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019, indicator 6.7.3</p>
<p><b>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</b></p> <p>During field visits on final fellings at these group members, soil damages in buffer zones was identified at least once.</p> <p>Effects of damages deemed not severe and were not repeated for those members where more than one felling was audited. Additionally, NC was only identified in 10% of sampled FMUs. Therefor the NC is graded Minor.</p>	
<p><b>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</b> Soil damage does not occur in buffer zones.</p>	
<p><b>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</b></p>	
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	

<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<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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<b>Finding Number: 2021.19</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Fagersta Kommun	
<b>Deadline</b>	<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):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC STD 50-001, 1.5
<b>Non-Conformity</b> ( <i>or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations</i> ): Review of trademark use approval showed that approval had not been granted for use of group members’ website: <a href="https://nvk.fagersta.se/bygga-bo--miljo/naturvard-och-skogsforvaltning/skogsforvaltning.html">https://nvk.fagersta.se/bygga-bo--miljo/naturvard-och-skogsforvaltning/skogsforvaltning.html</a> .	
NC only identified in 2% of sampled FMUs. Review of four other group members with approved trademark uses. Therefore, NC is graded as Minor.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> ( <i>or Observation</i> ): The FSC trademark licence code assigned by FSC to the organization shall accompany any use of the FSC trademarks. It is sufficient to show the code once per product or promotional material.	
<b>FME response</b> ( <i>including any evidence submitted</i> )	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision ( <i>refer to description above</i> )

#### 4.5 Major Nonconformances

	No Major CARs were issued to the FME during the evaluation. Any Minor CARs from previous surveillance audits have been reviewed and closed prior to the issuance of a certificate.
x	Major CARs were issued to the FME during the evaluation, which have all been closed to the satisfaction of the audit team and meet the requirements of the standards. Any Minor

	CARs from previous surveillance audits have been reviewed and closed prior to the issuance of a certificate.
	Major CARs were issued to the FME during the evaluation and the FME has not yet satisfactorily closed all Major CARs.

## 5. Certification Decision

Certification Recommendation	
<b>FME be awarded FSC certification as a “Well-Managed Forest” subject to the minor corrective action requests stated in Section 4.2.</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The SCS evaluation team makes the above recommendation for certification based on the full and proper execution of the SCS Forest Conservation Program evaluation protocols. A positive certification decision indicates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any Minor CARs from previous surveillance audits have been reviewed and closed prior to the issuance of a new certificate;</li> <li>▪ No Major CARs were issued to the FME during the evaluation;</li> <li>▪ Any Major CARs issued during the audit were closed prior to report finalization;</li> <li>▪ The FME has demonstrated that its system of management is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standards (see Section 1.6 of this report) are met over the forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation;</li> <li>▪ The FME has demonstrated that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the forest area covered by the scope of the certificate.</li> </ul>	
<b>Comments:</b>	

## SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL)

### Appendix 1 – Current and Projected Annual Harvest

The sustainable rate of harvest (usually Annual Allowable Harvest or AAH where available) of commercial timber (m3 of round wood):	N/A
Explanation of the assumptions, methodology, and reference to the data source upon which AAH and NTFP harvest rates estimates are based:	
Each Group Member is responsible for managing their forests according to rules, regulations and FSC requirements. FMUs > 20 ha shall have a Management Plan where AAH is presented. Management Plans must be revised every 10 years. Group Entity have procedures in place to ensure Management Plans are produced and revised on time.	

### Appendix 2 – List of FMUs Selected for Evaluation

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

SCS staff establishes 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-6156	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-4126	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Ease of access
S-6245	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Ease of access
S-5794	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Ease of access
S-5950	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-5821	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Ease of access
S-6686	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-7070	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-7071	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Ease of access
Brevens Bruk	Large > 10,000 ha	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-5156	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-5129	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-6975	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-6923	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Ease of access
Peter & Carina Borg	Non-SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
Boxholm Skogar AB	Large > 10,000 ha	Natural Forest	Random sample
Stenhammars godsförvaltning AB (SFV)	Non-SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
Harpunds nämnden (SFV)	Non-SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample

Kopparfors Skogar AB	Large > 10,000 ha	Natural Forest	Random sample
Silvestica Green Forest AB	Large > 10,000 ha	Natural Forest	Random sample
Hällefors-Tierp Skogar AB	Large > 10,000 ha	Natural Forest	Random sample
Gysinge Skogsfastigheter AB	Large > 10,000 ha	Natural Forest	Random sample
Fagersta kommun	Non-SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
Leksands kommun	Non-SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
Malung-Sälens kommun	Non-SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-6659	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Ease of access
S-7281	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Ease of access
S-6797	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-5710	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Ease of access
S-6652	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-6650	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Ease of access
S-4061	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-4771	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
Transtrands Besparingsskog	Large > 10,000 ha	Natural Forest	Random sample
Stockholm Vatten	Non-SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-4834	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-4853	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-4923	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-5251	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-5635	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-5672	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-5739	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-6368	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-6675	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-6981	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-7036	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample
S-7043	SLIMF	Natural Forest	Random sample

### Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed

None.

Additional techniques employed (*describe*): Joining all internal auditors to evaluate the internal audit process and the auditors' competence.

### Appendix 4 - 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
Lisa Ekberg	Naturvårdshandläggare	**	F2F
Björn Thorvaldsson	Consultant	**	F2F

Anders Peterson	Förvaltare	**	F2F
Ville Pokela	Naturvårdare	**	F2F
Hans Carlström	Leksands kommun	**	F2F
Gisela Åberg	Ekolog	**	F2F
Jan Olof Larsson	Skogsförvaltare	**	F2F
Erik Berglund	Mlljö- kvalitetsrevisor	**	F2F
Erik Dahlin	Kvalitetsspecialist	**	F2F
Martin Williams	Chief Forester	**	F2F
Per-Ove Torstensson	Skogsförvaltare	**	F2F
Veegard Haanes	VD	**	F2F
Dan Glöde	VD	**	F2F
Erik Reis	Distriktschef	**	F2F
Jonas Sandström	Skogsvaktare	**	F2F
Andreas Olsson	Contractor	**	F2F
Tony Olsson	Contractor	**	F2F
Martin Olsson	Contractor	**	F2F
Joachim Björkman	Contractor	**	F2F
Karl Fredrik Lejonhufvud	Group member	**	F2F
Jonny Carlsson	Förvaltare	**	F2F
Jonas Pettersson	Skogsvaktare	**	F2F
Tomas Thuresson	VD	**	F2F
Michael Bergqvist	Contractor	**	F2F
Ulf Hogoh	Contractor	**	F2F
Herbert Hugoh	Contractor	**	F2F

\*\* See Permission Forms

\*\*\* Not wanting to be listed

### 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.

### List of other Stakeholders Consulted\*

Name	Title	Contact Information	Consultation method	Requests Stakeholder Notification? (Y/N)
Åsbo Hembygdsförening	-	-	Phone	N
BLÅVIKS BYALAG	-	-	Phone	N
Contractor	-	-	Phone	N
Neighbour	-	-	Phone	N
Employee, forwarder (operator)	-	-	Phone	N
[Sami Community]			Phone	-
[Sami Community]			Phone	-
Stefan Sandin	-	-	F2F	N

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\*\*\*Additionally 8 stakeholders interviewed on site during field evaluations, all chose to be anonymous. Basic information is provided in the Permission Forms, provided separately.

\* 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 5 – Required Tracking

### Pesticide Derogations

There are no active pesticide derogations for this FME.

Name of pesticide / herbicide (active ingredient)		Date derogation approved
Condition	Conformance (C / NC)	Evidence of progress

### 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.*

Partial or progressive HCV must be noted in SCS tracking system for monitoring. Describe below the FME monitoring plan to ensure additional HCVF assessments are completed as necessary: HCV Monitor Plan
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### Special Instructions or Scoping Notes for Next Regularly Scheduled Annual Audit

<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable; no significant issues identified that may impact the next audit.
<b>Some issues were identified during this audit that the next audit team could consider in the next audit, such as:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope of certificate:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit sampling:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Audit time: Continuous expansion will lead to an increase in days.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Audit season: Audit planning should be done in March, with the Group Entity.
<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 6 – Forest Management Standard Conformance Table

*C= Conformance with Criterion or Indicator*

*C/NC= Overall Conformance with Criterion, but there are Indicator nonconformances*

*NC= Nonconformance with Criterion or Indicator*

*NA= Not Applicable*

FSC Principles Checklist  
**FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Sweden**

REQUIREMENT	C/NC	COMMENT/CAR
<b>PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS</b> The Organization shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements.		
<b>1.1 The Organization shall be a legally defined entity with clear, documented and unchallenged legal registration, with written authorization from the legally competent authority for specific activities.</b> This Criterion is met through the indicators in Criterion 1.2.	C	
<b>1.2 The Organization shall demonstrate that the legal status of the Management Unit, including tenure and use rights, and its boundaries, are clearly defined.</b>	C	Legal status of MUs held by the Tax authorities. Boundaries are registered by The National Land Survey.
<b>1.2.1</b> Land titles, legally binding contracts, authorization or other documentation that confirm the right to manage the forest are in place.	C	Interviews of Group Entity and affiliated Agents demonstrate that control of ownership must be done prior to joining the group.
<b>1.2.2</b> The boundaries of all <i>properties</i> within the scope of the certificate are registered with Lantmäteriet.	C	
<b>1.3 The Organization shall have legal rights to operate in the Management Unit, which fit the legal status of The Organization and of the Management Unit, and shall comply with the associated legal obligations in applicable national and local laws and regulations and administrative requirements. The legal rights shall provide for harvest of products and/or supply of ecosystem services from within the Management Unit. The Organization shall pay the legally prescribed charges associated with such rights and obligations.</b>	C	
<b>1.3.1</b> Management activities are carried out in compliance with <i>applicable laws</i> and regulations (Annex 1).	C	All group members have access to the law service "Regelrätt Skogsbruk". Management is primarily done by forestry companies with trained personnel and PEFC certified contractors.
<b>1.3.2</b> The <i>management plan</i> is designed in accordance with all <i>applicable laws</i> related to forest management.	C	Review of management plans during sample audits.

<p><b>1.3.3</b> Contracts and agreements relating to management activities are complied with and accounted for.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of contracts/agreements during sample audits and interview with contractors, group members and agents.</p>
<p><b>1.4</b> <i>The Organization shall develop and implement measures, and/or shall engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the Management Unit from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>1.4.1</b> Relevant authorities are notified of illegal activities.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and agents during sample audit</p>
<p><b>1.4.2</b> Engagement is conducted with relevant authorities to avoid, prevent and control illegal activities, when necessary based on <i>scale, intensity</i> and <i>risk</i>.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and agents during sample audit, review during field visits.</p>
<p><b>1.5</b> <i>The Organization shall comply with the applicable national laws, local laws, ratified international conventions and obligatory codes of practice, relating to the transportation and trade of forest products within and from the Management Unit, and/or up to the point of first sale.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>1.5.1</b> Compliance with applicable laws and regulations relating to the transportation and trade of forest products up to the point of first sale is demonstrated (Annex 1).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with Group Entity, group members and agents. Group Entity is not involved in sales or transportation, this is governed in the agreement between member and timber purchaser/forestry company. Review of agreements signed between these parties during sample audits.</p>
<p><b>1.6</b> <i>The Organization shall identify, prevent and resolve disputes over issues of statutory or customary law, which can be settled out of court in a timely manner, through engagement with affected stakeholders.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>1.6.1</b> Up to date records of <i>legal</i> disputes that relate to management activities, including <i>customary law</i>, are held. The records include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the steps and approaches taken to reach an agreement out of court,</li> <li>b) the outcomes of the process,</li> <li>c) unresolved disputes, with the reasons why they are not resolved.</li> </ul>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with Group Entity, review of registered complaints and interview with members during sample audits. No registered legal disputes.</p>
<p><b>1.6.2</b> Where there are <i>ongoing legal disputes</i> between the forest owner and rights holder relating to management activities, and where continued operations can compromise the rights</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

that the dispute concerns, the disputed operations cease until the dispute is resolved.		
<b>1.7 The Organization shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, The Organization shall implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the scale and intensity of management activities and the risk of corruption.</b>	C	
<b>1.7.1</b> A documented, <i>publicly available</i> policy against corruption is in place and is complied with.	C	Published on the website: <a href="https://skogscertifiering.se/om-oss/synpunkter-och-klagoma%CC%8A/">https://skogscertifiering.se/om-oss/synpunkter-och-klagoma%CC%8A/</a>
<b>1.7.2</b> Any indications of corruption are dealt with and corrective measures are implemented accordingly.	C	No indication. Verified through interviews with Group Entity, agents and members.
<b>1.8 The Organization shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria in the Management Unit, and to related FSC Policies and Standards. A statement of this commitment shall be contained in a publicly available document made freely available.</b>	C	
<b>1.8.1</b> A policy is in place that includes a long-term commitment to forest management practices consistent with this standard and related FSC Policies and Standards.  DIRECTIVES 1.8.1: The policy is documented, is <i>publicly available</i> , and is endorsed by an individual with authority to implement the policy.	C	Review of “Miljöpolicy”, published on the website: <a href="https://skogscertifiering.se/om-oss/var-miljopolicy/">https://skogscertifiering.se/om-oss/var-miljopolicy/</a>
<b>1.8.2</b> When jointly owned <i>properties</i> become certified, all owners commit to complying with this standard and related FSC Policies and Standards within the certified <i>property</i> .	C	Requirement is included in the agreement signed by the member and group Entity representative.
<b>1.8.3</b> All <i>landholdings</i> for which FSC certified forest owners have full ownership and that occur within the same ownership constellation are FSC certified.  DIRECTIVES 1.8.3: Exceptions can be made for forest owners that, for formal reasons, cannot make decisions regarding certification for all	C	Requirement is included in the agreement signed by the member and group Entity representative.

<p>parts of the <i>landholding</i>. The requirement only applies for <i>landholdings</i> in Sweden.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 1.8.3: The intention with the exception in the directives for 1.8.3 is to enable certification when parts of the landholding cannot be certified for reasons that relate to decision-making rights. This applies, for example, for The Church of Sweden, where the management of the clergymen’s salary assets (Sw: Prästlönetillgångarna) is regulated in the church order and is delegated to dioceses that decide on issues such as certification. This also applies for forest owners that have donation properties with terms that do not enable certification of these properties, but that have other forest holdings that are suitable for certification.</i></p>		
<p><b>PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS’ RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS</b>  <b><i>The Organization shall maintain or enhance the social and economic wellbeing of workers.</i></b></p> <p><i>GUIDANCE PRINCIPLE 2: Many of the indicators under Principle 2 are intentionally formulated in terms of what benefits workers shall receive, rather than regulating what The Organization shall fulfill. This has been done to ensure that all workers have acceptable working conditions, regardless of how or in which circumstances the person has been engaged in the work.</i></p> <p><i>The term “workers” encompasses all workers, regardless of the form of employment or employment relationship, and includes both employed workers and contract workers. The terms “employees” and “staff” are considered to be equivalent. “Contract workers” are workers that do not have an employment relationship with The Organization, such as consultants or contractors. For additional guidance, see the glossary of terms in this standard.</i></p> <p><i>Some indicators only set requirements for employers. In cases where The Organization itself is not the employer, The Organization shall have systems in place to check that workers have good working conditions in accordance with the indicator requirements. As such, it is always the responsibility of The Organization to ensure that workers have acceptable working conditions, regardless of whether the work is done by its own staff or by assignment, and regardless of the size of The Organization’s landholding.</i></p> <p><i>If a contract is written where the responsibility to comply with this standard is transferred to the contract worker, it is important to ensure that the responsibility for the workers is not ignored. In the end, the responsibility to comply with this standard always lies on The Organization.</i></p>		
<p><b>2.1 The Organization shall uphold the principles and rights at work as defined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) based on the eight ILO Core Labor Conventions.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Swedish legislation govern many aspects of Principle 2.</p>

<p>The eight ILO Core Labor Conventions:                  No. 29: Forced Labor Convention                  No. 87: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Conventions                  No. 98: Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention                  No. 100: Equal Remuneration Convention                  No. 105: Abolition of Forced Labor Convention                  No. 111: Discrimination (Occupation and Employment) Convention                  No. 138: Minimum Age Convention                  No. 182: Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention</p>		
<p><b>2.1.1</b> <i>Workers</i> have the right to organize and negotiate as per Swedish law and the applicable <i>collective agreement</i>.</p>	C	Review of employment contracts for group members with employees. Interview with employees.
<p><b>2.1.2</b> <i>Collective agreements</i> that apply to the work are implemented for all <i>employees</i>, regardless of their form of employment. Wages and terms of employment are complied with.</p>	C	Review of employment contracts for group members with employees. Interview with employees.
<p><b>2.1.3</b> <i>Workers</i> have lasting and secure conditions of employment. Permanent tenure is prioritized as a form of employment for <i>employees</i>.</p>	C	Review of employment contracts for group members with employees. Interview with employees.
<p><b>2.1.4</b> In the case of shortage of work, the affected employer consults with the relevant labor organizations to mitigate the negative impacts on redundant <i>staff</i>.</p>	C	Review of employment contracts for group members with employees. Interview with employees.
<p><b>2.1.5</b> Written employment contracts or business agreements with applicable terms are established between <i>workers</i> and employers/contract employers.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.1.5: The contents of the employment contract comply with the Employment Protection Act and the applicable Swedish <i>collective agreement</i>. The contents of business agreements are agreed upon between the parties and follow current practice in the sector (for example Standard Conditions for Forestry-related Contracting (Sw: Allmänna bestämmelser för skogsentreprenad, ABSE)).</p>	NC	Fagersta kommun and member S-6981 did not have written business agreements with contractors.
<p><b>2.1.6</b> When <i>workers</i> are underage (under 18 years old), the specific rules for working hours and work duties stated in the Swedish Work Environment Authority’s provisions on the working environment of minors are complied with.</p>	N/A	

<p><b>2.2 The Organization shall promote gender equality in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement and management activities.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>2.2.1</b> Systems are implemented that promote <i>gender equality</i>.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.2.1: The systems promote <i>gender equality</i> in employment practices, forms of employment, allocation of wages, professional development, and representation at meetings and in decision-making forums. The systems also include a <i>gender equality</i> plan. Employers with 25 or more <i>employees</i> formulate a written <i>gender equality</i> plan in accordance with the Discrimination Act.</p> <p>Mechanisms for reporting gender discrimination are documented and well known. Cases of gender discrimination that arise are investigated, resolved and monitored to ensure that they are not repeated.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 2.2.1: Mechanisms for reporting cases of gender discrimination should be described in the staff policy.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with employees, members and Group Entity, review of policies and observations of work environment during sample audits.</p>
<p><b>2.2.2</b> Employers work <i>systematically</i> to counteract discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, religion or ethnicity.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.2.2: Employers work <i>systematically</i> with active measures to counteract discrimination in employment practices, form of employment, allocation of wages, professional development, and representation at meetings and in decision-making forums. The extent of the work is adapted according to <i>scale, intensity</i> and <i>risk</i>. Mechanisms for reporting discrimination are documented and well known. Cases of discrimination that arise are investigated, resolved and monitored to ensure that they are not repeated.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 2.2.2: Active measures constitute preventative and promotive measures to counteract discrimination, as well as other ways to work for equal rights and opportunities</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of employment contracts for group members with employees. Interview with employees and employers.</p>

<p><i>regardless of gender, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other beliefs, disability, sexual orientation or age. Mechanisms for reporting cases of discrimination should be described in the staff policy.</i></p>		
<p><b>2.2.3</b> Workers’ right to leave and compensation as parents/guardians, as regulated by the applicable <i>collective agreement</i> and the Parental Leave Act, is respected.</p>	C	<p>Review of employment contracts for group members with employees. Interview with employees.</p>
<p><b>2.2.4</b> Parental leave does not constitute an obstacle for employment/assignments or a justification for compromised working conditions for <i>workers</i>.</p>	C	<p>Review of employment contracts for group members with employees. Interview with employees.</p>
<p><b>2.3 The Organization shall implement health and safety practices to protect workers from occupational safety and health hazards. These practices shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of management activities, meet or exceed the recommendations of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.</b></p>	C	
<p><b>2.3.1</b> The Swedish Work Environment Authority’s provisions on <i>Systematic Work Environment Management</i> (Sw: Systematisk arbetsmiljöarbete, SAM) are applied.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.3.1: The <i>Systematic Work Environment Management</i> is carried out jointly by <i>employees</i> and employers. Risk assessments and action plans are documented in written form and <i>workers</i> are aware of them. Local agreements about the forms of <i>engagement</i> regarding <i>Systematic Work Environment Management</i> are reached between the employer and the labor organization.</p>	C	<p>Review of employment contracts for group members with employees. Interview with employees.</p>
<p><b>2.3.2</b> Consultations are conducted regarding work environment issues in workplaces where more than one company operates.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.3.2: When necessary, an agreement is reached regarding who is responsible for coordinating safety measures against illnesses and accidents in the shared workplace.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 2.3.2: See the Work Environment Act – shared workplace.</i></p>	C	<p>Review of employment contracts for group members with employees. Interview with employees.</p>



<p><b>2.3.3</b> Employers provide safety and healthcare equipment appropriate to assigned tasks as per the law and the applicable <i>collective agreement</i>.</p>	C	Group members with employees: Review of procedures and interview with employees.
<p><b>2.3.4</b> Use of appropriate safety and healthcare equipment is enforced.</p>	C	Review of procedures and interview with employees and observations during walk through/sample audits..
<p><b>2.3.5</b> Accidents and incidents at work are handled and prevented.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.3.5: Accidents and incidents at work are handled and prevented through the presence and documentation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) incident reporting,</li> <li>b) occupational injury reporting,</li> <li>c) registration of sick leave as a result of accidents,</li> <li>d) safety inspections and risk assessments,</li> <li>e) records of overtime where working hours are regulated.</li> </ul> <p><i>The Organization</i> is responsible for documentation of the above for their own <i>staff</i>, and that <i>contract workers</i> with employed <i>staff</i> can present such documentation.</p>	C	Review of procedures and interview with employees.
<p><b>2.3.6</b> The causes of incidents and/or accidents that have occurred are investigated and documented, and procedures for the <i>Systematic Work Environment Management</i> are revised as required.</p>	C	Review of procedures and interview with employees.
<p><b>2.3.7</b> <i>Workers, as employees</i>, have access to occupational health services as required for the working conditions.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.3.7: The occupational health services as required for the working conditions include competence in preventative work environment management as well as job adaptation and rehabilitation services.</p>	C	Review of employment contracts, procedures and interview with employees.
<p><b>2.3.8</b> A safety and health representative and a safety and health committee are in place as per the Work Environment Act.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.3.8: Where a local safety and health representative is missing, contact with a regional safety and health representative has been established.</p>	C	Review of procedures and interview with employees.

<p><b>2.3.9</b> Work and safety instructions, together with emergency procedures, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) available at the workplace,</li> <li>b) understandable to those affected by the work,</li> <li>c) known by those affected by the work.</li> </ul>	<p>NC</p>	<p>Leksands kommun and Malung-Sälens kommun did not have written emergency procedures in place.</p>
<p><b>2.3.10</b> <i>Staff facilities</i> are available. For silvicultural and regeneration felling work, the <i>staff facilities</i> consist of a staff cabin that is adjacent to the workplace and approved for the work.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.3.10: At fixed workplaces, furnished facilities shall be available adjacent to the work premises. Access to <i>staff facilities</i> shall also be made available at non-sedentary workplaces, although in such cases staff cabins positioned at the workplace can be sufficient.</p> <p>“Adjacent to the workplace” means next to the workplace or in its immediate vicinity, within walking distance. In exceptional cases – if work is conducted on sporadic occasions or during a very short time (one workday or less) – the distance to the <i>staff facilities</i> may be longer and require transportation by car.</p> <p>“A staff cabin that is approved for the work” relates to the requirements in the Swedish Work Environment Authority’s provisions on workplace design.</p> <p>To fulfill the requirements for <i>staff facilities</i> for forestry work, a staff cabin shall include:          personal hygiene care/possibility to wash hands with warm water,          facilities for heating up and eating food,          comfortable seating, in the case of cold weather in a heated space,          possibility to change clothing,          possibility to dry off,          possibility to store personal clothing separately from work clothing,          for work near urban areas, access to a toilet shall also be available.          Exceptions from the requirement for a staff cabin adjacent to the workplace can occur in the following cases:</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of procedures and interview with employees. Facilities reviewed during field office audits for all non SLIMFs with no identified NCs relating to indicator 2.3.10.</p> <p>Forestry workers are normally hired contractors which several field visits and interviews with contractors could confirm. One employee (forwarder operator) interviewed indicated facilities were available if needed.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) repair work conducted by ambulatory service mechanics,</li> <li>b) temporary forestry work conducted during one workday or less,</li> <li>c) temporary machine work conducted during one workday or less,</li> <li>d) for sites to which it is not practically possible to transport a staff cabin,</li> <li>e) when the workday begins and ends where <i>staff facilities</i> are available,</li> <li>f) where <i>staff facilities</i> are available at fixed workplaces (for example, for planning/survey/assessment work and for service mechanics),</li> <li>g) where the erection of a staff cabin occurs at a central site within a geographical area, in which several shorter work assignments are intended to be conducted over several days,</li> <li>h) forestry work that is conducted as secondary work by reindeer husbandry businesses, where the businessperson conducts the work alone.</li> </ul> <p>The requirements for <i>staff facilities</i> are regulated in the Work Environment Act, the Swedish Work Environment Authority's provisions on workplace design, related rules of application, the <i>collective agreement</i> that applies to the work, and the ILO Code of Practice; Safety and health in forestry work.</p>		
<p><b>2.3.11</b> Workers that are provided with temporary accommodation have good living conditions during the work period.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 2.3.11: Sometimes, workers are provided with temporary accommodation, either because the work is not carried out near their home or because the contract employer employs foreign workers that only stay in Sweden during the assignment. It is important that the living conditions are reasonable even in temporary accommodation or temporary stays in Sweden.</i></p> <p><i>When the worker is resident in Sweden, the requirements in 2.3.11 apply to living conditions in the temporary accommodation, which are presumed to be of modern comfort and to comply with the standard that is required for</i></p>	C	Review of procedures and interview with employees.

<p><i>personal hygiene, cooking, storage and drying of clothing. In this respect, the accommodation shall be equivalent to permanent accommodation. The requirements in 2.3.11 are not intended to regulate the terms for when the worker independently chooses their temporary accommodation.</i></p> <p><i>If the worker stays temporarily in Sweden during the assignment, the requirements in 2.3.11 apply to both the accommodation and living conditions. Such cases in forest work rarely relate to single individuals; rather, it is more common that both the assignment and the accommodation is provided for entire work teams. Joint accommodation for several people should thereby include facilities that are well-suited to the number of people staying there, with regards to sleeping areas that allow for privacy, a dining area and kitchen with the possibility to cook, toilets, washing and shower facilities, facilities to wash and dry clothing, as well as lockable lockers for personal effects.</i></p> <p><i>The employer or contract employer is normally responsible for providing accommodation, and thus also for ensuring that the standard of the accommodation fulfills the requirements.</i></p>		
<p><b>2.4 The Organization shall pay wages that meet or exceed minimum forest industry standards or other recognized forest industry wage agreements or living wages, where these are higher than the legal minimum wages. When none of these exist, The Organization shall through engagement with workers develop mechanisms for determining living wages.</b></p>	C	
<p><b>2.4.1</b> Wages and terms and conditions meet or exceed the local and central <i>collective agreements</i> that apply to the work.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.4.1: Wages and other compensation for <i>employees</i> are stated, together with any deductions, on payslips in conjunction with the ordinary salary payment.</p>	C	Review of procedures, employment contracts and interview with employees.
<p><b>2.4.2</b> Where <i>contract workers</i> are hired, the compensation corresponds to the level as per the applicable <i>collective agreement</i>.</p>	C	Review of procedures, contracts and interview with contractors.

<p><b>2.4.3</b> Conditions for temporary accommodation regarding arrival at work, journeys home, and travel during leave are stated in written form or apparent in the employment contract.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.4.3: Any payment deductions made in conjunction with temporary accommodation are apparent on the payslip.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of procedures, employment contracts and interview with employees.</p>
<p><b>2.4.4</b> <i>Workers</i> are familiar with the wages, compensation and conditions that apply for the work. Information about rights and the implications of the <i>collective agreement</i> is provided in relevant languages.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 2.4.4: Workers shall be aware of their rights and obligations that apply for the work; for example regarding wages and other compensation, applicable working hours for ordinary work times, what they may and may not do at work, and when they have a right to vacation or other leave. Alternatively, workers shall know where such information can be found.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of procedures, employment contracts and interview with employees.</p>
<p><b>2.4.5</b> Labor organizations have the right to visit workplaces of contractual employers provided that the visit has been reported in advance.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of procedures and interview with employees.</p>
<p><b>2.5</b> <i>The Organization shall demonstrate that workers have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the management plan and all management activities.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>2.5.1</b> <i>Workers</i> have relevant and up-to-date competence required for the work assignment.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.5.1: That <i>workers</i> have sufficient competence for the work is crucial in applying this standard. To fulfill this, <i>workers</i> shall have competence that is equivalent to a completed agricultural high school education with orientation towards forestry, as well as completed courses from the Swedish Vocational Board of Forestry (SYN; Sw: Skogsbrukets yrkesnämnd) for the relevant work assignment.</p> <p><i>Workers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) are familiar with the content, intent and application of the eight ILO Core Labor Conventions.</li> </ul>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of procedures, employment contracts and interview with employees. Review of training ledgers and/or certificates/diplomas etc.</p>

<p>b) are aware of the applicable terms of work in the <i>collective agreement</i> that applies to the work.</p> <p>c) have relevant competence in cultural and environmental resource management, in accordance with SYN or equivalent; have relevant competence for forest ditching, equivalent to the SYN course in protective ditching/ditch cleaning; have relevant competence for soil scarification, equivalent to the SYN course in soil scarification/management.</p> <p>d) for work assignments relating to forest inventories and forest management planning, have relevant competence in forest <i>conservation value assessment</i>, in accordance with SYN or the equivalent.</p> <p>e) for work assignments relating to forest management planning, have relevant competence corresponding to a university college education in forest management planning.</p> <p>Any insufficiencies in level of education are remedied as soon as possible through specific training and suitable guidance and supervision. Planned and completed trainings are documented.</p> <p>If temporary <i>workers</i> lack relevant competence for forest work, there shall be a supervisor responsible for the work assignment in question, with the necessary competence. This applies primarily for students or for those who, for reasons related to employment policy, are granted an internship or work experience.</p>		
<p><b>2.5.2</b> Regular performance appraisals and workplace meetings are carried out with both permanent and returning fixed-term <i>staff</i>.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.5.2: A dialogue is held with fixed-term seasonal forest management <i>staff</i> at the end of the season. Performance appraisals, workplace meetings and dialogues are documented.</p>	C	Review of procedures, meeting notes/protocols and interview with employees.
<p><b>2.5.3</b> <i>Workers</i> are familiar with the up-to-date instructions for management activities.</p>	C	Review of procedure and interview with employees.
<p><b>2.6</b> <i>The Organization through engagement with workers shall have mechanisms for</i></p>	C	

<p><b>resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation to <i>workers</i> for loss or damage to property, <i>occupational diseases</i>, or <i>occupational injuries</i> sustained while working for <i>The Organization</i>.</b></p>		
<p><b>2.6.1</b> Work-related incidents that cause loss and/or damage to property belonging to <i>workers</i> are dealt with immediately.</p> <p><b>2.6.2</b> Cases regarding <i>occupational diseases</i> or <i>occupational injuries</i> are dealt with immediately.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.6.1 AND 2.6.2: The management of cases according to 2.6.1 and 2.6.2, as well as compensation is developed through <i>engagement</i> with the affected parties.</p> <p>Compensation that is provided shall be fair. Work-related incidents and <i>occupational diseases</i> or <i>injuries</i> are documented. The documentation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) measures carried out to resolve the cases,</li> <li>b) outcomes of all cases, including fair compensation,</li> <li>c) unresolved cases, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.</li> </ul> <p><i>GUIDANCE 2.6.1 AND 2.6.2: Work-related loss or damage of property is normally compensated through supplementary insurance. Occupational diseases and injuries are compensated through insurances according to the collective agreement.</i></p>	<p>C</p> <p>C</p>	<p>Review of procedures and interview with employees, no evidence of work-related incidents in relations to 2.6.1.</p> <p>Review of procedures, employment contracts and interview with employees.</p>
<p><b>2.6.3</b> <i>Workers</i> are covered by the social security system and/or by additional insurance from their home country.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 2.6.3: <i>The Organization</i> is responsible for ensuring that <i>workers</i> are covered at least by work-related social benefits, together with protection against high healthcare costs in case of accidents or illness during the work assignment period.</p> <p>The principal rule is that payroll taxes are paid in to the social security system in conjunction with compensation for work conducted within the country, and that <i>workers</i> are registered with the National Insurance Office. When exceptions are made from the principal rule, there shall be</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of procedures, employment contracts and interview with employees.</p>

<p>documentation that shows which benefits and compensations the <i>workers</i> are covered by as well as decisions made by Swedish authorities.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 2.6.3: Information regarding employee benefits and social security for a foreign workforce is available on the following websites:</i></p> <p><i>The Swedish Tax Agency’s information: “Rules for working as an employed person in Sweden” is available as a PDF on the Swedish Tax Agency’s website.</i></p> <p><i>The National Insurance Office’s information: “Working in Sweden” is available on the National Insurance Office’s website.</i></p> <p><i>The Swedish Federation of Green Employers has information on foreign workforce as a PDF in Swedish (Sw: “Utländsk arbetskraft en handledning för medlemsföretag i Gröna arbetsgivare”), available on their website.</i></p>		
<p><b>PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS</b>  <i>The Organization shall identify and uphold Indigenous Peoples’ legal and customary rights of ownership, use and management of land, territories and resources affected by management activities.</i></p>		
<p><b>3.1</b> <i>The Organization shall identify the Indigenous Peoples that exist within the Management Unit or those that are affected by management activities. The Organization shall then, through engagement with these Indigenous Peoples, identify their rights of tenure, their rights of access to and use of forest resources and ecosystem services, their customary rights and legal rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit. The Organization shall also identify areas where these rights are contested.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>3.1.1</b> <i>The Organization accepts and respects the customary Sami reindeer herding, and the activities essential to support reindeer herding, that are conducted within the landholding.</i></p> <p><i>DIRECTIVES 3.1.1: The Organization identifies the areas within the landholding where customary Sami reindeer herding is conducted. This is done through engagement with affected Sami villages.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders.</p>



<p><b>3.1.2</b> The <i>legal and customary rights</i> of the Sami reindeer herding are identified and documented for areas within the <i>landholding</i> where customary Sami reindeer herding is conducted.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.1.2: The identification and documentation of the <i>legal and customary rights</i> of the Sami reindeer herding occurs through <i>engagement</i> with representatives for the Sami reindeer herding, and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>legal and customary rights</i> to use land, water, forests, natural resources and <i>ecosystem services</i>,</li> <li>b) other applicable <i>legal and customary rights</i> and obligations,</li> <li>c) evidence of these rights and obligations,</li> <li>d) areas where the rights are contested,</li> <li>e) how <i>The Organization</i> handles rights and contested rights,</li> <li>f) the <i>Sami villages'</i> goals in relation to the forest management.</li> </ul>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders confirmed awareness to the requirement. Review of management plans of concerned group members confirmed adherence.</p>
<p><b>3.2</b> <i>The Organization shall recognize and uphold the legal and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources and lands and territories. Delegation by Indigenous Peoples of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>3.2.1</b> The <i>legal and customary rights</i> of the Sami reindeer herding are not violated.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.2.1: If such violation occurs, it is corrected through <i>engagement</i> with the rights holder.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>3.2.2</b> Large forest owners: A <i>participatory planning process</i> is offered to the <i>Sami villages</i> whose <i>legal or customary rights</i> are affected by management activities planned within the <i>landholding</i>.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.2.2: The <i>participatory planning process</i> is offered to <i>Sami villages</i> that are affected by planned management activities within the coming 5-7 years, provided that the <i>Sami villages</i> have described to <i>The Organization</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of group members procedures and information to affected Sami Communities.</p>

<p>how they use the land within the area defined according to 3.1.1. The description can be given digitally, verbally or through physical copies of maps.</p> <p>The <i>participatory planning process</i> covers the following management activities within the <i>Sami village</i>:          regeneration felling,  <i>continuous cover forestry</i> in areas above the <i>nature conservation boundary</i>,          the method for soil scarification,          the choice of tree species,          prescribed burning,          the use of <i>exotic tree species</i>,          fertilization,          road construction.</p> <p>The <i>participatory planning process</i> is normally conducted annually by the initiative of <i>The Organization</i>, provided that management activities are planned to be carried out. <i>Sami villages</i> that utilize the same area are invited to a joint <i>participatory planning process</i>. The results of the process are documented and the <i>Sami villages</i> that do not participate in the joint process are informed of the outcome within the overlapping area.</p> <p>A prerequisite for the <i>participatory planning process</i> to be conducted in an efficient and appropriate manner is that both parties show respect and understanding for each other's rights. <i>The Organization</i> shall respect the <i>Sami village's</i> land use description and coordinate management activities that are included in the <i>participatory planning process</i> with this description. The <i>Sami village</i> is responsible for ensuring that <i>The Organization</i> is provided with an updated description of their land use.</p> <p>Management activities are not carried out before the <i>participatory planning process</i> has been conducted.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 3.2.2: The participatory planning process has been developed jointly with representatives for the Sami reindeer herding and is based on the principle of Free, Prior and</i></p>		
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<p><i>Informed Consent (FPIC). The parties seek common solutions within this framework so that the proposed management activities can be carried out. The premise is that the land can be used by both parties.</i></p> <p><i>It is important for both The Organization and the Sami village to have access to maps and information in a GIS system in order to review the proposed activities and their impacts.</i></p>		
<p><b>3.2.3</b> Large forest owners: The participatory planning process is conducted in good faith with representatives for the Sami reindeer herding in order to secure the rights that are affected by the forest management.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.2.3: The purpose of the participatory planning process is to allow for both reindeer herding and forest management activities to occur. The participatory planning process is conducted through a landscape perspective, so that both parties get a better overview of the cumulative effect of the proposed activities. As such, both parties are expected to consider all aspects that affect their ability to utilize the land.</p> <p>The participatory planning process is initiated when The Organization, in a timely manner, sends an invitation for participatory planning to the affected Sami village. Documents regarding the proposed management activities are sent with the invitation, including information about the point in time, choice of method, tree species, planned considerations for reindeer herding, and other factors that affect the areas in which the activities are proposed. The Organization checks with each Sami village to determine when in the year the participatory planning process can be conducted.</p> <p>The first participatory planning meeting is conducted within six weeks after The Organization sends the invitation and documents to the Sami village, unless otherwise agreed. During the meeting, the proposed management activities, the Sami village’s opinions, and the need for considerations for each activity are</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>Silvestica Green Forest AB could not demonstrate that affected Sami Community had been consulted in order to secure their customary and legal rights. Information on a meeting had been sent as a Teams link but not followed up when a response did not appear.</p> <p>Interviews with affected Sami Communities for other group members indicated conformance.</p>

<p>methodically reviewed. If a proposed management activity has a negative impact on the grazing conditions in the area, the parties shall jointly develop measures that can reduce the negative impact and allow for the management activity to be carried out.</p> <p>If the parties cannot agree on a solution, a second participatory planning meeting is conducted. An alternative is to conduct a field visit to the area affected by the management activity, instead of or in addition to the second meeting. Such a field visit is intended to increase the understanding of the area’s importance to each party, and is an opportunity to discuss adaptations based on the actual conditions in the area.</p> <p>During the participatory planning meetings, the representatives for the Sami village are expected to have the mandate to discuss and make decisions regarding management activities within the whole Sami village. The Sami village needs review the documents with the proposed management activities and gain an understanding of how these affect reindeer herding in the area as a whole. The Sami village shall ask for additional information if there are any unclarities. Both parties shall have the mandate to adapt the proposed activities, in time and in spatial extent, to avoid or limit the negative impacts for the other party. It is important for each party to clearly state when the discussions go beyond their mandate.</p> <p>Minutes are taken for the participatory planning meetings and potential field visits that include the opinions of the Sami village. The minutes are approved by both parties.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 3.2.3: A landscape perspective allows the management activities to be analyzed in a larger context. With the help of the Sami village’s description of how they use the land, The Organization and the representatives of the Sami village can agree on adaptations. Adaptations can also be made in adjacent parts of the landscape to allow for the management</i></p>		
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<p><i>activities to be carried out without disabling reindeer herding.</i></p> <p><i>Precommercial or commercial thinning to increase accessibility or improve grazing conditions, adapting the regeneration felling area, or using less harmful methods of soil scarification are examples of positive measures that can allow for implementation of the proposed management activities.</i></p> <p><i>It is recommended that the parties discuss and agree on what good faith means in the specific participatory planning process already during the first planning meeting. An example can be to establish a written code of conduct for the continued process of engagement.</i></p>		
<p><b>3.2.4</b> Large forest owners: Within the scope of the <i>participatory planning process</i>, the representatives of the Sami reindeer herding are given the opportunity to give consent to the proposed management activities.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.2.4: The representatives of the <i>Sami village</i> can choose to give consent to the proposed management activity, together with the considerations and any adaptations that are agreed upon in the <i>participatory planning process</i>, or choose not to give consent to the activity. This can occur when the representatives for the <i>Sami village</i> consider the <i>legal</i> and <i>customary rights</i> of the Sami reindeer herding to be threatened in a way that <i>disables reindeer herding</i> after the <i>participatory planning process</i> has been conducted.</p> <p>There are three possible ways to proceed in the cases when consent is not given, where <i>The Organization</i> and the representatives for the <i>Sami village</i> are:</p> <p>a) <b>in agreement</b> that the management activity will not be carried out during the participatory planning period in question. <i>The Organization</i> and the representatives for the <i>Sami village</i> have jointly identified and agreed to implement positive measures that will lead to improved grazing conditions in the area over time. The representatives</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders. Review of information sent to affected Sami Communities.</p>

<p>for the <i>Sami village</i> have given consent for the activity to be carried out within the next participatory planning period, at the earliest in five years, or;</p> <p>b) <b>in agreement</b> that all possibilities for both parties to adapt operations have been considered, and that the reindeer herding is affected to such an extent that the management activity cannot be carried out within the participatory planning period in question. <i>The Organization</i> abstains from carrying out the activity at the site, and the activity is brought up for participatory planning again, at the earliest in five years. At the next <i>participatory planning process</i> for the activity, the prevailing conditions as well as positive adaptations or measures that have been carried out during the abstention period are considered, or;</p> <p>c) <b>not in agreement</b> regarding whether the management activity <i>disables reindeer herding</i>, and/or that all possibilities for adaptation from both parties have been considered. <i>The Organization</i> or representatives for the <i>Sami village</i> can then call for mediation to agree on a solution. If the parties are still not in agreement after mediation, a review from a <i>dispute resolution committee</i> can be called for. Requests for mediation or a review from a <i>dispute resolution committee</i> are made to FSC Sweden.</p> <p>The <i>dispute resolution committee</i> reviews whether all steps in the <i>participatory planning process</i> have been fulfilled. For the <i>dispute resolution committee</i> to step in, all positive measures that could allow for the proposed management activity to be carried out must have been considered, and the representatives of the <i>Sami village</i> must provide a description of how the management activity <i>disables reindeer herding</i> within the <i>Sami village</i>. The description shall include:</p> <p>the impact of the proposed management activity on the reindeer herding, with reference to the description of how the land is utilized by the</p>		
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<p><i>Sami village</i> and with consideration for measures that could facilitate the reindeer herding, the time period during which the impact of the proposed forest management activity would continue, if there are measures that <i>The Organization</i> could take to limit or avoid the negative impact, how reindeer herding has been adapted to enable the management activity to be carried out.</p> <p>If the parties still cannot reach an agreement after mediation and after the <i>dispute resolution committee</i> has assessed that all possible adaptations from both parties have been considered in the <i>participatory planning process</i>, i.e. the representatives of the <i>Sami village</i> withhold their consent and the forest owner still intends to carry out the planned activity, it is up to <i>The Organization</i> to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) raise the management activity for participatory planning again once the forest grazing conditions have changed, or;</li> <li>b) carry out the activity without the consent of the <i>Sami village</i>. In this case, it is <i>The Organization's</i> responsibility to show that:</li> </ul> <p>the claims for consideration made by the <i>Sami village</i> will substantially affect the long-term forest management. This applies when consent for management activities is withheld for a time period that exceeds <i>The Organization's</i> long-term plans, or;</p> <p>the <i>Sami village</i> has withheld consent for a type of activity in general, without giving an account of how the activity <i>disables reindeer herding</i> in the area in question.</p>		
<p><b>3.2.5</b> Large forest owners: Management activities that are handled in the <i>participatory planning process</i> are carried out as agreed by <i>The Organization</i> and the representatives of the Sami reindeer herding.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.2.5: <i>The Organization</i> presents the activities that have been agreed upon and carried out, as well as any deviations from the agreement, as part of the subsequent <i>participatory planning process</i>.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders. Review of ongoing processes with affected group members.</p>

<p><b>3.2.6</b> Forest owners with <i>landholdings</i> of less than 5 000 hectares of <i>productive forest land</i>: <i>Engagement</i> is offered to the <i>Sami villages</i> whose <i>legal or customary rights</i> are affected by management activities that are planned within the <i>landholding</i>.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.2.6: <i>Engagement</i> is conducted according to 4.5.2 and 4.5.4, as well as <i>consultation</i> according to 4.5.3, where necessary. <i>Sami villages</i> that utilize the same area are invited to a joint process of <i>engagement</i>. The results of the process are documented and the <i>Sami villages</i> that do not participate in the joint process are informed of the outcome within the overlapping area.</p>		
<p><b>3.2.7</b> The following considerations are made when planning and carrying out management activities, unless otherwise agreed with representatives for the Sami reindeer herding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) special considerations are made for forests with a high abundance of arboreal lichens (Sw: hänglavsrika skogar),</li> <li>b) <i>buffer zones</i> along watercourses and wetlands, as well as tree groups within or adjacent to the felling area, are retained on lands within the reindeer herding area as sources of dispersal for arboreal lichens,</li> <li>c) <i>exotic tree species</i> are not established within areas of particular importance to reindeer herding according to 3.5.1,</li> <li>d) lichen areas within the reindeer herding area are not subject to prescribed burning.</li> </ul>	C	Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders. No ongoing activities noted.
<p><b>3.2.8</b> Large forest owners: Activities that are carried out as agreed with representatives for the Sami reindeer herding in the <i>participatory planning process</i> are monitored.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.2.8: Activities are monitored jointly with the <i>Sami villages</i> involved in the participatory planning. Joint monitoring is initiated by <i>The Organization</i>. The monitoring is adapted regarding the choice of method, when and how often joint monitoring is required, and based on the extent of the management</p>	N/A	Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders. No activities identified.



<p>activities affecting reindeer herding within the <i>Sami village</i>. Monitoring is documented, and the <i>Sami village</i> is given the opportunity to read and comment on the summarized documentation.</p>		
<p><b>3.2.9</b> Large forest owners: The <i>participatory planning process</i> is monitored and evaluated annually in order to develop and improve the process.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.2.9: The monitoring and evaluation of the <i>participatory planning process</i> is conducted jointly by representatives for the Sami reindeer herding, as appointed by Sámiid Riikkasearvi (Svenska Samernas Riksförbund), and representatives of <i>The Organization</i>.</p>	C	Interviews with group members and external stakeholders.
<p><b>3.2.10</b> Affected <i>Sami villages</i> are consulted prior to any planning of land conversion within the reindeer herding area.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.2.10: Information regarding permanent establishments and other objects essential to reindeer herding, as well as whether the changes can lead to considerable disturbances for the reindeer herding, is documented when affected <i>Sami villages</i> are consulted. Land conversion is carried out in accordance with 6.9.1 and 6.9.2.</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders.
<p><b>3.3</b> In the event of delegation of control over management activities, a binding agreement between <i>The Organization</i> and the <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> shall be concluded through <i>Free, Prior and Informed Consent</i>. The agreement shall define its duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions. The agreement shall make provision for monitoring by <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> of <i>The Organization's</i> compliance with its terms and conditions.</p>	C	

<p><b>3.3.1</b> Large forest owners: Representatives for the Sami reindeer herding are given the opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) to consider single management activities that affect their legal or customary rights, through the participatory planning process, or</li> <li>b) to give general consent for a certain period, certain activities or certain areas.</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 3.3.1: The conciliation agreement in Härjedalen meets the requirements in 3.3.1</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders. Review of information sent to Sami communities.
<p><b>3.3.2</b> Large forest owners: Where general consent has been given for management activities, a binding agreement is concluded between the parties that regulates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the duration of consent,</li> <li>b) provisions for renegotiation,</li> <li>c) renewal and termination of the agreement,</li> <li>d) economic conditions and other terms and conditions,</li> <li>e) how the agreement shall be monitored.</li> </ul>	N/A	No agreements in place, consultation period ongoing.
<p><b>3.4</b> <i>The Organization shall recognize and uphold the rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989).</i></p> <p>The requirements in <i>Criterion 3.4</i> are fulfilled by following this standard.</p>	N/A	
<p><b>3.5</b> <i>The Organization, through engagement with Indigenous Peoples, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance and for which these Indigenous Peoples hold legal or customary rights. These sites shall be recognized by The Organization and their management, and/or protection shall be agreed through engagement with these Indigenous Peoples.</i></p>	C	
<p><b>3.5.1</b> The following sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for the Sami are identified through <i>engagement</i> with representatives for the Sami reindeer herding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) old settlements and other Sami cultural remains,</li> </ul>	C	Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders.

<p>b) work corrals, c) culturally important paths, d) sacrificial places, or other spiritual values.</p>		
<p><b>3.5.2</b> Measures to protect sites of special significance are agreed, documented and implemented through <i>engagement</i>. When the representatives for the Sami reindeer herding determine that physical identification of the sites of special significance, in documentation or on maps, would threaten the spiritual value or <i>protection</i> of the sites, then other means are used.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 3.5.2: Verbal communication is an example of other means.</i></p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders. Review of ongoing processes.
<p><b>3.5.3</b> Management activities within previously unidentified sites of special significance cease immediately, until <i>The Organization</i> and representatives for the Sami reindeer herding have reached an agreement regarding the <i>protection</i> of the site.</p>	N/A	Interviews with FME personnel, group members, and external stakeholders. No evidence to suggest this has happened.
<p><b>3.6</b> <i>The Organization shall uphold the right of Indigenous Peoples to protect and utilize their traditional knowledge and shall compensate local communities for the utilization of such knowledge and their intellectual property. A binding agreement as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between The Organization and the Indigenous Peoples for such utilization through Free, Prior and Informed Consent before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the protection of intellectual property rights.</i></p>	C	
<p><b>3.6.1</b> The traditional knowledge and <i>intellectual property</i> of the Sami are respected during forest operations and are only used after consent has been given and/or a binding agreement has been concluded with the rights holder.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 3.6.1: Traditional knowledge refers to, for example, Sami designs, traditional Sami symbols, the publication of Sami narratives or stories, and describing products or services as Sami products or services.</i></p>	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

<p><b>3.6.2</b> Any compensation is given according to the binding agreement.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel, group members and external stakeholders verify conformance with this requirement.</p>
<p><b>PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS</b>  <i>The Organization shall contribute to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of local communities.</i></p>		
<p><b>4.1</b> <i>The Organization shall identify the local communities that exist within the Management Unit and those that are affected by management activities. The Organization shall then, through engagement with these local communities, identify their rights of tenure, their rights of access to and use of forest resources and ecosystem services, their customary rights and legal rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>4.1.1</b> <i>Local communities that may be affected by forest management are identified prior to management activities.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members. Review of identified stakeholders during sample audits.</p>
<p><b>4.1.2</b> <i>Physical or legal persons' legal rights to the land, as well as use rights and easements, are documented.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members.</p>
<p><b>4.2</b> <i>The Organization shall recognize and uphold the legal and customary rights of local communities to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories. Delegation by local communities of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>4.2.1</b> <i>Legal rights, use rights and easements are respected.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members. Review during sample audits in field and verified during Stakeholder Consultation.</p>
<p><b>4.2.2</b> <i>The Right of Public Access (Sw: Allemansrätten) is respected, defended and cherished.</i></p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 4.2.2: See the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's website. Commercial use or operations conducted by a businessperson that go beyond the Right of Public Access should be regulated through an agreement.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members and reviewed during sample audits.</p>

<p><b>4.3</b> <i>The Organization shall provide reasonable opportunities for employment, training and other services to local communities, contractors and suppliers proportionate to scale and intensity of its management activities.</i></p> <p>The indicators under <i>Criterion 4.3</i> also contribute to meeting the requirements of <i>Criterion 5.4</i>.  <i>GUIDANCE 4.3: The implication of “local” under 4.3 will vary on a case-by-case basis. It is not possible to give a clear definition of “local” that fits all the indicators under this Criterion. The intention is to provide locals with opportunities for employment and training, or the opportunity to contribute with other services. Measures are adapted to the extent of forest management on a local scale.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel, group members and employees.</p>
<p><b>4.3.1</b> Local businesses and local employment, related to management activities, are given priority where a combined assessment of <i>collective agreements</i>, costs, quality and availability show that these are at least equivalent to non-local alternatives.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 4.3.1: The intention of 4.3.1 is to give locals increased opportunities for employment within the scope of their business operations, or as employees in the forest management. Forest management, which is often conducted locally as well as in sparsely populated areas, can in this way contribute to thriving rural areas. Added costs for The Organization may be required so that the purpose of Principle 4, to maintain or enhance the social and economic wellbeing of local communities, can be achieved.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with group members and review of hired contractors.</p>
<p><b>4.3.2</b> When formulating tender documents for the purchase of goods and services, the importance of local alternatives and locally operating businesses and contractors is stressed.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 4.3.2: The exclusion of small companies is avoided in tender documents.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members. Review of contractor lists for Kopparfors Skogar AB and Gysinge Skogsfastigheter AB. Most contractors hired are local, smaller, companies.</p>
<p><b>4.3.3</b> Local suppliers of goods and services are prioritized over non-local suppliers, where preconditions for a long-term business relationship exist.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with FME personnel and group members.</p>

<p>DIRECTIVES 4.3.3: The requirement in 4.3.3 relates to the use of local alternatives, or actively providing opportunities for local suppliers to submit bids, offers, or the equivalent. Where pre-conditions exist for local alternatives to develop into competitive suppliers, these shall be given the opportunity to accept shorter/smaller assignments, even if they are not completely comparable to non-local alternatives, and so that they can be subsequently evaluated.</p> <p>For Organizations or members of <i>group entities</i> that are subject to the Swedish Public Procurement Act, the following applies instead: local suppliers of services and goods are given priority where these are comparable to non-local alternatives in terms of costs, quality, and availability. Local contractors’ opportunities for tendering are encouraged within the scope of the law.</p>		
<p><b>4.3.4</b> Local processing of raw materials is strived for, where possible while taking market conditions into account.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 4.3.4: For companies with their own processing facilities, 4.3.4 applies after the company has met its own processing needs.</p>	C	Interview with FME personnel and group members, review of non-SLIMF procedures.
<p><b>4.3.5</b> Where local alternatives are not available, <i>reasonable</i> attempts are made to contribute to the establishment of local business and employment opportunities.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 4.3.5: “Reasonable attempts” can be to advertise the need for local contractors, or alternatively, a local workforce in the local media and in social media. When a local workforce is needed, engagement with the Swedish Public Employment Service, and preferably local investments in self-employment, should be carried out.</i></p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members.
<p><b>4.3.6</b> Measures are taken to establish long-term, stable and mutually beneficial relationships with contractor businesses.</p>	C	Interviews with FME personnel and group members, review of signed business agreements and interviews with contractors.
<p><b>4.4</b> <i>The Organization shall implement additional activities, through engagement with local communities, that contribute to their</i></p>	C	

<p><b>social and economic development, proportionate to the <i>scale, intensity</i> and socio-economic impact of its management activities.</b></p>		
<p><b>4.4.1</b> Measures are implemented, in proportion to the local <i>landholdings</i> of <i>The Organization</i>, to contribute to the social and economic development of <i>local communities</i>.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 4.4.1: Examples of measures include: contributions, in the form of money or benefits in kind, to school forests or local non-profit organizations with activities relating to forests, supporting small-scale local business enterprises, prioritizing local populations in the lease of hunting and fishing rights, possibly at a lower fee, giving local nature tourism businesses priority to leases, granting land for outdoor and sporting establishments, such as nature trails and resting places, a positive approach to local outdoor, sporting and cultural arrangements on the landholdings, keeping roads open to the public, when possible and when taking seasonal variations into account</i></p>	C	Interviews with group members and review of procedures. Several examples of non-SLIMF group members donating to the local communities.
<p><b>4.4.2</b> Large forest owners: <i>Systematic</i> work to contribute to the long-term social and economic development of <i>local communities</i> is conducted.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 4.4.2: In this context, “systematic work” means having procedures to suggest measures that contribute to the long-term social and economic development of local communities, as well as carrying out and evaluating these measures.</i></p>	C	Interviews with group members and reviews of procedures
<p><b>4.5</b> <i>The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall take action to identify, avoid and mitigate significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts of its management activities on affected communities. The action taken shall be proportionate to the <i>scale, intensity</i> and risk of those activities and negative impacts.</i></p>	C	
<p><b>4.5.1</b> Areas of importance to <i>local communities</i> for outdoor recreation, culture, or local economy, that may be negatively impacted by</p>	C	Interviews with group members, review of management plans. Review of stakeholder lists.

<p>current activities, are documented and <i>affected stakeholders</i> are identified.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 4.5.1: The <i>forest sector goals</i> for social values (Sw: målbilder för sociala värden) are implemented in the monitoring, documentation, adaptation and application of forest management activities.</p> <p>GUIDANCE 4.5.1: <i>Areas of importance to local communities can be forests near urban areas, forests used primarily for recreation, resting places, or paths and trails. Areas important for the local economy can be areas utilized for concession reindeer herding.</i></p>		
<p><b>4.5.2</b> <i>Engagement</i> is carried out for areas identified in 4.5.1, in a timely manner, before the commencement of planned management activities.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 4.5.2: <i>Engagement</i> can be carried out by initiative of <i>The Organization</i> or upon request by an <i>affected stakeholder</i>. The type of <i>engagement</i> is adapted to the situation and based on the opinions of <i>affected stakeholders</i>.</p> <p>GUIDANCE 4.5.2: <i>Engagement is an exchange of information to make considerations and adapt management activities to reduce the negative effects on recreational values and values important for the local economy. Engagement can also be used to identify activities that can have a positive effect.</i></p> <p><i>The approach and content of the engagement process is adapted to the participants, as well as the planned management activity. Several different types of engagement can be carried out, such as information, dialogue or consultation. For consultation, see 4.5.3 as well as related directives and guidance.</i></p> <p><i>Engagement can occur as a step in the planning process prior to a management activity in a site or for a larger area, as well as in monitoring and evaluation of implemented activities. If several different management activities are planned within the same area or for the near future,</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews with group members, external stakeholders and review during field visits.</p>



<p><i>these can all be handled in the same engagement process.</i></p> <p><i>As a first step, The Organization assesses which type of engagement is most suitable for the situation. The contact method, information, and process are adapted to the circumstances of each party and the value of the site for affected stakeholders, with the purpose of ensuring that: the parties are given enough time to acquaint themselves with the planned management activities and their impact, the parties are given the opportunity to receive information adapted to their level of knowledge and areas of interest, the affected parties are represented. Engagement should be documented so that the outcomes can be monitored.</i></p> <p><i>The interpretation of what “in a timely manner” means may vary. The exchange of information and dialogue should occur at least two weeks before the management activity, in the form of: informative signs, including contact details and a description of the management activity, information by mail or posted in a public place, advertisement in the local media, telephone calls.</i></p> <p><i>In more complex situations, the initiative should be taken to conduct individual meetings or briefings at least six weeks before the management activity is planned to be carried out.</i></p>		
<p><b>4.5.3 Consultations</b> are carried out for areas of special importance to <i>local communities</i>: for outdoor recreation, culture, or local economy.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 4.5.3: <i>Consultation</i> can be carried out by initiative of <i>The Organization</i> or upon request by an <i>affected stakeholder</i>. <i>Consultation</i> is normally not carried out with single individuals or for issues that relate to the <i>Right of Public Access</i> (Sw: Allemansrätten). In such cases, a different type of <i>engagement</i> is chosen. Areas of special importance and the need for <i>consultation</i> are identified through <i>engagement</i> with <i>affected stakeholders</i>.</p>	C	<p>Interviews with group members and external stakeholders, review of conducted consultations for non SLIMFs</p> <p>In situations where stakeholders are known, (for larger, privately owned landholding) the normal approach is to contact stakeholders via phone or face-2-face visits (as per samples during field visits of Peter &amp; Carina Borg). Other larger group members have composed lists and regularly send out information (as per samples during field</p>

<p><i>The Organization</i> can refrain from conducting <i>consultations</i> for management activities that are considered to have a small-scale impact on areas of special importance. The justification for not conducting a <i>consultation</i> is communicated to the <i>affected stakeholders</i>.</p> <p>A <i>consultation</i> shall meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) An invitation for <i>consultation</i>, including the time and place of the meeting, contact details of the inviting party, information about the area, and a map with an overview of the planned activities (in text or visual format), is sent to <i>affected stakeholders</i> at least six weeks before the management activity is planned to commence.</li> <li>b) Minutes from the <i>consultation</i> shall be written that include the opinions received from <i>stakeholders</i>. Participating <i>stakeholders</i> shall be given the opportunity to comment on the minutes. Comments shall be included in the minutes.</li> <li>c) A record of the <i>consultation</i> shall be made, including the minutes from the <i>consultation</i>, how <i>The Organization</i> responds or caters to the opinions received in the <i>consultation</i>, and decisions taken regarding management activities. The decision about management activities is made by <i>The Organization</i> after the <i>consultation</i> has been carried out. The <i>consultation</i> record shall be shared with the participants prior to the commencement of the management activities.</li> </ul> <p><i>GUIDANCE 4.5.3: Consultations are carried out to collect opinions from the local community or other stakeholders and constitute a basis for decisions about any management activities. The consultation meeting is primarily intended for communication, not for making decisions. Procedures to identify and receive opinions are adapted to the extent of the forest management locally. The Organization defines the internal</i></p>	<p>visits of for example Leksands kommun and Hällefors Tierp Skogar).</p>
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<p><i>distribution of responsibilities for handling and evaluating opinions.</i></p> <p><i>The consultation is characterized by the following:</i>  <i>clarity on the process and purpose of the consultation,</i>  <i>openness from all parties involved,</i>  <i>dialogue that builds trust.</i>  <i>Affected stakeholders are normally primarily impacted by large-scale management activities such as regeneration felling. However, consultation may also be necessary for other large-scale management activities that have a substantial effect, both as a step in the management planning and as a part of monitoring and evaluation of the management activities within an area.</i></p> <p><i>It is often best to meet at the site in the forest, so that the planned management activities and the opinions of stakeholders can be clarified at the site. One meeting is often enough, although two meetings may be necessary in complex cases, such as if multiple sites or stakeholders are affected. Information about the planned management activities should be given at least two weeks before the management activities are commenced (see guidance for 4.5.2).</i></p>		
<p><b>4.5.4</b> Management activities are adapted based on the identified values in affected areas and the opinions expressed during <i>engagement</i>.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 4.5.4: Considerations that are made according to 4.5.4 are documented and may be counted in 6.5.2d-e. The extent of considerations shall be proportionate to the values and the extent of forest management. <i>The Organization</i> makes the final decision about the choice of activity.</p>	C	Interviews with group members and verified during field visits to specific areas.
<p><b>4.5.5</b> Management activities do not negatively impact the accessibility of publicly used paths, permanent tracks or trails, and paths of cultural and historic interest.</p>	C	Interviews with external stakeholders and reviewed during field visits to specific areas.
<p><b>4.5.6</b> Damage to publicly used paths, permanent tracks and trails, and paths of cultural and historic interest is repaired.</p>	C	Interviews with external stakeholders and reviewed during field visits to specific areas.

		Hired contractors and own forestry operation personnel are trained on how to not damage paths, trails etc. When using operations instructions and maps, all trails are clearly marked as reviewed during field visits.
<b>4.6 The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and providing fair compensation to local communities and individuals with regard to the impacts of management activities of The Organization.</b>		
<p><b>4.6.1</b> Inquiries, opinions and <i>complaints</i> are handled <i>systematically</i> and in a credible way in relation to the <i>stakeholder</i>.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 4.6.1: The management of inquiries, opinions and <i>complaints</i> is adapted in proportion to <i>scale, intensity</i> and <i>risk</i>. A <i>systematic</i> and credible management of <i>complaints</i> includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>publicly available</i> contact details for conveying inquiries, opinions and <i>complaints</i> to <i>The Organization</i>,</li> <li>b) confirmation of receipt and information about how and when the matter will be handled,</li> <li>c) that planned and implemented measures are communicated,</li> <li>d) that an internal timeframe is in place for handling and implementing b and c,</li> <li>e) that the communication method is adapted to the <i>stakeholder</i>.</li> </ul>	C	Interviews with group members, FME personnel and review of procedures and managed/registered complaints/inquires etc.
<b>4.6.2</b> There is a documented and <i>publicly available</i> general description of how <i>The Organization</i> handles opinions and <i>complaints</i> .	C	Procedure is well documented and publicly available on the Group Entity's website: <a href="https://skogscertifiering.se/om-oss/synpunkter-och-klagoma%cc%8al/">https://skogscertifiering.se/om-oss/synpunkter-och-klagoma%cc%8al/</a>
<b>4.7 The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these local communities hold legal or customary rights. These sites shall be recognized by The Organization, and their management and/or protection shall be agreed through engagement with these local communities.</b>	C	See 4.5.

<p>This <i>Criterion</i> is met by the indicators under <i>Criterion</i> 4.5. These indicators cover <i>engagement</i> to adapt management activities to areas of importance for <i>local communities</i>. <i>Consultation</i> for areas of special importance is covered in indicator 4.5.3. The management and/or <i>protection</i> of such areas is addressed by the adaptation of management activities in proportion to the identified values, as per indicator 4.5.4.</p>		
<p><b>4.8</b> The <i>Organization</i> shall <i>uphold</i> the right of <i>local communities</i> to <i>protect</i> and utilize their traditional knowledge and shall compensate <i>local communities</i> for the utilization of such knowledge and their <i>intellectual property</i>. A binding agreement as per <i>Criterion</i> 3.3 shall be concluded between <i>The Organization</i> and the <i>local communities</i> for such utilization through <i>Free, Prior and Informed Consent</i> before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the <i>protection of intellectual property</i> rights.</p> <p>There are no indicators under this <i>Criterion</i>. The <i>Criterion</i> is only applicable for the protection of Sami traditional knowledge and <i>intellectual property</i>, which is covered in <i>Criterion</i> 3.6.</p>	C	See 3.6.
<p><b>PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST</b>  <i>The Organization</i> shall efficiently manage the range of multiple products and services of the <i>Management Unit</i> to maintain or enhance long-term economic viability and the range of social and environmental benefits.</p>		
<p><b>5.1</b> <i>The Organization</i> shall identify, produce, or enable the production of diversified benefits and/or products, based on the range of resources and <i>ecosystem services</i> existing in the <i>Management Unit</i> in order to strengthen and diversify the local economy proportionate to the <i>scale and intensity of management activities</i>.</p>	C	
<p><b>5.1.1</b> Forest owners aim for methods of silviculture and forest management that generate optimal utilization of the diversity of resources and <i>ecosystem services</i> that the forest can provide.</p>	C	Each sampled FMU has a forest management plan, which has been followed as per interview and field visits.
<p><b>5.1.2</b> The forest productivity is utilized according to the forest owner’s management objectives.</p>	C	Each sampled FMU has a forest management plan, which has been

		followed. Verified through interviews during the sample audit.
<b>5.1.3</b> Forest management is conducted through a responsible and long-term utilization of the forest production capacity.	C	Each sampled FMU has a forest management plan, where the sustainable harvest level is identified for a 10 year period.
<b>5.2</b> <i>The Organization shall normally harvest products and services from the Management Unit at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.</i>	C	
<b>5.2.1</b> Timber harvesting levels do not exceed the harvest level that can be permanently sustained in the <i>landholding</i> .  DIRECTIVES 5.2.1: Large forest owners calculate long-term sustainable harvest levels using the regional divisions of the <i>landholding</i> . Forest owners with <i>landholdings</i> of less than 5 000 hectares of <i>productive forest land</i> base the calculations on their forest management plan.	C	Each sampled FMU has a forest management plan, where the sustainable harvest level is identified for a 10 year period. Verified for all FMUs with a Management Plan.
<b>5.2.2</b> Commercial use of other forest resources occurs at levels that are sustainable in the long term.	N/A	
<b>5.3</b> <i>The Organization shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities of operations are included in the management plan.</i>  There are no indicators under this <i>Criterion</i> . This <i>Criterion</i> is not considered to contribute to a responsible forest management; rather, it would lead to a more complicated FSC standard and added costs without any positive impact in the forest.	N/A	
<b>5.4</b> <i>The Organization shall use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of The Organization where these are available, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk. If these are not locally available, The Organization shall make reasonable attempts to help establish these services.</i>  This <i>Criterion</i> is met by the indicators under <i>Criterion</i> 4.3.	C	See 4.3
<b>5.5</b> <i>The Organization shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures</i>		

<p><b>proportionate to <i>scale, intensity and risk</i>, its commitment to long-term economic viability.</b></p>		
<p><b>5.5.1</b> The <i>management plan</i> is designed to ensure a long-term economically viable forest management.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of management plans during sample audits. All plans contained an overview of tree species, age and suggested management operations to uphold a long-term sustainable harvest level.</p>
<p><b>5.5.2</b> Expenditures and investments are made to implement the <i>management plan</i> and meet the requirements of this standard.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans during sample audits.</p>

<p><b>PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND IMPACTS</b>  <i>The Organization shall maintain, conserve and/or restore ecosystem services and environmental values of the Management Unit, and shall avoid, repair or mitigate negative environmental impacts.</i></p>		
<p><b>6.1</b> <i>The Organization shall assess environmental values in the Management Unit and those values outside the Management Unit potentially affected by management activities. This assessment shall be undertaken with a level of detail, scale and frequency that is proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, and is sufficient for the purpose of deciding the necessary conservation measures, and for detecting and monitoring possible negative impacts of those activities.</i></p>	C	
<p><b>6.1.1</b> <i>General conservation values and habitats in the landscape are identified. DIRECTIVES 6.1.1: Conservation values outside of the landholding that are clearly affected by management activities, positively or negatively, are also considered. The frequency, extent and level of detail of the assessment is adapted to the scale, intensity and risk of the forest management. The assessment shall be sufficient for decisions regarding necessary conservation measures to be made, and for any negative effects of the forest management to be detected, monitored and evaluated. GUIDANCE 6.1.1: The purpose of the indicator is to provide an overview of the general conservation values that are present in the landholding or the landscape. The identification can be conducted on a regional level, in conjunction with ecological landscape planning or forest management planning, by compiling information from official sources such as municipalities, County Administrative Boards, the Swedish Forest Agency, or the Swedish Species Information Centre. Communication with large forest owners with Ecological Landscape Plans that affect the surrounding properties may also be required.</i></p>	C	<p>Interview with group members and agents and review of management plans during sample visits. Nature Value Assessments are the basis of a management plan. For FMUs without a plan, NVAs are done prior to all felling operations by the forestry company.</p>
<p><b>6.1.2</b> <i>A general analysis of conservation values and habitats that are lacking in the</i></p>	C	<p>Included in Ecological Landscape Plans for larger FMUs and are to be</p>



<p><i>landscape</i> is conducted to identify prioritized <i>conservation values</i> and <i>habitats</i>. <b>GUIDANCE 6.1.2:</b> <i>Prioritized conservation values and habitats can include habitats that are lacking in the landscape; for example, habitats or structures that can harbor many red-listed species, habitats that are underrepresented in the landscape, or habitats that are disadvantaged by the current or historic forest management. The analysis can also include objectives for strengthening existing conservation values within the landscapes.</i></p>		<p>considered in management plans for smaller FMUs. Review of ELPs and management plans during sample audits.</p>
<p><b>6.2 Prior to the start of site-disturbing activities, The Organization shall identify and assess the scale, intensity and risk of potential impacts of management activities on the identified environmental values.</b></p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	
<p><b>6.2.1</b> A <i>conservation value assessment</i> is conducted and documented as part of the site planning, generally when the ground is free from snow cover, prior to regeneration felling, final thinning and forest road construction.  <b>DIRECTIVES 6.2.1 AND 6.2.2:</b> To achieve sufficient consistency and a reliable result, the methodology for assessing <i>conservation values</i> shall be well structured and tested, and include appropriate instructions for application. The Swedish Forest Agency or other experts with equivalent competence shall regularly be consulted so that those conducting the <i>conservation value assessment</i> are calibrated in terms of identifying high nature <i>conservation values</i>, including <i>Woodland Key Habitats</i>. Training of those conducting the <i>conservation value assessment</i> is adapted to the challenges of identifying <i>conservation values</i> on the <i>landholding</i> that are difficult to assess. The methodology used for <i>conservation value assessment</i> shall be communicated to the <i>Certification Body</i>. An extensive description of the methodology shall be available and be shown upon request. When constructing forest roads, the assessment of conservation values is</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and agents and review of management plans during sample visits. Nature Value Assessments are the basis of a management plan. For FMUs without a plan, NVAs are done prior to all felling operations by the forestry company.</p>

<p>conducted for stands that are affected by the course of the road.</p> <p>The methodology is also used as a basis for designing measures in conjunction with other management activities, for example when selecting areas to be set aside for nature conservation purposes (6.5.1 and 6.5.2a), in the analysis of <i>conservation values</i> and <i>habitats</i> that are lacking in the <i>landscape</i> (6.1.2), and in the ecological landscape planning (6.8).</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 6.2.1: Results of the conservation value assessment and the occurrence of indicator species or red-listed species are weighted together as factors that may indicate the presence of high nature conservation values or a Woodland Key Habitat.</i></p> <p><i>A conservation value assessment based on species surveys demands extensive fieldwork, and a high level of biological competence and species knowledge. A more appropriate approach for most Organizations is the use of systematic assessments of the potential for biodiversity in an area, as reflected by the presence of habitat features and environmental conditions that are important for the organisms. The assessment must be sufficiently extensive to cover the habitat requirements of the different groups of organisms, and should illustrate:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>topography and soil conditions,</i></li> <li><i>hydrology,</i></li> <li><i>stand climate,</i></li> <li><i>the composition and character of the tree layer,</i></li> <li><i>trees with qualities that are important for biodiversity,</i></li> <li><i>different types of dead wood,</i></li> <li><i>vegetation cover,</i></li> <li><i>fertility,</i></li> <li><i>substrates and structures associated with natural disturbance dynamics,</i></li> <li><i>historical land use.</i></li> </ul>		
<p><b>6.2.2</b> The methodology and application of the <i>conservation value assessment</i> is evaluated on a regular basis.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with agents during sample visits. All Nature Value Assessment methods used are</p>

		widely accepted and evaluated prior to being used as per interviews with agents and Group Entity Personnel. No method used was unknown to the audit team.
<b>6.3 The Organization shall identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of management activities on the <i>environmental values</i>, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the <i>scale, intensity</i> and <i>risk</i> of these impacts.</b>	C	
<b>6.3.1</b> The results of identification and analysis as per 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 are used to assess what measures are needed to <i>conserve</i> or enhance prioritized <i>conservation values</i> and <i>habitats</i> .	C	Review of set aside areas documented in management plans and interview with group members.
<b>6.3.2</b> Management activities and nature conservation measures are carried out according to 6.3.1 to <i>conserve</i> or enhance prioritized <i>conservation values</i> and <i>habitats</i> in the <i>landscape</i> .	C	Review of set aside areas documented in management plans and interview with group members. Interview with group members demonstrated that management activities are not always prioritized but the need known and planned for.
<b>6.4 The Organization shall protect rare species and threatened species and their habitats in the Management Unit through conservation zones, protection areas, connectivity and/or (where necessary) other direct measures for their survival and viability. These measures shall be proportionate to the <i>scale, intensity</i> and <i>risk</i> of management activities and to the <i>conservation</i> status and ecological requirements of the <i>rare</i> and <i>threatened species</i>. The Organization shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of <i>rare</i> and <i>threatened species</i> beyond the boundary of the Management Unit, when determining the measures to be taken inside the Management Unit.</b>	C	
<b>6.4.1</b> The following <i>habitats</i> are exempt from all management activities other than management required to maintain or promote natural <i>biodiversity</i> or <i>biodiversity</i>		Review of set aside areas documented in management plans and interview with group members. Interview with group members.

<p>conditioned by traditional land use practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) natural, conspicuously uneven-aged and stratified forests with an abundance of old/large trees and a high frequency of coarse dead woody debris in different stages of decomposition,</li> <li>b) Woodland Key Habitats according to the definition and methodology of the Swedish Forest Agency (1995),</li> <li>c) low-productive land (land with a total annual volume increment of less than one cubic meter per hectare).</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.4.1: The definition of 6.4.1a is interpreted in a regional perspective, taking into account the preconditions of the site and forest type. See 9.3.4 for the interpretation regarding areas above the <i>nature conservation boundary</i>. Regarding 6.4.1b, see directives for 6.2.1 about the identification of <i>Woodland Key Habitats</i> in <i>conservation value assessments</i>, as well as requirements for calibration and training of surveyors.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.4.2</b> Information about occurrences of <i>red-listed species</i> is obtained, evaluated and documented.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 6.4.2: Obtaining information means making use of relevant sources of data regarding the occurrence of red-listed species, in up-to-date GIS-layers, from own inventories, the Swedish Species Observation System (Sw: Artportalen), County Administrative Boards, the Swedish Forest Agency, etc. Information about red-listed species is available on the Swedish Species Information Centre’s website. Quality assurance of the information is part of the evaluation.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Identified occurrences of red listed species are publicly available, Group Entity provides all members with access to the specific instructions on how to identify these. Review of document/instructions and observed during internal audit process.</p> <p>All FMUs have access to “mina Sidor” at the Forestry Agency webpage where information on species is also available.</p>
<p><b>6.4.3</b> Conservation measures are carried out for those known occurrences of <i>red-listed species</i> that are impacted by forest management.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.4.3: The extent and focus of the conservation measures shall be adapted</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of set aside areas documented in management plans and interview with group members. Interview with group members demonstrated that management activities are not always prioritized</p>

<p>to the ecological requirements of the species and to the <i>category of threat</i>.  <i>GUIDANCE 6.4.3: The measures can be part of the consideration measures that are taken according to other parts of this standard, or be specific. The measures are documented, for instance in site-specific management instructions.</i></p>		<p>but the need known and planned for.</p> <p>Larger FMUs with ELPs have action plans for threatened or endangered species.</p>
<p><b>6.4.4</b> In conjunction with forest management activities, considerations are made for known:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) nests of raptors classed as <i>priority bird species</i> according to the Forestry Act,</li> <li>b) occurrences of territorial bird species with small population sizes,</li> <li>c) capercaillie leks.</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.4.4: Use the guidance for considerations for birds (Sw: Vägledning för hänsyn till fåglar) produced by the Swedish Forest Agency and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency regarding breeding seasons, buffer zones, and other considerations (see the Swedish Forest Agency’s website). The term “territorial bird species with small population sizes” encompasses: red-throated diver, red kite, peregrine falcon, northern hawk-owl, great grey owl, Ural owl, Eurasian eagle-owl, grey-headed woodpecker, greenish warbler, red-breasted flycatcher, Eurasian golden oriole, and little bunting. This list of species may be revised to reflect changes in the Red List. Known occurrences of 6.4.4 a-c are documented in conjunction with management activities.</p>		<p>Review of set aside areas documented in management plans and interview with group members. Review of considerations taken during field visits.</p>
<p><b>6.4.5</b> When harvesting during the bird breeding season, considerations are made for important breeding habitats for birds. Management activities in stratified forests dominated by deciduous trees are conducted outside of the bird breeding season.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.4.5: The <i>forest sector goals</i> for consideration-demanding habitats (Sw: målbilder för hänsynskrävande biotoper) are implemented in the monitoring,</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No indications of harvesting in important breeding habitats during the bird breeding season. Field visits indicated no fellings in important breeding habitats.</p>

<p>documentation, adaptation and application of forest management activities.  <i>GUIDANCE 6.4.4 AND 6.4.5: All types of management activities, as well as ditching and road construction, that may affect rare and threatened bird species should be avoided during the breeding season. In addition to the Species fact sheets (Sw: Artfaktabladen), the Swedish Forest Agency/County Administrative Boards can provide further guidance.</i></p>		
<p><b>6.4.6</b> Considerations are made for known occurrences of forest species listed in the Regulation on the Protection of Species, Annex 1 with the designation N or n.                  DIRECTIVES 6.4.6: Known occurrences are documented in conjunction with forest management activities.  <i>GUIDANCE 6.4.6: Examples of habitats with species designated as N or n in the Regulation on the Protection of Species, Annex 1: buffer zones against water (all bat species N), stratified deciduous forest habitats, for example with hazel (hazel dormouse, northern birch mouse, smooth snake N), pine forests on sandy soils (sand lizard N). Protected species are listed in Annex 2 of the Regulation on the Protection of Species. Species-specific compilations on a county level for N and n species other than birds have been produced by the County Administrative Boards.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Review of set aside areas documented in management plans and interview with group members. Review of considerations taken during field visits.</p>
<p><b>6.5</b> <i>The Organization shall identify and protect representative sample areas of native ecosystems and/or restore them to more natural conditions. Where representative sample areas do not exist or are insufficient, The Organization shall restore a proportion of the Management Unit to more natural conditions. The size of the areas and the measures taken for their protection or restoration, including within plantations, shall be proportionate to the conservation status and value of the ecosystems at the landscape level, and the</i></p>	<p>C</p>	

<p><b>scale, intensity and risk of management activities.</b></p>		
<p><b>6.5.1</b> A selection of the <i>productive forest land</i> area is set aside and exempt from measures other than management to maintain and promote natural <i>biodiversity</i> or <i>biodiversity</i> conditioned by traditional land use practices. The selection of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) covers a minimum of 5 % of the productive forest land area,</li> <li>b) is based on forest conservation values, landscape representativeness and biodiversity.</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.5.1: The following are examples of areas that can be counted in: <i>Woodland Key Habitats, natural, conspicuously uneven-aged and stratified forests, the portion of the landholding that is formally protected (nature reserves, habitat protection areas) after a reduction equivalent to the area for which compensation has been provided, areas with nature conservation agreements that are valid for more than 25 years, unless a shorter agreement is justified for nature conservation reasons, protected buffer zones for areas set aside for nature conservation purposes, forest wetlands that have been created or restored, the share of jointly owned FSC-certified productive forest land for which there is a long-term nature conservation objective, other woodlands with a canopy closure of at least 25 %, where the intensity of forest grazing or hay-making is sufficient to provide suitable conditions for flora/fauna that is favored by such practices. Consideration patches and transition zones that are normally demarcated during forest felling cannot be counted in. When previously voluntarily set aside forest land is formally protected and the forest owner has received financial compensation for this protection, new areas shall be set aside where this is necessary to meet the target of 5 % set aside areas. The forest</i></p>	<p>C with OBS</p>	<p>FMUs S-5950 and S-6659 could not demonstrate where set aside areas were located on any maps or other documentation. During field visits, set aside areas were identified.</p> <p>For most FMUs, Management Plans are set up with maps showing where all set aside areas are located.</p>

<p>owner may, however, count in the proportion of formally protected, previously voluntarily set aside land that exceeds 1 % of the <i>landholding</i>. When the compensation consists of exchange land, new areas shall be set aside in accordance with 6.5.1. When previously voluntarily set aside <i>forest land</i> is formally protected, an alternative to setting aside new land exclusively for protection is to use alternative methods that combine production and nature conservation objectives in suitable areas. In such cases, the area requirement shall be adjusted to reflect the extent of the nature conservation objective. For example, an area where the forest management aims for 25 % nature conservation is counted as four to one; in other words, requirements for 10 hectares of new nature conservation <i>set aside areas</i> may be exchanged for 40 hectares with such combined objectives. <i>Landholdings</i> above the <i>nature conservation boundary</i> (see directives for 9.3.4) are exempted from the requirements in 6.5.1. Measures to promote <i>recreational values</i> in <i>set aside areas</i> can be carried out, provided that the <i>conservation values</i> are not negatively impacted. <i>Set aside areas</i> are documented in the <i>Ecological Landscape Plan</i> or forest management plan. When selecting areas to be set aside, the extent to which different types of forest are protected in existing formally protected areas and voluntary <i>set aside areas</i>, as well as the authorities' conservation priorities, are taken into account. <b>GUIDANCE 6.5.1:</b> <i>A justification is needed for counting lands above the nature conservation boundary as set aside areas according to 6.5.1. The justification shall be based on high nature conservation values and representativeness, as well as the plan or strategy for the selection of set aside areas in the landholding as a whole.</i></p>		
<p><b>6.5.2</b> At least 5 % of the <i>productive forest land</i> area is managed with long-term protection and enhancement of</p>	<p>C with OBS</p>	<p>Several members were not meeting this requirement during sample audits. All non SLIMFs had begun</p>



<p><i>conservation values</i> and/or social values as the primary objective. The following can be included, exclusively or in a combination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) further areas set aside to maintain and promote natural <i>biodiversity</i> or <i>biodiversity</i> conditioned by traditional land use practices, in addition to the 5 % that is set aside according to 6.5.1,</li> <li>b) areas with enhanced nature consideration and specific nature conservation measures,</li> <li>c) areas with long-term management in the form of <i>continuous cover forestry</i> or <i>group felling with natural regeneration</i>,</li> <li>d) areas with enhanced considerations for <i>recreational values</i> and/or the local economy,</li> <li>e) areas with enhanced considerations for reindeer husbandry.</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.5.2: Areas according to 6.5.2a-c shall be selected based on high nature <i>conservation values</i> and the potential for <i>conservation values</i>, as reflected in assessments/analyses of <i>conservation values</i> and landscape ecology. Areas and consideration measures are normally selected in conjunction with landscape planning and/or forest management planning. The selection and documentation of areas in 6.5.2a-d can also be done continuously and be verified through regularly monitored action plans. The same terms apply for setting aside areas according to 6.5.2a as for <i>set aside areas</i> according to 6.5.1.</p> <p>For areas selected according to 6.5.2b-e, at least 50 % of the original volume shall be retained to enhance future <i>conservation values</i> and/or social values in the long term, unless it is apparent in the description of objectives that the <i>protection/enhancement</i> of these values requires the removal of larger volumes.</p> <p>The selection of areas and enhanced consideration measures referred to in 6.5.2d is based on <i>recreational values</i> and the local</p>		<p>identifying areas. Interview with Group Entity personnel and review of action plan (“Handlingsplan 6.5.2_20210824”) to meet 6.5.2 on member level. Action plan is very comprehensive and includes a timeline for when indicator 6.5.2 is deemed to be met. See finding 2021.5.</p>
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<p>economy in the area, and is preceded by dialogue/<i>consultation</i> with <i>affected stakeholders</i> in accordance with the requirements in 4.5.2 – 4.5.4.</p> <p>The selection of areas and enhanced consideration measures referred to in 6.5.2e occurs after participatory planning or <i>engagement</i> with affected <i>Sami villages</i> and is based on the values in the area.</p> <p>Areas/stands are demarcated on a map, and a description of management objectives, including specific environmental/social objectives and suggested measures, is documented.</p> <p>Areas according to 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 together comprise at least 10 % of the <i>productive forest land</i> area.</p> <p>“Specific nature conservation measures” refer to measures that are beneficial for the forest <i>biodiversity</i>, and which clearly differ in extent and qualitative focus from the more general measures that are required by other indicators in this standard. Measures can be carried out during different parts of the rotation cycle, but preferentially in conjunction with thinning or regeneration felling.</p> <p>“Enhanced nature consideration” and “enhanced considerations for <i>recreational values/reindeer husbandry</i>” implies that a larger proportion of the stand/compartments is managed for considerations, compared to the more general considerations that are carried out as part of normal forest management. Such measures can be planned/implemented through the management classifications “combined goals” (Sw: Kombinerade mål (K)) or “production with enhanced consideration” (Sw: Produktion med förstärkt hänsyn (PF)).</p> <p>All succession stages are included – not just older forest; for example, burned areas and deciduous tree successions.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 6.5.2: The purpose of the indicator is to highlight forest areas where the forest owner has other objectives than management for traditional forest production.</i></p>		
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<p><i>The function of the entire area is documented according to the directives. Smaller patches of unproductive forest land may be counted as part of the delimited area provided that they comprise a natural, smaller part of the delimited area and contribute to strengthening the defined values.</i></p> <p><i>Forest management planning may be conducted according to large forest owners' planning procedures, or through the establishment/revision of a smallholder's forest management plan.</i></p>		
<p><b>6.5.5</b> <i>Set aside areas</i> that require active conservation management measures are managed according to the nature conservation objectives formulated for the area.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.5.5: Measures that are carried out are documented.</p>	C	Review of management plans and interviews with group members. Review during sample audits.
<p><b>6.5.6</b> <i>Conservation management measures</i> implemented in <i>set aside areas</i> are monitored. The results of monitoring and evaluation are documented and applied as per 7.4.1.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.5.6: The monitoring can be conducted through random sampling. The extent of monitoring is based on the focus of the measures, the size of the <i>landholding</i> and the results of previous monitoring.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans.
<p><b>6.6</b> <b><i>The Organization shall effectively maintain the continued existence of naturally occurring native species and genotypes, and prevent losses of biological diversity, especially through habitat management in the Management Unit. The Organization shall demonstrate that effective measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.</i></b></p>	C	
<p><b>6.6.1</b> Trees with high biodiversity values are retained and safeguarded in forest management. Trees with high biodiversity values are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) atypical, particularly large and/or old trees,</li> <li>b) large trees with notably wide and thick-branched and/or flat crowns,</li> </ul>	C	Interview with group members and review during field audits.

<p>c) large, previously solitary growing spruces on pasture land,  d) large aspens and alders,  e) arborescent goat willow, mountain ash, whitebeam, maple, lime, bird cherry, and wild cherry,  f) large hazel and junipers,  g) trees with 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) noble broad-leaf trees in forests north of Limes Norrlandicus.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.6.1: <i>Exotic tree species</i> and trees that are part of the regular silvicultural program, such as trees retained for timber, shelter trees, seed trees where regeneration is younger than 25 years, or main stems in stands of <i>noble broad-leaf trees</i>, are not considered as trees with high biodiversity values.</p> <p>Trees with high biodiversity values may be removed in exceptional cases:  <i>where there is a risk for harm to people or damage to buildings, in conjunction with road construction or adjacent to electric cables,</i>  <i>where the objective is to promote other prioritized trees with high biodiversity values,</i>  <i>if they risk destroying archaeological monuments and cultural remains,</i>  <i>large aspens and alders where such trees occur in abundance in coniferous stands, provided that sufficient numbers are retained for nature conservation,</i>  <i>if they prevent access in conjunction with felling.</i></p> <p>GUIDANCE 6.6.1: <i>The indicator specifies features, tree species and qualities that are associated with high cultural or conservation values, and that characterize trees with high biodiversity values. These trees shall be visually distinguishable from other trees in the forest stand. "Old trees" in 6.6.1a refers to trees that, because of their age, have</i></p>		
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<p><i>developed particular conservation values. These may be easily recognizable features such as the size of the stem or branches, the appearance of the tree crown, the structure of the bark, or stem hollows, but also features that can be more difficult to recognize and assess, such as slow growth. Trees with high biodiversity values are normally identified through their appearance, sometimes in combination with age determination. Those that survey and single out trees with high biodiversity values should be calibrated to recognize trees with high biodiversity values in the region in question. In areas with an abundance of trees with high biodiversity values over a larger area, it may be appropriate to delimit the whole or parts of the stand as a consideration patch as per 6.6.4 or set these aside as per 6.5.1 or 6.5.2a. A practical boundary for what can be considered as “arborescent” has been set at 7 cm DBH (diameter at breast height). An example of a map of an adapted border for Limes Norrlandicus can be found on FSC Sweden’s website.</i></p>		
<p><b>6.6.2</b> During regeneration felling, on average at least 10 trees per hectare are retained on the felled area.  DIRECTIVES 6.6.2: The purpose of 6.6.2 is that retained trees develop into larger trees with high biodiversity values in the new forest stand. Wind-resistant trees are selected based on their significance for <i>biodiversity</i> at the stand or landscape level. The stem diameter of the retained trees shall be representative of the stand, or larger. The trees are retained as solitary trees or in smaller tree groups. Spruce in pure spruce stands, and pine, birch and spruce with shallow roots on <i>peatlands previously cultivated for agriculture</i> and in managed swamp forests, may be exempted from retention.  Trees retained in <i>consideration patches/buffer zones</i> may be included in felling areas that are smaller than 4 hectares south of Limes Norrlandicus, or in felling</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits.  Field visit at final felling at one group member showed a lack of retention trees. See finding 2021.7.</p>

<p>areas that are smaller than 10 hectares north of Limes Norrlandicus. Trees with high biodiversity values that have been retained may be included.</p>		
<p><b>6.6.3</b> <i>Consideration patches, buffer zones, groups of trees and single wind-resistant coarse trees are retained during regeneration felling so as to avoid large treeless areas.</i>  DIRECTIVES 6.6.3: The trees are placed to lessen the impression of a clearcut. Trees can be retained as single, coarse, wind-resistant trees, or in smaller tree groups. In areas of significance for outdoor recreation, specific adjustments are made to reduce the impression of a clearcut: for example, through the formation and size of the felled area and the configuration of nature consideration.  Instructions for avoiding large treeless areas shall be available and include the maximum acceptable size of such areas. On felling areas that are larger than 4 hectares south of Limes Norrlandicus, and on felling areas that are larger than 10 hectares north of Limes Norrlandicus, the distance from any point in the felling area to the nearest consideration, object or clearcut edge shall not exceed 70 meters.</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits. Field visit at final felling at four group members showed a lack of retention trees. See finding 2021.8.</p>
<p><b>6.6.4</b> <i>Conservation values in consideration-demanding habitats are maintained or enhanced in conjunction with management activities.</i>  DIRECTIVES 6.6.4: The <i>forest sector goals</i> for consideration-demanding habitats (Sw: målbilder för hänsynskrävande biotoper) are implemented in the monitoring, documentation, adaptation and application of forest management activities.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>6.6.5</b> <i>Buffer zones and consideration patches are maintained and/or created in conjunction with precommercial and commercial thinning.</i>  DIRECTIVES 6.6.5: <i>Buffer zones and consideration patches</i> are only precommercially thinned with the purpose of promoting <i>conservation values</i>. <i>Buffer zones</i> with an abundance of deciduous trees</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits.</p>

<p>are <i>restored</i> where possible. The <i>forest sector goals</i> for buffer zones along water bodies, watercourses and wetlands (Sw: målbilder för kantzoner mot sjöar, vattendrag och våtmarker) are implemented in the monitoring, documentation, adaptation and application of forest management activities.</p>		
<p><b>6.6.6</b> Management activities in conifer-dominated stands are carried out so that deciduous trees constitute at least 10 % of the dominant or co-dominant stems in the stand, where conditions allow. DIRECTIVES 6.6.6: All deciduous tree stems are retained if the stems of deciduous trees prior to the management activity are too few to reach the target of 10 % stems after the activity, unless there are social or nature conservation reasons to remove them.</p>	NC	Interview with group members and verified during field visits. Field visit at final felling at four group members showed a lack of retention trees. See finding 2021.9.
<p><b>6.6.7</b> In conjunction with commercial thinning, at least five existing deciduous trees on average per hectare are given favorable conditions to develop into trees with high biodiversity values in the future. Priority is given to <i>noble broad-leaf trees</i>, aspen, goat willow, and mountain ash. DIRECTIVES 6.6.7: In areas with risk of <i>Melampsora rust</i>, other deciduous trees than aspen may be prioritized.</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits.
<p><b>6.6.8</b> Trees favored by game for browsing (aspen, mountain ash, goat willow, willow, <i>noble broad-leaf trees</i>, juniper and wild apple) are retained to a great extent during precommercial thinning.</p>	NC	Interview with group members and verified during field visits.
<p><b>6.6.9</b> Measures are carried out to limit damage to forests caused by game. DIRECTIVES 6.6.9: The measures shall contribute to promoting productive tree species that are <i>adapted to the site</i>, and deciduous trees that are important for nature conservation, such as mountain ash, aspen, goat willow, oak, and other <i>noble broad-leaf trees</i>. The extent of measures is adapted to the size and conditions of the <i>landholding</i>, the extent of damage, and <i>best available information</i>. GUIDANCE 6.6.9: <i>Examples of measures can be active participation in moose</i></p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits. Field visit at final felling at four group members showed a lack of retention trees. See finding 2021.10.

<p><i>management areas (Sw: älgskötselområde), monitoring of browsing damage and game populations over time, facilitating hunting and, when necessary, the active use of open hunting (Sw: avlysningsjakt). Open hunting refers to when all hunting teams in a particular moose management area or license area are given permission to shoot the remaining moose within the shooting quota of the area. When the set number and type of game has been shot, the hunting ceases.</i></p>		
<p><b>6.6.10</b> Engagement is conducted where necessary with relevant authorities to avoid, prevent, and control illegal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) hunting,</li> <li>b) fishing,</li> <li>c) trapping,</li> <li>d) collecting activities.</li> </ul> <p><i>GUIDANCE 6.6.10: Illegal hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities include hunting and fishing without a permit, activities that are against the terms stated in the permit, disturbing wild birds and mammals, damaging the nests or dens of wild bird and mammals, collecting or destroying bird eggs, and collecting protected plant species.</i></p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits.
<p><b>6.6.11</b> High stumps, lying coarse dead wood and other trees that have been dead for more than one year are retained. Forest management is carried out so that damage to dead wood is minimized.</p> <p><b>DIRECTIVES 6.6.11:</b> Lying coarse dead wood refers to fallen dead wood with a diameter that exceeds 15 cm at breast height (1.3 meters from the largest end of the tree). Exceptions to 6.6.11 can be made in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) if dead wood constitutes a safety hazard for those working in the forest, or to the public using, for instance, demarcated paths or resting areas in forests near urban areas,</li> <li>b) if dead wood is blocking frequently used paths and roads,</li> </ul>	NC	Interview with group members and verified during field visits. Field visit at final felling at two group members showed that dead wood and other trees that have been dead for more than one year had not been retained. See finding 2021.11.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) when large wood volumes have been damaged and these have not yet been processed due to a lack of resources,</li> <li>d) to meet the regeneration requirements in the Forestry Act in larger, cohesive areas with dead wood, other than in stands that are prioritized as <i>set aside areas</i></li> <li>e) according to 6.5.1 or 6.5.2a.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6.6.12</b> In conjunction with management activities, <i>fresh dead wood</i> is retained, and considerations are made for <i>fresh dead wood</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) originating from trees with high biodiversity values and other trees previously retained as nature considerations,</li> <li>b) in areas set aside for nature conservation purposes, including consideration patches,</li> <li>c) on low-productive land with an annual increment of less than one cubic meter per hectare.</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.6.12: If the requirements in 6.6.12 conflict with the Forestry Act, derogation is sought from the Swedish Forest Agency.</p> <p>Exceptions to 6.6.12 can be made in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) if dead wood constitutes a safety hazard for those working in the forest, or for the public using, for instance, demarcated paths or resting areas in forests near urban areas,</li> <li>b) if dead wood is blocking frequently used paths and roads,</li> </ul> <p>in areas established for pest control by the Swedish Forest Agency, where special provisions have been issued to prevent the mass propagation of pests and where derogations cannot be obtained to retain <i>fresh dead wood in consideration patches</i> or areas set aside for nature conservation purposes.</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits. Field visit at final felling at one group member showed that fresh dead wood, left for consideration purposes, had been taken out. See finding 2021.12.</p>
<p><b>6.6.13</b> The amount of <i>fresh dead wood</i> of different tree species is increased after</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits. Field</p>

<p>regeneration fellings and second thinnings by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) creating, on average, at least three high stumps or girdled trees per hectare on harvested areas,</li> <li>b) cutting the high stumps at the maximum height that is considered as safe,</li> <li>c) selecting the coarseness of high stumps based on what is representative for the stand, striving for an overrepresentation of high stumps of deciduous trees.</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.6.13: Specific tree species can be prioritized in cases where this is justified from a nature conservation perspective. High stumps of deciduous trees are avoided in areas where such trees occur very sparsely. When harvesting in mature stands of oak and beech, dead wood is created so that on average at least two girdled trees or high stumps of the primary tree species remain per hectare across the managed stand.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 6.6.13: “The maximum height that is considered as safe” for cutting trees to create high stumps is normally above three meters in height.</i></p>		<p>visit at final felling at two group members showed standing fresh dead wood/high stumps had not been created in sufficient amounts. See finding 2021.13.</p>
<p><b>6.6.14</b> When harvesting windthrown seed or shelter trees, an average of at least two coarse new windthrows per hectare is retained.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.6.14: The requirement does not apply in the case of repeated windthrows within the same stand.</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits.
<p><b>6.6.15</b> <i>Biodiversity</i> conditioned by former traditional land-use and cultural values associated with trees and shrubs are favored when forest management activities are carried out.</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits.
<p><b>6.6.16</b> <i>Forest edge</i> zones with diverse tree and shrub layers are maintained or <i>restored</i> when forest management activities are carried out adjacent to agricultural land.</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits
<p><b>6.6.17</b> Trees with high biodiversity values are favored when forest management activities are carried out in or adjacent to <i>forest edge</i> zones and other, previously sun-</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits

<p>exposed, islets and small habitats that originated in the agricultural landscape, but now form part of forest stands that do not connect to arable land.</p>		
<p><b>6.7 The Organization shall protect or restore natural watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity. The Organization shall avoid negative impacts on water quality and quantity and mitigate and remedy those that occur.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.7.1</b> Ecologically functional <i>buffer zones</i> along watercourses and open water bodies are maintained or <i>restored</i> where necessary. The configuration and width of the <i>buffer zone</i> is planned and adapted based on the <i>conservation value</i> and sensitivity of the water environment as well as the forest <i>conservation values</i> of the <i>buffer zone</i>.  DIRECTIVES 6.7.1 AND 6.7.2: The <i>forest sector goals</i> for buffer zones along water bodies, watercourses and wetlands (Sw: målbilder för kantzoner mot sjöar, vattendrag och våtmarker) are implemented in the monitoring, documentation, adaptation and application of forest management activities.  GUIDANCE 6.7.1 AND 6.7.2: Ecologically functional buffer zones can contribute to: preserving important chemical soil processes, preventing particle runoff into watercourses and wetlands, producing food for aquatic organisms through falling leaves and small insects, providing shade, producing dead wood, conserving biodiversity.  An ecologically functional buffer zone is often stratified, with several tree species, standing dead wood, and ground vegetation. Wider buffer zones are required, for example, on moist/wet soils and areas sensitive to erosion, as well as along watercourses with high nature conservation values and/or high sensitivity.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits</p>
<p><b>6.7.2</b> Buffer zones adjacent to wetlands are maintained or <i>restored</i> to ecologically functional <i>buffer zones</i>.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits.</p>

<p><b>6.7.3</b> <i>Soil damage does not occur in buffer zones.</i>                  DIRECTIVES 6.7.3: The <i>forest sector goals</i> for driving on forest land (Sw: målbilder för körning i skogsmark) are implemented in the monitoring, documentation, adaptation and application of forest management activities.</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits.                  During field visits on final fellings at five group members, soil damages in buffer zones was identified at least once per member. See finding 2021.18.</p>
<p><b>6.7.4</b> Management is adapted with the purpose to not negatively impact wetland and water environments with high nature conservation values.                  GUIDANCE 6.7.4: <i>Information about wetland and water environments with high nature conservation values is available from the following sources, among others: the Swedish national wetland inventory, the Swedish swamp forest inventory (Sw: Sumpskogsinventeringen), records of water environments of national and particular national value.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>6.7.5</b> Large forest owners: Wetland and water environments are <i>restored</i> based on the preconditions, necessity and benefit from a landscape perspective.                  GUIDANCE 6.7.5: <i>The plan to restore wetland and water environments is normally included in the Ecological Landscape Plan.</i></p>		
<p><b>6.7.6</b> <i>Soil damage</i> is prevented when management activities are carried out.                  DIRECTIVES 6.7.6: The <i>forest sector goals</i> for driving on forest land (Sw: målbilder för körning i skogsmark) are implemented in the monitoring, documentation, adaptation and application of forest management activities.</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits. Field visit at one group member showed serious damages to a creek/stream. Se finding 2021.14 (CLOSED).</p>
<p><b>6.7.7</b> <i>Soil damage</i> is remedied, provided that remediation does not risk worsening the effect of the damage.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>6.7.8</b> New ditches for soil drainage are not established on land which has not previously been ditched.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>6.7.9</b> Existing ditches are only maintained when this is necessary to ensure that the productivity is not significantly impaired.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>6.7.10</b> Protective ditching is only applied where needed to meet the regeneration requirements of the Forestry Act.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and verified during field visits.</p>

<p>DIRECTIVES 6.7.9 AND 6.7.10: Possibilities to avoid ditch maintenance or protective ditching through the selection of silvicultural methods and/or tree species is considered in the planning.</p>		
<p><b>6.7.11</b> Previously established ditches on <i>low-productive peatlands</i> are not maintained.                  DIRECTIVES 6.7.11: Exceptions can be made for the maintenance of outlet ditches from other, previously ditched, highly productive stands.</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits.
<p><b>6.7.12</b> <i>Best practice</i> is applied to minimize particle runoff into watercourses, water bodies, and <i>wetlands with significant conservation value</i>.                  GUIDANCE 6.7.12: Information on best practice to minimize particle runoff to watercourses, water bodies, and wetlands can be obtained from relevant authorities.</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits.
<p><b>6.7.13</b> When maintaining ditches, operators are provided with information through site-specific management instructions or the equivalent that describes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) which sections of the ditch shall be cleared,</li> <li>b) which protection measures and considerations shall be implemented to prevent damage to wetlands and downstream water environments.</li> </ul>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits.
<p><b>6.8</b> <i>The Organization shall manage the landscape in the Management Unit to maintain and/or restore a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales and regeneration cycles appropriate for the landscape values in that region, and for enhancing environmental and economic resilience.</i></p>	C	
<p><b>6.8.1</b> Large forest owners: A landscape ecology perspective is applied in planning, taking into account the spatial distribution of the <i>landholding</i>.                  DIRECTIVES 6.8.1: An <i>Ecological Landscape Plan</i> is produced through the <i>systematic</i> collection of information and analysis in accordance with relevant indicators in the</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits. ELPs have been, or are being, produced by personnel/contractors with forest biology competence.

<p>standard. Among other elements, the plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the <i>landscape</i> division, with justification for the division,</li> <li>b) prioritization of <i>set aside areas</i>,</li> <li>c) objectives for <i>conservation management measures</i> and the restoration of biologically valuable forests,</li> <li>d) area of <i>exotic tree species</i>.</li> <li>e) The <i>Ecological Landscape Plan</i> is documented and regularly updated, based on monitoring and evaluation as per <i>Principle 8</i>.</li> </ul> <p><i>GUIDANCE 6.8.1: An Ecological Landscape Plan should be designed to contribute to creating a green infrastructure in the landscape, and the content should reflect: general conservation values and habitats in the landscape (6.1.1), the analysis regarding conservation values and habitats that are lacking in the landscape (6.1.2), the analysis of the occurrence of red-listed species (6.4.2) from a landscape perspective, areas that are set aside for nature conservation purposes, and the rationales for setting them aside (6.4.1, 6.5.1, 6.5.2, 6.5.3), habitats that require management through the use of traditional practices (6.6.16, 6.6.17), the necessity and benefit of restoring wetland and water environments in a landscape perspective (6.7.5), the landscape division, with justifications (directives for 6.8.1), High-value Landscapes (Sw: värdestrakter) as identified by the authorities, regionally relevant action plans for threatened species and habitats (Sw: åtgärdsprogram för hotade arter och naturtyper), or the equivalent (6.8.2), at least 2 % older forest stands in each landscape (6.8.3), burning of at least 5 % of the regeneration area on dry and mesic forest land over a rolling five year period (6.8.4),</i></p>		
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<p><i>at least 5 % of the total area of mesic and moist forest land that consists of deciduous-rich stands (6.8.5), converted area and area of plantations (6.9.1, 6.9.2, 6.10.1), area with nature conservation measures that compensate for conversion (6.9.1, 6.9.2, 6.10.2), occurrence of areas with High Conservation Values (see Principle 9), the establishment and management of areas of exotic tree species (10.3.8), that exotic tree species are not established in landscapes that contain no or a low proportion of exotic tree species (10.3.9).</i></p>		
<p><b>6.8.2</b> High-value Landscapes (Sw: värdeattrakter) identified by authorities and regionally applicable action plans for threatened species and habitats (Sw: åtgärdsprogram för hotade arter och naturtyper) are taken into account in the ecological landscape planning or forest management planning.</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits. Included in ELPs and considered in management plans.
<p><b>6.8.3</b> Large forest owners: The presence or creation of at least 2 % older forest stands in each <i>landscape</i>, calculated from the area of the <i>landholding</i>, is ensured in conjunction with ecological landscape planning. DIRECTIVES 6.8.3: “Older forest stands” refer to stands on <i>productive forest land</i> that have reached the age of 140 years in northern Sweden, and 120 years in southern Sweden, and that are larger than 0.5 hectares. Older production stands, <i>set aside areas</i>, and larger <i>consideration patches</i> may be counted in. In <i>landscapes</i> with a lower proportion of older forests, a plan is in place to reach 2 % older forest stands.</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits. Included in ELPs and considered in management plans.
<p><b>6.8.4</b> Large forest owners: An area equivalent to at least 5 % of the regeneration area on dry and mesic <i>forest land</i> is burned over a rolling five-year period. Felling is adapted and burning is carried out with the goal of promoting species favored by fire. DIRECTIVES 6.8.4: Exceptions from the burning requirement may be made for Halland, Skåne, and southern Blekinge, as</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits. Review of “burning plans” including calculations of actual areas suitable for burning, for larger forest owners.

<p>well as in <i>subalpine forests</i> above the <i>nature conservation boundary</i>, as natural fires have been of secondary importance in these regions. Exceptions can also be made for Öland and Gotland.</p> <p>Land that has previously been affected by fire is primarily chosen when selecting areas for prescribed burning. The regeneration area on dry and mesic <i>forest land</i> that is used to calculate the area to burn (5 %) may be reduced:</p> <p><i>by discounting forests near urban areas, due to proximity to neighbors, when a general ban on the burning of forest land is in place, by discounting lichen areas of importance for reindeer husbandry.</i></p> <p>The reasons for reducing the area are documented, and the area to burn (5 %) is calculated based on the net regeneration area.</p> <p><i>The Organization</i> shall have a plan for prescribed burning and carry out <i>reasonable</i> measures to implement the plan, provided that the burning can be securely carried out considering the weather and technical circumstances for burning. Reasons for not being able to carry out prescribed burning shall be documented.</p> <p>When calculating the burned area, only the area that really did burn is counted in. The parts of the area that have not been affected by the fire may not be counted. Wildfires may be counted in.</p> <p>The net burned area can be multiplied by an upward adjustment factor according to the table below.</p>								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of burning and implemented measures</th> <th>Upward adjustment factor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Burned productive forest land that is classed as production forest.</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burned unproductive forest land that is situated within burned</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of burning and implemented measures	Upward adjustment factor	Burned productive forest land that is classed as production forest.	1	Burned unproductive forest land that is situated within burned	1		
Type of burning and implemented measures	Upward adjustment factor							
Burned productive forest land that is classed as production forest.	1							
Burned unproductive forest land that is situated within burned	1							



productive forest land areas.			
Burned land that is allowed to naturally regenerate without soil scarification.	1.5		
Burned land where at least 15 % of the wood volume has been retained as a nature consideration. Nature considerations in moist/ wet consideration patches or buffer zones that are difficult to burn are not counted.	1.5		
Burned land where at least 30 % of the wood volume has been retained as a nature consideration. Nature considerations in moist/ wet consideration patches or buffer zones that are difficult to burn are not counted.	2		
Burning in areas set aside for nature conservation purposes according to 6.5.1 and 6.5.2a.	3		
<p>Wood that has been retained as nature consideration may not be removed at a later stage. When burning in areas that are set aside for nature conservation purposes (according to 6.5.1 and 6.5.2a), any felling and burning measures are based on the nature conservation objectives for the area</p>			

<p>and form part of the <i>conservation management measures</i>. Such areas are documented in planning documentation and forest registers, for example in the <i>Ecological Landscape Plan</i>. Decisions about setting aside burnt areas can be made after the fire.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 6.8.4: The area to burn should be calculated so that the requirement of 5 % burned area can be met in the long term. To meet the burning requirement when considering the weather and other circumstances, The Organization should plan to burn a significantly larger area than what is required per year. Examples of reasons for not burning can be lack of consent from the emergency services, or that wildfires have occurred on the property to such an extent that the burning requirement has been met.</i></p>		
<p><b>6.8.5</b> The <i>landholding</i> is planned and managed so that an area equivalent to at least 5 % of the total area of mesic and moist <i>forest land</i> consists of deciduous-rich stands dominated by deciduous trees during most of the rotation period.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.8.5: Those that have not yet reached the target shall establish an action plan to reach the target. The action plan is monitored on a regular basis and revised as necessary. Deciduous-rich stands that are set aside according to 6.5.1 may be counted north of Limes Norrlandicus. Deciduous-rich stands that are set aside according to 6.5.2 may be counted in for all of Sweden. An example of a practical border for Limes Norrlandicus is available on FSC Sweden’s website.</p> <p><i>Landholdings above the nature conservation boundary (see 9.3.4) are exempt from the calculation of the area according to the requirements in 6.8.5.</i></p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>Interviews group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits. Interview with three group members and review of their 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. See finding 2021.15</p>
<p><b>6.8.6</b> <i>Biodiversity</i> associated with deciduous trees is promoted when managing stands that already are or will become dominated by deciduous trees as per 6.8.5.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.</p>

<p><i>GUIDANCE 6.8.6: Examples of consideration measures to promote biodiversity associated with deciduous trees include the retention and promotion of many deciduous retention trees, the active creation of deciduous dead wood, precommercial and commercial thinning that promotes particular tree and shrub species, pollarding of trees, and active measures to promote the regeneration of tree species that are sensitive to browsing by game.</i></p>		
<p><b>6.9 The Organization shall not convert to plantations, nor natural forests or plantations on sites directly converted from natural forest to non-forest land use, except when the conversion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) affects a very limited portion of the area of the <i>Management Unit</i>, and</li> <li>b) will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the <i>Management Unit</i>, and</li> <li>c) does not damage or threaten <i>High Conservation Values</i>, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those <i>High Conservation Values</i>.</li> </ul>	C	
<p><b>6.9.1</b> <i>Natural forest</i> is not converted to <i>plantations</i> or other land uses except when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the conversion affects a total of maximum 5 % of the certified <i>landholding</i>, and maximum 0.5 % of the certified <i>landholding</i> per year (see directives for 6.9.2 for exemptions from the 0.5 % limit), and</li> <li>b) additional measures are carried out to strengthen important social or conservation values, and</li> <li>c) the conversion does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values (HCVs, see 9.1.1).</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.9.1: When converting forests to other land uses, <i>The Organization</i> shall seek to reduce negative effects on social values and <i>conservation values</i>. Land conversion is documented. Large forest</p>	C	Interviews group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.

<p>owners carry out additional measures according to 6.9.1b within the <i>landscape</i> in question.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 6.9.1: The following are examples of land conversion that can be carried out without additional measures, as they can either be considered a part of the forest management, or because they normally occur on a small scale:</i></p> <p><i>all establishments directly associated with forest management, such as forest roads and quarries for road-building material, establishment of game fields, enclosures or ponds,</i></p> <p><i>establishment of grazing lands or agricultural lands,</i></p> <p><i>establishments with the purpose of improving conditions for outdoor recreation, cultural heritage protection,</i></p> <p><i>trainings and other operations under the control of a recognized research institution, exploitation for building on single plots, establishment of mobile phone masts, establishment of single wind turbines.</i></p> <p><i>The following are examples of other land uses that occur at a larger scale, and where compensation can be required to fulfill 6.9.1b:</i></p> <p><i>commercial quarrying that is not directly associated with forest management, establishment of wind turbines (see 6.9.2), conversion of natural forests to plantations (see indicators under 10.3 and 6.10).</i></p> <p><i>For the conversion of forests to other land uses that can be considered to be of a more permanent character, FSC’s Policy on the Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification, FSC-POL-20-003 2004, should be applied.</i></p> <p><i>Examples of such land uses include:</i></p> <p><i>mining,</i></p> <p><i>exploitation for building where physical planning is required.</i></p>		
<p><b>6.9.2</b> Considerations are made for the effects of wind turbine establishment on nature conservation, <i>recreational values</i> and local economy.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interviews group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.</p>

<p>DIRECTIVES 6.9.2: The directives for wind turbine establishment on FSC certified land in Sweden consist of two parts: 1. Directives for land conversion for wind power, and 2. Directives for early engagement. The directives apply for all contracts signed with wind turbine developers after the 4th of April 2014, or where the wind turbines are not yet operational. The FSC requirements apply in addition to the statutory process that is carried out when establishing wind turbines on <i>forest land</i>. The establishment of single wind turbines is managed under 6.9.1.</p> <p><u>1. DIRECTIVES FOR LAND CONVERSION FOR WIND POWER:</u> The following applies for wind turbine establishment on FSC certified land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The wind turbine establishment, including other types of land conversion, may not affect more than 5 % of the <i>landholding</i> in total.</li> <li>b) The area used to calculate the area for land conversion is set to one hectare per wind turbine. This corresponds to the physical conversion, i.e. the total area for one wind turbine including related power lines and road construction.</li> <li>c) One hectare of <i>productive forest land</i> is set aside for each wind turbine. Areas to be set aside are prioritized, selected and delimited according to their significance for <i>biodiversity</i> and <i>landscape</i> representativeness (according to 6.5.1 and 6.5.2a), and/or consideration for areas important for <i>recreational values</i> and for local economy (according to 4.5.1 and 6.5.2). The area is documented separately from the areas that are set aside according to 6.5.1 and 6.5.2a. Forest owners with <i>landholdings</i> that are smaller than 20 hectares are exempt from requirements to set aside land to compensate for wind turbines.</li> </ul>		
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<p>d) Wind turbines may not be established in <i>Woodland Key Habitats</i> or so that they damage or threaten <i>High Conservation Values</i> (HCVs) according to 9.1.1. Exceptions can be made for single <i>Woodland Key Habitats</i> in areas where contracts were signed before the 4th of April 2014, and only in the cases where such contracts would otherwise have to be renegotiated due to serious costs or complications. Only limited damage may occur in the <i>Woodland Key Habitat</i>.</p> <p>Impact assessments, measures taken to avoid damage to <i>Woodland Key Habitats</i>, and decision-making materials shall be documented in the case of such exceptions, so that the documentation can be presented to <i>interested and/or affected stakeholders</i> upon request.</p> <p>e) The forest owner shall inform the wind turbine developer if there are <i>High Conservation Values</i> or <i>Woodland Key Habitats</i> in the areas where wind turbines are not yet operational, and take action to conserve these areas.</p> <p>f) The wind turbine developer is informed of known values: <i>Woodland Key Habitats</i> (6.4.1), other forests set aside for nature conservation purposes (6.5.1 and 6.5.2a), and areas important for <i>recreational values</i> and for the local economy (4.5.1 and 6.5.2) that have been identified within the area for wind turbine establishment.</p> <p>g) When establishing wind turbines within the reindeer herding area, affected <i>Sami villages</i> are contacted to obtain information about establishments and other important objects for reindeer husbandry. Respect is shown and considerations are made for old settlements and other Sami cultural remains,</p>		
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<p>migration routes, natural gathering places, overnight resting places (grazing areas), difficult passages, particularly important arboreal lichen areas, work corrals and calving land as well as culturally important paths and sacrificial places.</p> <p>h) It is ensured that the wind turbine developer, when planning wind turbine establishment, compiles and considers the information from the forest owner regarding points d-g above, and that the information is presented as part of the statutory public consultation and in the permit application to the legal authority.</p> <p>i) The forest owner compiles documentation of how the wind turbine project contributes to supporting the long-term social and economic well-being of the <i>local community</i>, at the latest before the wind turbines become operational. The turbine construction and installation phases cannot be counted as support to the <i>local community</i>. This applies to all wind turbines that are put in operation after this standard becomes effective. Examples for how the <i>local community</i> can be supported in different ways have been compiled by FSC Sweden.</p> <p><b><u>2. DIRECTIVES FOR EARLY ENGAGEMENT WHEN ESTABLISHING WIND TURBINES:</u></b>          The directives for early engagement apply for forest owners with more than 1 000 hectares of <i>productive forest land</i>. The purpose of early engagement is to enable <i>affected stakeholders</i>, such as neighboring residents and affected <i>Sami villages</i>, to obtain information about potential wind turbine establishment and to present their views early in the planning, i.e. prior to the initiation of the statutory permit process for wind turbine establishment. At</p>		
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<p>this early stage of the process, the planning is still very schematic, but at this stage the forest owner still has full control of the <i>landholding</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The forest owner shall publicly present wind areas, projection areas, and who is contracted as the wind turbine developer. Wind areas are areas with potential for wind turbine projection. Projection areas are areas where projection is ongoing. The presentation of these aspects is done for example through a website. Publication on the website is advertised through local media. Affected <i>Sami villages</i> are informed through established channels. Notification of new or substantially updated information on wind areas or projection areas on the website can be given to <i>stakeholders</i> through e-mail or SMS.</li> <li>b) <i>Affected stakeholders</i> shall be given the opportunity to present their opinions to the forest owner before the projection of a wind area begins. A physical meeting can take place if requested by any of the <i>stakeholders</i> and by the initiative of the <i>stakeholder</i>.</li> <li>c) The forest owner shall offer local <i>affected stakeholders</i> a physical meeting in conjunction with the commencement of projection. Representatives for local <i>affected stakeholders</i> can be identified, for example, through the local or regional level of the organization Rural Sweden (Sw: Hela Sverige Ska Leva).</li> <li>d) Wind turbine projection may commence, at the earliest, three months after new wind areas have been presented. The projection is considered to have commenced when a contract to use the area for wind turbine projection is signed between the forest owner and the</li> </ul>		
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<p>wind turbine developer. When the projection is performed by forest owners themselves, or by the company group that the forest owner is part of, the projection is considered to have commenced when the statutory public consultation takes place.</p> <p>e) During the meeting as per b or c, the plans are presented and the opinions of the <i>stakeholders</i> are collected. Within the reindeer herding area, information is obtained about fixed establishments and other objects of substantial importance for reindeer husbandry so that considerations can be made. Information about how a wind turbine establishment can affect the long-term social and economic well-being of the <i>local communities</i> is also compiled, to enable considerations to be made. Information is provided about models for partnership and local refund for wind turbine establishment. The opinions and assessments for each area are compiled.</p> <p>f) After early engagement, the compilation is submitted to the wind turbine developer if the projection commences. The forest owner ensures that the wind turbine developer considers the opinions and assessments in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) when the projection is initiated.</p> <p>g) Early engagement is not required if a forest owner becomes involved in an ongoing wind turbine project that has already reached the phase of the statutory public consultation, and where the forest owner's <i>landholding</i> only covers a minor part of the total area for wind turbine establishment. In such cases, the</p>		
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<p>statutory permit process is sufficient. A “minor part” means maximum five wind turbines, and no more than 35 % of the wind farm.  <i>GUIDANCE 6.9.2.2d: A model for partnership and local refund has been developed by the organization Rural Sweden (Sw: Hela Sverige ska leva).</i></p>		
<p><b>6.10 Management Units containing plantations that were established on areas converted from natural forest after November 1994 shall not qualify for certification, except where:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>d) clear and sufficient evidence is provided that The Organization was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or</b></li> <li><b>e) the conversion affected a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit.</b></li> </ul>	<p>N/A</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 6.10 is not applicable.</p>
<p><b>6.10.1</b> The conversion of <i>natural forest</i> to <i>plantations</i> is limited so that the total area of <i>plantations</i> established after November 1994 constitutes a maximum of 5 % of the certified <i>landholding</i>.                  DIRECTIVES 6.10.1: Reforestation with <i>exotic tree species</i> on land that has previously been classified as a <i>plantation</i> is not subject to this indicator. See the definition of <i>plantations</i> in the glossary of terms in this standard.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p><b>6.10.2</b> When converting <i>natural forest</i> to <i>plantations</i>, additional measures are carried out to strengthen considerations for important <i>conservation values</i>.                  DIRECTIVES 6.10.2: The extent and implementation of measures when establishing new stands of <i>exotic tree species</i> shall be proportionate to the area of newly established stands with <i>exotic tree species</i>. The measures are based on an analysis of important <i>conservation values</i> that need to be enhanced in the <i>landscape</i> in question (see 6.1.2). Planned and implemented measures are documented.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

<p>Examples of such measures are more extensive <i>set aside areas</i> for nature conservation purposes, more extensive nature consideration during management activities, specific management measures for <i>threatened species</i>, and the recreation and more extensive management of areas with high nature <i>conservation values</i>. “More extensive” refers to measures that go further than what the other indicators in this standard require.</p>		
<p><b>PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING</b>  <i>The Organization shall have a management plan consistent with its policies and objectives and proportionate to scale, intensity and risks of its management activities. The management plan shall be implemented and kept up to date based on monitoring information in order to promote adaptive management. The associated planning and procedural documentation shall be sufficient to guide staff, inform affected stakeholders and interested stakeholders and to justify management decisions.</i></p>		
<p><b>7.1</b> <i>The Organization shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of its management activities, set policies (visions and values) and objectives for management, which are environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically viable. Summaries of these policies and objectives shall be incorporated into the management plan, and publicized.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>7.1.1</b> <i>The Organization has policies and management objectives that contribute to fulfilling the requirements in this standard.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plan.</p>
<p><b>7.1.2</b> <i>A summary of the overall policies and management objectives is made publicly available.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with Group Entity and review of membership agreement. Each FMU is responsible for management objectives, these are also included in management plans. Larger FMUs have published policies and/or management objectives on their website (verified during sample audits).</p>
<p><b>7.1.3</b> <i>Large forest owners: A management system is in place to meet the overall management objectives and operational targets, including the fulfillment of the requirements in this standard.</i>  <b>DIRECTIVES 7.1.3:</b> <i>The management system ensures that the organizational structure, governance, planning, monitoring,</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plan and procedures.</p> <p>For all non SLIMF FMUs, management system was reviewed and demonstrated. The typical basis for sustainable harvesting</p>

<p>evaluation and improvement of the operations are in line with the established policies and management objectives, as well as the requirements in this standard. The <i>management system</i> is adapted to <i>scale, intensity</i> and <i>risks</i> associated with management activities, and is used to <i>systematically</i> and continually develop and ensure the quality of the operations and the fulfillment of the requirements.</p> <p>Within the scope of the <i>management system</i>, the top management shall take responsibility for the operation of the system, allocate necessary resources, and lead and support <i>staff</i> within their relevant areas of responsibility so that the requirements in this standard are met. This includes identifying the operations and activities that are affected by the requirements in this standard, and planning these so they occur in accordance with procedures and specified requirements. Procedures that are covered by the <i>management system</i> are documented. The <i>management system</i> shall at least include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) identification of legislation and other requirements that affect the operations, as per 1.3.1 and 1.5,</li> <li>b) communication of the overall policies and management objectives to customers, <i>employees</i> and contractors,</li> <li>c) communication of relevant requirements to suppliers, contractors and other <i>contract workers</i>,</li> <li>d) description of the organizational structure of the operations, including defined roles and responsibilities,</li> <li>e) procedures for competence and training, as per 2.5.1,</li> <li>f) procedures for external communication, including procedures for inquiries and information about the status of certification, <i>engagement</i> with <i>affected stakeholders</i> as per 4.5, and</li> </ul>		<p>levels are the program HEUREKA developed by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.</p> <p>From all management system, managers demonstrated how silviculture operations are graded based on urgency and how stands are identified</p>
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<p>the handling of external opinions and <i>complaints</i> as per 4.6,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g) procedures for handling and maintaining documentation, including the time period that documents shall be archived for,</li> <li>h) procedures for regular monitoring and evaluation, as per <i>Principle 8</i>,</li> <li>i) procedures for handling non-conformities and the implementation of corrective actions,</li> <li>j) procedures for annual internal audits of the function of the <i>management system</i>, and for agreements regarding external audits,</li> <li>k) procedures for regular review and evaluation of the <i>management system</i>.</li> </ul> <p><i>GUIDANCE 7.1.3: A management system refers to systematic work to ensure the governance of an operation. A clear management system often requires documentation regarding the vision, policies, strategies, objectives, organizational chart, division of responsibilities, procedures, instructions, etc. The requirement for a management system can be met with the help of an ISO 9001 or 14001 certification.</i></p>		
<p><b>7.2 The Organization shall have and implement a <i>management plan</i> for the <i>Management Unit</i> which is fully consistent with the policies and management objectives as established according to <i>Criterion 7.1</i>. The <i>management plan</i> shall describe the natural resources that exist in the <i>Management Unit</i> and explain how the plan will meet the FSC certification requirements. The <i>management plan</i> shall cover forest management planning and social management planning proportionate to <i>scale, intensity</i> and <i>risk</i> of the planned activities.</b></p>	C	
<p><b>7.2.1</b> A <i>management plan</i> that reflects the established policies and management objectives is in place and is complied with.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plan.

<p><b>7.2.2</b> The forest natural resources are documented in the <i>management plan</i>.  DIRECTIVES 7.2.2 AND 7.2.3: The documentation is adapted to the needs of the forest owner to be able to show that they meet the requirements in this standard.  <i>GUIDANCE 7.2.2 AND 7.2.3: The documentation is intended to secure communication and governance of the operations according to the management plan. As such, the documentation can vary with the management objectives of different forest owners, as well as the scale, intensity and risk of the management activities. Certain requirements have to be demonstrated through documented procedures, monitoring, or records; such as agreements reached in consultations and consideration measures planned in conjunction with regeneration felling. Other requirements can be demonstrated in the field, for example that three high stumps are retained per hectare, that planned consideration measures have been carried out, or that the tops of deciduous trees are left when extracting tops and branches.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plan.</p>
<p><b>7.2.3</b> Strategies, procedures and measures are documented and implemented in accordance with the <i>management plan</i>.  DIRECTIVES 7.2.3: Large forest owners document and implement strategies, procedures and measures in accordance with their <i>management system</i>.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plan.  Verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>7.3 The <i>management plan</i> shall include verifiable targets by which progress towards each of the prescribed management objectives can be assessed.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>7.3.1</b> Verifiable targets are established to evaluate the achievement of the overall management objectives and operational targets.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plan.</p>
<p><b>7.4 The <i>Organization</i> shall update and revise periodically the management planning and procedural documentation to incorporate the results of monitoring and evaluation, <i>stakeholder engagement</i> or new scientific and technical information, as</b></p>	<p>C</p>	

<p><b>well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</b></p>		
<p>7.4.1 The <i>management plan</i> and instructions are regularly revised and updated to incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) results from monitoring and evaluation, including results from external and internal audits,</li> <li>b) stakeholder engagement results,</li> <li>c) new scientific and technical information,</li> <li>d) changes in environmental, social, or economic circumstances,</li> <li>e) changes in legislation,</li> <li>f) changes in the FSC normative framework.</li> </ul>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plan.</p>
<p><b>7.5 The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the management plan free of charge. Excluding confidential information, other relevant components of the management plan shall be made available to affected stakeholders on request, and at cost of reproduction and handling.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>7.5.1 A summary of the <i>management plan</i>, including maps and excluding <i>confidential information</i>, is made <i>publicly available</i> at no cost and in an easily accessible format.  DIRECTIVES 7.5.1:  <b>1. For forest owners with landholdings of more than 50 000 hectares of productive forest land</b>, the following information is made available on a website. <b>For forest owners with landholdings of between 5 000 to 50 000 hectares of productive forest land</b>, the following information can be made available upon request, digitally or as a physical copy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. An overall description of the <i>Ecologica Landscape Plan</i>, as per 6.8.1, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a map of <i>landscapes</i>, including <i>set aside areas</i> and <i>Woodland Key Habitats</i>,</li> <li>b) a description of how the landscape division is done,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and Group Entity. Upon request, members are required to present required information, either directly or via the Group Entity. Review of larger group members' (&gt; 50 000 ha) websites during sample audits.</p>

<p>c) the size of the landscapes,  d) areas prioritized for nature conservation within the landscapes, including considerations taken for High Conservation Values (HCVs).</p> <p>B. Objectives and outcomes within the <i>landholding</i>, regarding areas of:</p> <p>a) enhanced consideration, as per 6.5.2,  b) continuous cover forestry, as per 6.5.2,  c) proportion of older forest, as per 6.8.3,  d) burned forest land, as per 6.8.4,  e) forest land that has been converted to another land use, as well as compensatory nature conservation measures for this conversion, as per 6.9.1 and 6.9.2,  f) plantations, as per 6.10.1.</p> <p>More detailed information regarding specific <i>Ecological Landscape Plans</i> is provided upon request.</p> <p>C. General information about <i>The Organization</i>:</p> <p>a) policy against corruption, as per 1.7.1,  b) long-term commitment to forest management practices consistent with this standard and related FSC Policies and Standards, as per 1.8.1,  c) contact details for The Organization for inquiries, opinions and complaints, as per 4.6.1,  d) general description of how The Organization handles opinions and complaints, as per 4.6.2.</p> <p><b>2. For forest owners with <i>landholdings</i> of less than 5 000 hectares of <i>productive forest land</i>, the following information is made available upon request, digitally or as a physical copy. The information can also be</b></p>		
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<p>provided through the <i>group entity</i> that the forest owner is a member of.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) policy against corruption, as per 1.7.1,</li> <li>b) long-term commitment to forest management practices consistent with this standard and related FSC Policies and Standards, as per 1.8.1,</li> <li>c) contact details for The Organization for inquiries, opinions and complaints, as per 4.6.1,</li> <li>d) general description of how The Organization handles opinions and complaints, as per 4.6.2,</li> <li>e) Woodland Key Habitats, as per 6.4.1,</li> <li>f) set aside areas, as per 6.5.1 and 6.5.2a, divided into the management classifications “nature conservation, unmanaged” (Sw: naturvård orört, NO) and “nature conservation, managed” (Sw: naturvård skötsel, NS),</li> <li>g) areas with enhanced consideration, as per 6.5.2,</li> <li>h) areas with continuous cover forestry, as per 6.5.2,</li> <li>i) proportion of deciduous-rich stands, as per 6.8.5,</li> <li>j) considerations made for High Conservation Values (HCVs, see Principle 9),</li> <li>k) description of the work to achieve functional nature conservation in relevant landscapes, as per 6.1 and 6.3.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>7.5.2</b> Relevant components of the <i>management plan</i>, excluding <i>confidential information</i>, are available to <i>affected stakeholders</i> on request at the actual costs of reproduction and handling or through a visit to a relevant office.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 7.5.2: <i>The Organization</i> can refrain from providing information if they find the request not to be relevant, or to protect FSC as a certification system. Refraining from providing information is documented, and justification as to why</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plan.</p>

information is not provided is communicated to the <i>affected stakeholder</i> .		
<b>7.6</b> <i>The Organization shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of management activities, proactively and transparently engage affected stakeholders in its management planning and monitoring processes, and shall engage interested stakeholders on request.</i>	C	
<b>7.6.1</b> Procedures are in place for proactive and transparent <i>engagement</i> with <i>affected stakeholders</i> , and for <i>engagement</i> with <i>interested stakeholders</i> on request. DIRECTIVES 7.6.1: <i>Engagement</i> is adapted to the <i>scale, intensity and risk</i> of the management activities. Procedures for <i>engagement</i> with <i>affected stakeholders</i> are designed in accordance with 4.5.2.	C	Interview with group members and review of identified stakeholders and procedures for engaging with them.
<b>PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT</b> <i>The Organization shall demonstrate that, progress towards achieving the management objectives, the impacts of management activities and the condition of the Management Unit, are monitored and evaluated proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, in order to implement adaptive management.</i>		
<b>8.1</b> <i>The Organization shall monitor the implementation of its management plan, including its policies and management objectives, its progress with the activities planned, and the achievement of its verifiable targets.</i>	C	
<b>8.1.1</b> The <i>management plan</i> , policies and management objectives are monitored and evaluated. DIRECTIVES 8.1.1: Large forest owners monitor and evaluate the <i>management plan</i> , policies and management objectives in accordance with their <i>management system</i> .	C	Interview with group members and review of management plan.
<b>8.1.2</b> The extent of monitoring and evaluation is adapted to the <i>scale, intensity and risk</i> of the management activities.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plan.
<b>8.2</b> <i>The Organization shall monitor and evaluate the environmental and social impacts of the activities carried out in the Management Unit, and changes in its environmental condition.</i>	C	
<b>8.2.1</b> The social and environmental impacts of management activities are monitored in	C	Interview with group members and review of management plan and/or documentation. Review of

proportion to the <i>scale, intensity</i> and <i>risk</i> of the management activities.		procedure for monitoring activities and a sample of self-assessments for larger members.
<b>8.2.2</b> Large forest owners: Strategies, procedures and measures are monitored and evaluated in accordance with the requirements for internal audits in the <i>management system</i> .	C	Interview with group members and review of management system and compilations/results of monitoring activities.
<b>8.3</b> <i>The Organization shall analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.</i>	C	
<b>8.3.1</b> The results of monitoring and evaluation are periodically analyzed. DIRECTIVES 8.3.1: Large forest owners analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation in accordance with their <i>management system</i> .	C	Interview with group members and review of result from internal monitoring activities for larger group members.
<b>8.3.2</b> The analysis is used to revise the <i>management plan</i> and instructions, as per 7.4.1.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plan updates and analysis from internal monitoring.
<b>8.4</b> <i>The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information.</i>	C	
<b>8.4.1</b> A summary of the results of monitoring and evaluation, excluding <i>confidential information</i> , is <i>publicly available</i> at no cost and in an easily accessible format.	C	Interview with group members and review of procedures. Information is required to be available either directly or via the Group Entity.
<b>8.5</b> <i>The Organization shall have and implement a tracking and tracing system proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of its management activities, for demonstrating the source and volume in proportion to projected output for each year, of all products from the Management Unit that are marketed as FSC certified.</i>	C	
<b>8.5.1</b> A system is in place to demonstrate the source and volume that has been sold as FSC certified for each year.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and internal economic systems for larger FMUs. All members are required to retain documentation relating to volumes/economic matters for at least 7 years in accordance with Swedish law.
<b>PRINCIPLE 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES</b>		

<b>The Organization shall maintain and/or enhance the High Conservation Values in the Management Unit through applying the precautionary approach.</b>		
<p><b>9.1</b> <i>The Organization, through engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and other means and sources, shall assess and record the presence and status of the following High Conservation Values in the Management Unit, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of impacts of management activities, and likelihood of the occurrence of the High Conservation Values:</i></p> <p><b>HCV 1 – Species diversity.</b> Concentrations of <i>biological diversity</i> including endemic species, and <i>rare, threatened</i> or endangered species, that are <i>significant</i> at global, regional or national levels.</p> <p><b>HCV 2 – Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics.</b> <i>Intact forest landscapes</i> and large landscape-level <i>ecosystems</i> and <i>ecosystem</i> mosaics that are <i>significant</i> at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.</p> <p><b>HCV 3 – Ecosystems and habitats.</b> Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.</p> <p><b>HCV 4 – Critical ecosystem services.</b> Basic <i>ecosystem services</i> in <i>critical</i> situations, including <i>protection</i> of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.</p> <p><b>HCV 5 – Community needs.</b> Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of <i>local communities</i> or <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through <i>engagement</i> with these communities or <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>.</p> <p><b>HCV 6 – Cultural values.</b> Sites, resources, <i>habitats</i> and <i>landscapes</i> of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of <i>critical</i> cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of <i>local communities</i> or <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>, identified through</p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	

<p><b>engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples.</b></p>		
<p><b>9.1.1</b> The occurrence and status of the following <i>High Conservation Values</i> within the <i>landholding</i> are identified and documented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) forest areas of national interest for nature conservation or forest areas of recognized nation-wide significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. with a concentration of <i>Woodland Key Habitats</i>, and/or</li> <li>2. with a concentration of <i>threatened species</i> (VU, EN, CR) (HCV 1, HCV 3).</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) <i>B subalpine forests</i> of category 1 and 2, at altitudes above the <i>nature conservation boundary</i>, see 9.3.4, as well as <i>Intact Forest Landscapes</i> (IFLs) (HCV 2).</li> <li>c) <i>defined water protection areas</i> (HCV 4, HCV 5).</li> <li>d) <i>wetlands of national and international significance (class 1 areas from the Swedish national wetland inventory, the Swedish Mire Protection Plan, and Ramsar sites)</i> (HCV 1, HCV 2, HCV 3).</li> <li>e) <i>water environments of particular national value</i> (HCV 1, HCV 3).</li> <li>f) <i>Natura 2000 areas, nature reserves, and cultural reserves</i> (HCV 1, HCV 2).</li> <li>g) <i>sites of special significance for the Sami, such as old settlements and other Sami cultural remains, work corrals, and culturally important paths</i> (HCV 5, HCV 6).</li> <li>h) <i>registered archaeological monuments and cultural remains of nation-wide interest</i> (HCV 6).</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 9.1.1: Existing inventories and other available materials from relevant authorities are used when identifying <i>High Conservation Values</i>. <i>Engagement</i> with relevant authorities, experts or other <i>stakeholders</i> is conducted when required for</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans and monitoring records. Interview with Group Entity personnel.</p> <p>Upon joining the Group Certificate, all members but have a valid Management Plan where all HCVFs are clearly marked. The identification must have been done by someone with specific official training. If a plan is not in place, the new group member must make sure one is produced within 2 years which the Group Entity keeps track of, sending reminders as the deadline approaches.</p> <p>Very large Group Members (&gt; 10 000 ha) monitor occurrences of HCVs regularly as the ecosystems change over time. As per interview with non-SLIMF group members (verified during field visits and review of operations directives), an assessment of HCV status is done prior to most or all final fellings regardless of prior status.</p>

<p>the identification of <i>High Conservation Values</i>.</p> <p>9.1.1b: <i>Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs)</i> in Sweden are identified according to a map available on FSC Sweden’s website.</p> <p>9.1.1g: Sites of special significance for the Sami are identified through <i>engagement with Sami villages</i>. This can occur as a part of the <i>participatory planning process</i> as per 3.2.2, or <i>engagement</i> as per 3.2.6.</p> <p><i>GUIDANCE 9.1.1: Relevant maps are available on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency’s map tool “Skyddad Natur”. Other important data sources and references for identifying areas include:</i></p> <p>9.1.1a: <i>The Swedish Forest Agency or County Administrative Boards may be contacted to identify areas that are of national interest. A map of areas of national interest for nature conservation is available on FSC Sweden’s website.</i></p> <p>9.1.1a2: <i>“A concentration of threatened species” refers to: important populations of individual species that are dependent on the specific area for their survival on a national level, or several different species that, together, comprise a species diversity that is significant from a national perspective.</i></p> <p>9.1.1c: <i>The authority that designated the water protection area is contacted for applicable maps and provisions for defined water protection areas. The relevant authority may vary between counties; it is often the municipality but may also be the County Administrative Board for the county where the forest is located.</i></p> <p>9.1.1d: <i>Information on Ramsar sites in Sweden is available on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency’s website. For the Swedish national wetland inventory and the Swedish Mire Protection Plan, see the following publications (in Swedish): Naturvårdsverket, 2009. Våtmarksinventeringen - resultat från 25 års inventering. Nationell slutrapport för våtmarksinventeringen (VMI) i Sverige. Rapport 5925. Naturvårdsverket.</i></p>		
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<p><i>Naturvårdsverket, 2007. Myrskyddsplan för Sverige – Huvudrapport över revidering 2006. Rapport 5667. Naturvårdsverket.</i></p> <p><i>9.1.1e: Water environments of particular national value are water environments with high values for nature, culture and fish/fishing. These water environments are prioritized by authorities for formal protection. An up-to-date map, available in the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency’s map tool “Skyddad Natur” shall be used. Dialogue with County Administrative Boards shall occur when necessary to ensure that the map is updated.</i></p> <p><i>For more information, see the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency’s report (in Swedish): Naturvårdsverket, 2007. Nationell strategi för skydd av vattenanknutna natur- och kulturvärden – delmål 1. Levande sjöar och vattendrag. Rapport 5666. Naturvårdsverket.</i></p> <p><i>9.1.1h: GIS-maps with known, registered archaeological monuments and other cultural remains in Sweden can be downloaded from the Swedish National Heritage Board’s database “Fornsök”. Archaeological monuments or cultural remains of nationwide interest may be identified through engagement with the Swedish National Heritage Board or County Administrative Boards.</i></p>		
<p><b>9.2 The Organization shall develop effective strategies that maintain and/or enhance the identified <i>High Conservation Values</i>, through engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and experts.</b></p>	C	
<p><b>9.2.1</b> Large forest owners: Strategies are in place for the long-term conservation and enhancement of <i>High Conservation Values</i> in the identified areas.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 9.2.1: When formulating strategies, knowledge and opinions are obtained from relevant <i>stakeholders</i> and/or experts on how the identified <i>High Conservation Values</i> can be maintained or enhanced.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans, ELPs and procedures relating to HCVPs.

<p><i>GUIDANCE 9.2.1: Strategies may include: ecological landscape planning, adapted consideration measures in conjunction with management activities, engagement with other forest owners or authorities, targeted action plans or inventories, research initiatives, for instance through support or providing land for research, management or conservation plans defined by authorities, the forest sector goals for environmental considerations (Sw: Målbilder för god miljöhänsyn).</i></p>		
<p><b>9.3 The Organization shall implement strategies and actions that maintain and/or enhance the identified <i>High Conservation Values</i>. These strategies and actions shall implement the <i>precautionary approach</i> and be proportionate to the <i>scale, intensity and risk of management activities</i>.</b></p>	C	
<p><b>9.3.1</b> Large forest owners: Strategies for the long-term <i>conservation</i> and enhancement of <i>High Conservation Values</i>, are implemented.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs.
<p><b>9.3.2</b> Forest management is adapted to avoid damage to <i>High Conservation Values</i>.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs. Verified during field visits.
<p><b>9.3.3</b> Activities that harm <i>High Conservation Values</i> cease immediately and actions are taken to <i>restore</i> and protect the affected <i>High Conservation Values</i>.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs. No such activities identified.
<p><b>9.3.4</b> Forest management above the <i>nature conservation boundary</i> and in <i>Intact Forest Landscapes</i> (IFLs) (9.1.1b) is adapted to the land use history of the stand and to existing <i>conservation values</i>. DIRECTIVES 9.3.4: Forest management is restricted in areas above the <i>nature conservation boundary</i> and in <i>Intact Forest Landscapes</i> (IFLs) by the division of forests into three categories (see below). A map of the <i>nature conservation boundary</i> is available on FSC Sweden’s website. Where necessary, the boundary may be revised in a local consensus process with <i>affected stakeholders</i> and FSC Sweden.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs. No such activities identified.



<p>Signing a written declaration that <i>The Organization</i> does not intend to conduct forest management above the <i>nature conservation boundary</i> is considered to fulfill the requirements of 9.3.4.</p> <p>Considering the forest management restrictions above the <i>nature conservation boundary</i>, the requirements of setting aside an area equivalent to 5 % (6.5.1) and maintaining a 5 % proportion of deciduous-dominated stands (6.8.5) do not need to be met in this area.</p> <p><b>Category 1:</b> Areas of virgin-type forests Areas with virgin-type forests can be characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) continuity of lying coarse dead wood,</li> <li>b) abundance of <i>red-listed species</i>,</li> <li>c) abundance of lying coarse dead wood, often 15-20 per hectare,</li> <li>d) diverse age structure and pronounced stratification,</li> <li>e) abundance of natural stumps and dead standing trees,</li> <li>f) no or few felling stumps.</li> </ul> <p>All <i>Woodland Key Habitats</i> above the <i>nature conservation boundary</i> are included in Category 1.</p> <p>These forests are exempt from all management activities except those with the purpose of promoting natural <i>biodiversity</i>.</p> <p><b>Category 2:</b> Other forests of significance for nature conservation Other forests of significance for nature conservation can be characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) scattered dead standing trees,</li> <li>b) moderate frequency of lying coarse dead wood and sparse or isolated occurrences of <i>red-listed species</i>,</li> <li>c) often a diverse age structure and stratification,</li> <li>d) evident signs of dimension felling.</li> </ul> <p>These forests may be managed by <i>continuous cover forestry</i> or <i>group felling</i> and particular nature consideration measures.</p>		
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<p>Other forests of significance for nature conservation that are situated within or adjacent to areas of virgin-type forests, that form a natural integrated unit with these areas, are managed as Category 1. These areas are exempt from all management activities except those with the purpose of promoting natural <i>biodiversity</i>.</p> <p><b>Category 3:</b> Forests that are neither of Category 1 nor 2</p> <p>Areas that belong to Category 3 are, primarily, recently managed areas or other severely affected areas with broken forest continuity.</p> <p>These may be managed in accordance with other parts of this standard, except for 6.5.1 and 6.8.5 (see above).</p>		
<p><b>9.3.5</b> Current provisions from <i>legally competent authorities</i> are complied with for <i>landholdings</i> within defined water protection areas (9.1.1c).</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs demonstrated compliance with this requirement.
<p><b>9.3.6</b> Any management activities in <i>landholdings</i> within Natura 2000 areas, cultural reserves and nature reserves (9.1.1f) are carried out in accordance with existing management and conservation plans and current provisions from relevant authorities.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs. No activities within these areas identified.
<p><b>9.4</b> <i>The Organization shall demonstrate that periodic monitoring is carried out to assess changes in the status of High Conservation Values, and shall adapt its management strategies to ensure their effective protection. The monitoring shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, and shall include engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and experts.</i></p>	C	
<p><b>9.4.1</b> Large forest owners: Changes in areas with High Conservation Values and the effects of management activities on High Conservation Values are monitored. The extent of monitoring is adapted to the scale, intensity and risk of the management activities.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 9.4.1: If necessary, monitoring is conducted through <i>engagement</i> with, or by,</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs. Review of monitoring activities demonstrates compliance to this requirement.

relevant authorities, experts, or other <i>stakeholders</i> . The results of monitoring are documented.		
<b>9.4.2</b> Large forest owners: Strategies for the long-term <i>conservation</i> and enhancement of <i>High Conservation Values</i> are adapted according to the results of the monitoring.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs. Review of monitoring results demonstrates compliance with this requirement.
<b>PRINCIPLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES</b> Management activities conducted by or for <i>The Organization for the Management Unit</i> shall be selected and implemented consistent with <i>The Organization's</i> economic, environmental and social policies and objectives and in compliance with the <i>Principles and Criteria</i> collectively.		
<b>10.1</b> After harvest or in accordance with the <i>management plan</i> , <i>The Organization</i> shall, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions.	C	
<b>10.1.1</b> Harvested sites are regenerated in a timely manner and to a sufficient extent to ensure forest production, as per the Forestry Act.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<b>10.1.2</b> Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that is <i>adapted to the site</i> with respect to regeneration methods, as well as choice of seed and plant material. DIRECTIVES 10.1.2: Possibilities for <i>natural regeneration</i> are considered in the selection of regeneration methods.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<b>10.2</b> <i>The Organization</i> shall use species for regeneration that are ecologically well <i>adapted to the site</i> and to the management objectives. <i>The Organization</i> shall use native species and local genotypes for regeneration, unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others.	C	
<b>10.2.1</b> Regeneration is carried out using <i>native tree species</i> that are <i>adapted to the site</i> , with exceptions as per 10.3.1.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<b>10.2.2</b> At least 50 % of the <i>productive forest land</i> area in the nemoral zone, including areas set aside as per 6.5.1 and 6.5.2a, are dominated by native deciduous trees and/or pine in the long run. DIRECTIVES 10.2.2: The nemoral zone is defined in the report "Gränsen mellan	N/A	No members within the nemoral zone.

<p>nemorala och boreo-nemorala zonen” by Yvonne Aldetun, which can be downloaded from FSC Sweden’s website. The demarcation of the nemoral zone that has been accepted by <i>Certification Bodies</i> before the effective date of this standard can continue to be applied.</p>		
<p><b>10.2.3</b> Where the proportion of <i>productive forest land</i> area in the nemoral zone dominated by native deciduous trees and/or pine is lower than 50 %, measures are carried out to reach the target. DIRECTIVES 10.2.3: The time plan and measures to be taken to reach the target are stated in planning documentation.</p>	N/A	No members within the nemoral zone.
<p><b>10.3</b> <i>The Organization shall only use alien species when knowledge and/or experience have shown that any invasive impacts can be controlled and effective mitigation measures are in place.</i></p>	C	
<p><b>10.3.1</b> An <i>exotic tree species</i> can only be used once it is shown through a <i>systematic</i> review that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the tree species provides considerable advantages, in terms of production or otherwise, in comparison to native tree species,</li> <li>b) the tree species is ecologically well adapted to the sites where it is used,</li> <li>c) the tree species does not cause substantial negative impacts on natural soil processes and long-term productivity,</li> <li>d) the tree species does not cause substantial negative impacts on other ecosystems or biodiversity,</li> <li>e) self-dispersal to the surroundings can be limited and removed.</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 10.3.1: “<i>Systematic review</i>” refers to a <i>systematic</i> analysis of the tree species based on: 1. scientific experiments or 2. proven experience and scientifically documented studies. <i>Exotic tree species</i> that have not undergone a <i>systematic</i> review are considered as untested and are treated in accordance with 10.5.4.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.

<p><i>GUIDANCE 10.3.1d: "Other ecosystems" refers to dispersal and impact on, for example, forest wetlands, alpine environments, etc.</i></p>		
<p><b>10.3.2</b> Enrichment planting with seedlings from <i>exotic tree species</i> is only carried out in stands already dominated by <i>exotic tree species</i>.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<p><b>10.3.3</b> Special considerations, in the form of retained <i>native tree species</i>, are made prior to and during the establishment of new stands of <i>exotic tree species</i>. <i>GUIDANCE 10.3.3: Special considerations in the form of retained native tree species are made to enable future considerations entirely based on native tree species.</i></p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<p><b>10.3.4</b> New stands of lodgepole pine are not established within 1 km of nature reserves or national parks. DIRECTIVES 10.3.4: Already established stands within 1 km of nature reserves or national parks are removed no later than by the time of regeneration felling. The requirements in 10.3.4 also apply for other <i>exotic tree species</i> if such species show a significant <i>risk</i> of self- dispersal, according to 10.3.1.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<p><b>10.3.5</b> <i>The Organization</i> has a program for removing the self-dispersal of <i>exotic tree species</i> outside of existing and planned stands of <i>exotic tree species</i>. DIRECTIVES 10.3.5: Measures are carried out <i>systematically</i> and in proportion to the assessed negative impacts, with consideration for the <i>risk</i> of continued dispersal from trees originating from self-dispersed seedlings. Measures normally occur in conjunction with the regular management and maintenance, but can, where necessary, comprise additional measures. When stands of <i>exotic tree species</i> are removed to establish new stands of <i>native tree species</i>, measures are carried out to prevent the establishment of seedlings from self- dispersal of the previously occurring <i>exotic tree species</i>.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Review of procedures and verified during field visits.

<p><i>Engagement</i> to remove and/or counteract self-dispersal of <i>exotic tree species</i> to areas outside of the <i>property</i> occurs in agreement with the landowner that is affected by the self- dispersal.</p>		
<p><b>10.3.6</b> <i>Exotic tree species</i> are not retained as nature consideration during fellings.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<p><b>10.3.7</b> <i>Exotic tree species</i> are actively removed from <i>consideration patches</i> and <i>buffer zones</i> in conjunction with management activities.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<p><b>10.3.8</b> Large forest owners: The establishment and management of stands with <i>exotic tree species</i> are planned using a landscape perspective so as to avoid negative ecological impacts.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs. Verified during field visits.
<p><b>10.3.9</b> Large forest owners: <i>Exotic tree species</i> are not established in the majority of <i>landscapes</i> that contain no or a low proportion of <i>exotic tree species</i>. DIRECTIVES 10.3.9: <i>Landscapes</i> that contain no or a low proportion of <i>exotic tree species</i> are <i>landscapes</i> where less than 2 % of the area in the <i>landscape</i> consists of <i>exotic tree species</i> stands. The <i>landscapes</i> are based on the landscape division in the <i>Ecological Landscape Plan</i>.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs. Verified during field visits.
<p><b>10.3.10</b> Large forest owners: A plan to develop <i>landscapes</i> that contain no or a low proportion of <i>exotic tree species</i> is in place where such <i>landscapes</i> are missing in the <i>landholding</i>. GUIDANCE 10.3.10: <i>The plan to develop landscapes with no or a low proportion of exotic tree species can be a long-term plan for replacing exotic tree species with native tree species during regeneration felling. It can also entail the earlier removal of stands with exotic tree species. When selecting such landscapes, the occurrence of exotic tree species on adjacent properties, as well as preconditions for having a low proportion of exotic tree species in the whole landscape, should be considered.</i></p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs. Verified during field visits.

<p><b>10.3.11</b> The use and management of <i>exotic tree species</i> is monitored and documented in terms of <i>risks</i> for negative impacts on the surrounding environment, based on scientific appraisal.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans and ELPs.</p>
<p><b>10.4</b> <b>The <i>Organization</i> shall not use <i>genetically modified organisms</i> in the <i>Management Unit</i>.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>10.4.1</b> Genetically modified organisms are not used.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Use of GMO is prohibited by law. Interview with group member to confirm this.</p>
<p><b>10.5</b> <b>The <i>Organization</i> shall use silvicultural practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>10.5.1</b> Silvicultural practices that are implemented are <i>adapted to the site</i> and designed to meet the silvicultural objectives.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>10.5.2</b> Undergrowth that does not obstruct the subsequent management activities is retained during precommercial thinning of the understory prior to commercial thinning, regeneration felling, soil scarification or planting.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>10.5.3</b> Consideration is shown during precommercial and commercial thinning for the shrub and tree species present prior to the thinning.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>10.5.4</b> When <i>untested methods and materials</i> are used, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) FSC certified land can be used for research that is conducted by universities, colleges, research institutions, or national authorities.</li> <li>b) If <i>The Organization</i>, in their management operations or own experimental trials, wants to use an <i>untested method or material</i> that could entail a significant negative impact on human health or the environment, the directives for 10.5.4b are followed.</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 10.5.4b: <i>The Organization</i> assesses if an <i>untested method or material</i> comprises a <i>risk</i> for significant negative impacts on human health or the environment. The materials used to</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

determine the <i>risk</i> are documented and communicated with the <i>Certification Body</i> . If <i>The Organization</i> assesses the <i>risk</i> for negative impacts to be significant, or finds it difficult to assess the <i>risk</i> , <i>The Organization</i> shall consult FSC Sweden prior to the use of <i>untested materials or methods</i> .		
<b>10.6</b> <i>The Organization shall minimize or avoid the use of fertilizers. When fertilizers are used, The Organization shall demonstrate that use is equally or more ecologically and economically beneficial than use of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values, including soils.</i>	C	
<b>10.6.1</b> The Swedish Forest Agency's provisions and guidelines for the Forestry Act (Sw: Skogsstyrelsens föreskrifter och allmänna råd till skogsvårdslagen) from 2017 are complied with during fertilization.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<b>10.6.2</b> Large forest owners: At least 20 % of the fertilizable area is left unfertilized. DIRECTIVES 10.6.2: "Fertilizable area" refers to <i>forest land</i> that can be fertilized according to the Swedish Forest Agency's guidelines from 2017. Fertilizable area that has been set aside in relation to 6.5.1 or 6.5.2 or that has not been fertilized as a consideration for reindeer herding (3.2.2) may be counted.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and fertilization calculations. Interviews demonstrated awareness of this requirement, no evidence to suggest fertilization exceed 20%. Fertilization also verified during field visits.
<b>10.6.3</b> When fertilizers are used, their type, dose, and time of application are documented on the stand level. DIRECTIVES 10.6.3: The Swedish Forest Agency is consulted regarding all areas to be fertilized.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<b>10.6.4</b> Fertilization is monitored. Any damage to the environment is documented, and plans and instructions are revised to avoid its recurrence.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans and . Verified during field visits.
<b>10.6.5</b> The Swedish Forest Agency's recommendations are complied with for ash recycling.	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.
<b>10.6.6</b> <i>Organic fertilizers</i> are not used without review according to the directives	N/A	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.



<p>for <i>untested methods and materials</i> as per 10.5.4.</p>		
<p><b>10.7 The Organization shall use integrated pest management and silviculture systems which avoid, or aim at eliminating, the use of chemical pesticides. The Organization shall not use any chemical pesticides prohibited by FSC policy. When pesticides are used, The Organization shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values and human health.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>10.7.1</b> The <i>risks</i> of damage caused by fungi, wind and insects is reduced through the application of section 29 of the Forestry Act and related provisions.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits. Management practices are adapted to minimize risks.</p>
<p><b>10.7.2</b> Chemical <i>pesticides</i> classified by the Swedish Chemicals Agency as “toxic”, “corrosive”, “harmful”, and “dangerous for the environment” are not used on <i>forest land</i> unless FSC has granted derogation. This also applies to chemical <i>pesticides</i> that are prohibited by the FSC Pesticides Policy, FSC-POL-30-001.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 10.7.2: For chemical <i>pesticides</i> classified by the Swedish Chemicals Agency as “toxic”, “corrosive”, “harmful”, and “dangerous for the environment”, but not considered “highly hazardous pesticides” in the FSC Pesticides Policy, FSC Sweden can grant derogations for special circumstances. The rules for derogations regarding 10.7.2 are set by FSC Sweden.</p> <p>Derogations for using chemical <i>pesticides</i> that are on the FSC list of “highly hazardous pesticides” can be granted after application to the FSC Performance and Standards Unit according to FSC-PRO-30-001 (Pesticide Derogation Procedure). For the use of such chemical <i>pesticides</i> in Sweden, an application for derogation must also be submitted to FSC Sweden.</p> <p>Derogation is required both for the planting of seedlings that have been preliminarily treated in the nursery, and for post-treatment in the field. This requirement</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Chemical pesticides are not used in accordance with group Entity’s internal rules. Verified during field visits and in interviews with group members.</p>

does not apply to other chemical use in nurseries.		
<b>10.7.3</b> When seedlings are ordered, requirements are placed on the plant producer to work <i>systematically</i> to reduce the use of chemical <i>pesticides</i> that may have negative impacts on human health and the environment in the nursery.	C	The group entity requires that only mechanical protection is to be used for all group members. Verified via interviews with group entity personnel, group members and via field visits.
<b>10.7.4</b> Any use of chemical <i>pesticides</i> complies with safety data sheets that fulfill the Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council (REACH) and user instructions.	N/A	
<b>10.7.5</b> Any use of chemical <i>pesticides</i> is documented regarding type, quantity used, time period, location and rationale for use. DIRECTIVES 10.7.5: The indicator does not apply for pine weevil post-treatment in the field that has been handled according to 10.7.2.	N/A	
<b>10.7.6</b> Any use of chemical <i>pesticides</i> is monitored, and plans and instructions are revised to ensure effective use and avoid damage to human health and the environment.	N/A	
<b>10.8</b> <i>The Organization shall minimize, monitor and strictly control the use of biological control agents in accordance with internationally accepted scientific protocols. When biological control agents are used, The Organization shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values.</i>	N/A	No biological control agents as per interview with Group Entity and group members. Verified through field visits.
<b>10.8.1</b> The use of <i>biological control agents</i> is minimized. DIRECTIVES 10.8.1: The fungus <i>Phlebiopsis gigantea</i> may be used to treat root rot as necessary.	N/A	
<b>10.8.2</b> Only scientifically evaluated and effective <i>biological control agents</i> that are approved by the Swedish Chemicals Agency are used.	N/A	
<b>10.8.3</b> Any use of <i>biological control agents</i> occurs with appropriate techniques and methods that comply with the terms of the Swedish Chemicals Agency.	N/A	

<p><b>10.8.4</b> Any use of biological control agents where there is risk of damage to human health and the environment is documented regarding type, quantity used, time period, location and rationale for use.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p><b>10.8.5</b> Any use of biological control agents is monitored, and plans and instructions are revised to ensure effective use and avoid damage to human health and the environment.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p><b>10.9</b> <i>The Organization shall assess risks and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from natural hazards proportionate to scale, intensity, and risk.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>10.9.1</b> Forest management is conducted, within the scope of the forest management objectives, so that the risk for extensive damage to forests and other ecosystems is reduced when natural hazards occur.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>10.9.2</b> Preventative measures against fire are carried out in conjunction with management activities where there is a high risk of fire.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>10.10</b> <i>The Organization shall manage infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture so that water resources and soils are protected, and disturbance of and damage to rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values are prevented, mitigated and/or repaired.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>10.10.1</b> Soil scarification is <i>adapted to the site</i> and is carried out using <i>best practice</i> to minimize the impact on soil.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>10.10.2</b> Soil scarification is carried out so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) damage to known archaeological monuments and cultural remains is prevented,</li> <li>b) damage to existing nature considerations is prevented,</li> <li>c) erosion and negative impacts on the water environment are prevented.</li> </ul> <p>DIRECTIVES 10.10.2: <i>The forest sector goals for cultural heritage sites on forest land (Sw: målbilder för kulturmiljöer i skogsmark) are</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.</p>

<p>implemented in the monitoring, documentation, adaptation and application of forest management activities.  <i>GUIDELINES 10.10.2: In addition to the above, see the forestry sector's joint guidelines for considerations for archaeological monuments and cultural remains (Sw: skogsbrukets branschgemensamma riktlinjer för hänsyn till forn- och kulturlämningar) on Skogforsk's website.</i></p>		
<p><b>10.10.3</b> Site-specific management instructions with planned consideration measures are in place prior to soil scarification.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits and review of planning instructions.
<p><b>10.10.4</b> Damage from soil scarification is repaired as long as this does not risk worsening the damage that occurred.  <b>DIRECTIVES 10.10.4:</b> If archaeological monuments are damaged, the County Administrative Board is contacted before any restoration measures are carried out.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits. No damages from scarification identified.
<p><b>10.10.5</b> When new forest roads are constructed it is ensured that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the running of watercourses is preserved,</li> <li>b) damage to the water environment and associated buffer zones is prevented,</li> <li>c) crossings over watercourses do not create obstacles to the migration of aquatic organisms,</li> <li>d) road ditches do not discharge directly into watercourses or wetlands with significant conservation value.</li> </ul>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits. No new forest roads identified.
<p><b>10.10.6</b> Obstacles to the migration of aquatic organisms caused by road culverts are removed in conjunction with road reparations that involve excavation.</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits. No reparations of roads identified, group members demonstrated an awareness of this requirement.
<p><b>10.10.7</b> When carrying out forest road restoration that involves excavation, particle runoff into water is minimized and it is ensured that road ditches do not discharge</p>	C	Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits. No restorations of roads identified,

<p>directly into watercourses or <i>wetlands with significant conservation value</i>.</p>		<p>group members demonstrated an awareness of this requirement.</p>
<p><b>10.10.8</b> Large forest owners: Action plans are developed and implemented to remove obstacles to the migration of aquatic organisms caused by road culverts in <i>valuable watercourses</i>. <i>GUIDANCE 10.10.8: "Valuable watercourses" refer to watercourses of particular national or regional conservation or fishing value identified by authorities. The action plan is linked to the Ecological Landscape Plan.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members and review of management plans. Verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>10.11 The Organization shall manage activities associated with harvesting and extraction of timber and non-timber forest products so that <i>environmental values are conserved, merchantable waste is reduced, and damage to other products and services is avoided.</i></b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>10.11.1</b> Tops and branches of spruce, pine and birch can be extracted where the impacts on the productivity of the soil are limited, provided that at least 20 % of the tops and branches are retained. DIRECTIVES 10.11.1: Tops and branches do not have to be retained:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) from <i>exotic tree species</i>,</li> <li>b) as a consideration for outdoor recreation,</li> <li>c) in conjunction with management to create deciduous-dominated stands, or forest grazing/pasture lands,</li> <li>d) where the retention of tops and branches counteracts the nature conservation objective.</li> </ul> <i>GUIDANCE 10.11.1: Piles of tops and branches are preferentially retained in sun-exposed sites and/or in association with other retained considerations after regeneration felling.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members. Verified during field visits.</p>
<p><b>10.11.2</b> The extraction of tops and branches of tree species other than spruce, pine, birch and <i>exotic tree species</i> is avoided. DIRECTIVES 10.11.2: Tops and branches of such tree species may be extracted in conjunction with <i>conservation management measures</i> or in deciduous-dominated production stands, except where the stand</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Interview with group members. Verified during field visits.</p>

<p>can be expected to have high values for wood- living beetles associated with deciduous trees. Tops and branches are retained to a sufficient extent to achieve the nature conservation objective for the stand. <i>GUIDANCE 10.11.2: High values can be expected if the stand lies in a region or landscape with well-known populations of rare and threatened beetles associated with deciduous wood.</i></p>		
<p><b>10.11.3</b> Considerations are made for wood-living beetles by adapting the storage and chipping of tops and branches. <i>GUIDANCE 10.11.3: If stacks, particularly of noble broad-leaf trees, have been left lying over the summer, it is important to remove and retain the topmost layer of branches during extraction. For additional guidance, see the Swedish Forest Agency’s publication: “Hänsyn vid uttag av grot” (in Swedish).</i></p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits.
<p><b>10.11.4</b> Stumps can only be harvested after review and approval by FSC Sweden. DIRECTIVES 10.11.4: Exceptions from the need for review apply when the method is used at a very small scale and not as a part of the regular commercial operations.</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits. No indications of stumps being harvested.
<p><b>10.12 The Organization shall dispose of waste materials in an environmentally appropriate manner.</b></p>	C	
<p><b>10.12.1</b> Harmful emissions of chemicals, fuel, oils and non-organic waste are minimized through preventative measures and choice of chemical products.</p>	C	Interview with group members, review of procedures and use of chemicals. Per interviews little to no amounts are used. Verified via field visits and walk throughs in offices.
<p><b>10.12.2</b> Waste materials are returned to the supplier or deposited at an approved recycling station.</p>	C	Interview with group members and verified during field visits.
<p><b>10.12.3</b> <i>Dangerous goods</i> are transported in approved packages or containers. <i>GUIDANCE 10.12.3: See the website for the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency for more information about the transport of dangerous goods.</i></p>	N/A	Interview with group members and verified during field visits. No evidence to suggest dangerous goods are being transported.

## Appendix 7 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table

REQUIREMENT	C/NC/NA
<b>1. Quality Management</b>	
1.1 The FME shall appoint a management representative as having overall responsibility and authority for the organization’s compliance with all applicable requirements of this standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p><b>Evidence 1.1:</b> 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> <p>Among audited group members, the owner of the property is typically the management representative, as confirmed in interviews.</p>	
1.2 A system shall be implemented to track and trace all products that are sold with an FSC Claim from the <i>forest of origin</i> to the <i>forest gate(s)</i> . When legally required, and for group and multiple FMU certificates, this system shall also be documented. <i>The forest of origin should be the smallest reportable manageable unit, such as a tax parcel. It shall never be larger than a Forest Management Unit (FMU). The forest gate is defined as the point where the change in ownership of the certified-forest product occurs.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim/ la OMF no vende productos con una declaración FSC
<p><b>Evidence 1.2:</b> 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 with own FSC CoC certificates.</p>	
1.3 The FME shall maintain complete records of all FSC-related COC activities, including sales and training, for at least 5 years.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p><b>Evidence 1.3:</b> 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 at least 7 years to comply with Swedish accounting legislation.</p>	
1.4 The FME shall define its <i>forest gate(s)</i> (check all that apply):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Stump</b> <i>Stumpage sale or sales of standing timber; transfer of ownership of certified-forest product occurs upon harvest.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>On-site concentration yard</b> <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at concentration yard under control of FME.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Off-site Mill/ Log Yard/ Port</b> <i>Transfer of ownership occurs when certified-product is unloaded or paid for at purchaser’s facility or a facility under the purchaser’s control.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Auction house/ Brokerage</b> <i>Transfer of ownership occurs at a government-run or private auction house/ brokerage.</i>	

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lump-sum sale/ Per Unit/ Pre-Paid Agreement</b> <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 <u>before</u> harvesting begins. Similar to a per-unit sale.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Log landing</b> <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at landing/yarding areas.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> (Please describe):	
1.5 The FME shall have sufficient control over its <i>forest gate(s)</i> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim/ la OMF no vende productos con una declaración FSC
<b>Evidence 1.4/1.5:</b> The audited group members utilize certified contractors for harvesting activities, almost exclusively sourced by CoC certified 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.	
1.6 The FME and its contractors shall not process FSC-certified material prior to transfer of ownership at the <i>forest gate(s)</i> without conforming to applicable chain of custody requirements. <i>NOTE: This does not apply to log cutting or de-barking units, small portable sawmills, on-site processing of chips/biomass or primary processing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) under the FME's control (e.g., latex, rattan, maple syrup, etc.) originating from the FMU under evaluation.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
<b>Evidence 1.6:</b>	
1.7 The FME has supported transaction verification conducted by SCS and Assurance Services International (ASI) by providing samples of FSC transaction data as requested by SCS. <i>NOTE: Pricing information is not within the scope of transaction verification data disclosure.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no verification requested/ no se ha pedido la verificación
1.8 The FME shall support fiber testing by surrendering samples and specimens of materials and information about species composition and the location where the sample originated for verification, as requested by its certification body, ASI or FSC.	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no verification requested/ no se ha pedido la verificación
<b>Evidence 1.7/1.8:</b>	
<b>2. Product Control, Sales and Delivery</b>	
2.1. Products from the certified forest area shall be identifiable as certified at the <i>forest gate(s)</i> .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim/ la OMF no vende productos con una declaración FSC
<b>Evidence 2.1:</b> see 2.1	



<p>2.2 Information about all products sold shall be compiled and documented for all FMUs in the scope of certification, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Common and scientific species name;</li> <li>2) Product name or description;</li> <li>3) Volume (or quantity) of product;</li> <li>4) Information to trace the material to the source of origin harvest block;</li> <li>5) Harvest date;</li> <li>6) If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume/quantity produced; and</li> <li>7) Whether or not the material was sold with an FSC Claim.</li> </ol>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence 2.2:</b> 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 and specified for species and quality. 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. Timber purchasing companies are almost exclusively FSC CoC certified.</p>	
<p>2.3. The FME shall ensure that all sales documents issued for outputs sold with FSC claims include the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) name and contact details of the FME;</li> <li>b) information to identify the customer, such as their name and address;</li> <li>c) date when the document was issued;</li> <li>d) product name or description, including common and scientific species name(s);</li> <li>e) quantity of products sold;</li> <li>f) the FME’s FSC Forest Management (FM/COC) or FSC Controlled Wood (CW/FM) code;</li> <li>g) clear indication of the FSC claim for each product item or the total products as follows:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the claim “FSC 100%” for products from FSC 100% product groups; or</li> <li>ii. the claim “FSC Controlled Wood” for products from FSC Controlled Wood product groups.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim/ la OMF no vende productos con una declaración FSC</p>
<p>2.4 If the sales documentation issued by the FME is not included with the shipment of the product and this information is relevant for the customer to identify the product as being FSC certified, the related delivery documentation has included the same information as required in indicator 2.3 and a reference linking it to the sales documentation.</p> <p><b>Note: 2.3 and 2.4 are based on FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0 Clauses 5.1 and 5.3</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, delivery documentation not required or FME is not responsible for issuing delivery documentation/ <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim</p>

<p><b>Evidence 2.3/2.4:</b> 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"> <li>a) name and contact details of the organization;</li> <li>b) name and address of the customer;</li> <li>c) date when the document was issued;</li> <li>d) description of the product;</li> <li>e) estimated quantity of the products sold;</li> <li>f) certification status of the group member FME, which can be controlled by the purchaser by contacting the group entity Prosilva, that can provide FSC claims of products as well as the FSC certification code</li> <li>g) clear indication of the FSC claim for the total products</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, for h:</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 If the FME is unable to include the FSC claim and/or certificate code in sales or delivery documents, the required information has been provided to the customer through supplementary documentation (e.g. supplementary letters). In this case, the FME has obtained permission from SCS to implement supplementary documentation in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. there shall exist clear information linking the supplementary documentation to the sales or delivery documents;</li> <li>b. there is no risk that the customer will misinterpret which products are or are not FSC certified in the supplementary documentation; and</li> <li>c. where the sales documents contain multiple products with different FSC claims, each product shall be cross-referenced to the associated FSC claim provided in the supplementary documentation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> C</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> NC</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, all information included per 2.3 and/or 2.4/ toda la información está incluida según 2.3 y/o 2.4</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidence 2.5:</b></p>	

<p>2.6 The FME may identify products exclusively made of input materials from small or community producers by adding the following claim to sales documents: “From small or community forest producers.” This claim can be passed on along the supply chain by certificate holders.</p> <p><i>A forest management unit (FMU) or group of FMUs that meet(s) the small and low-intensity managed forest eligibility criteria (FSC-STD-1-003a) and addenda. A community FMU must comply with the tenure and management criteria defined in FSC-STD-40-004.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not a small or community producer; or does not wish to pass along this claim/ no es un productor pequeño o comunitario; o no desea transmitir esta declaración.</p>
<p><b>Evidence 2.6:</b></p>	
<p><b>3. Labeling and Promotion</b></p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> NA – FME does not use/ intend to use trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> NA – <b>CW/FM certificates are not allowed to use FSC trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit</b> (<i>Note: it is a Major nonconformity to 3.1 if CW/FM certificates are found to be using trademarks</i>).</p>	
<p>3.1 The FME shall adhere to relevant trademark use requirements of FSC-STD-50-001 described in the SCS <i>Trademark Annex for FMEs</i>.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence 3.1:</b> Refer to evidence and findings cited in applicable trademark checklist(s) cited below.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>FSC trademark use was detected for a CW/FM certificate as described in Major CAR for 3.1, FSC-STD-30-010, Annex 3, 1.2, and FSC-STD-50-001, 2.1e and 11.2:</i></p> <p>Review of relevant procedures in management system and review of promotional use of FSC trademarks by Group Entity and several group members. Group members wanting to use FSC trademarks are to contact the group entity. Review of 4 trademark uses on websites, approval had been received for 3 of them, see CAR 2021.19.</p>	
<p><b>4. Outsourcing</b></p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA – FME does not outsource any COC-related activities, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> NA – FME outsources low-risk activities such as transport and harvesting, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.</p>	
<p>4.1 The FME shall provide the names and contact details of all outsourced service providers.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>

<p>4.2 The FME shall have a control system for the outsourced process and agreement which ensures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>b) The outsourcer keeps records of FSC-certified material covered under the outsourcing agreement;</li> <li>c) The FME issues the final invoice for the processed or produced FSC-certified material following outsourcing;</li> <li>d) The outsourcer only uses FSC trademarks on products covered by the scope of the outsourcing agreement and not for promotional use;</li> <li>e) The outsourcer does not further outsource the material; and</li> <li>f) The outsourcer accepts the right of the certificate body to audit them.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence 4.1/4.2:</b></p>	
<p><b>5. Training and/or Communication Strategies/</b></p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<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 or communications, the intended frequency of COC training (e.g., training plan), and related program materials (e.g., presentations, memos, contracts, employee handbooks, etc.).</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence 5.1/5.2:</b> 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> <p>Group members are introduced to the CoC requirements upon joining 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>	

### Appendix 8 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table

Forest Management Trademark CARs Chart/ Certificate Type	Audit Type – Grade
<p><i>Since trademark use is a minor aspect of FM audits, most nonconformances result in Minor CARs outside of the exceptions noted in this table. In the cases of integrated operations (i.e., operations with both FM/COC</i></p>	

<i>and COC certificates), timelines assigned for Minor CARs may be aligned with nonconformities of the COC certificate (e.g., Minor CAR with deadline of 3 or 6 months). SCS national offices/affiliates may take local considerations (e.g., legal framework) into account to assign CAR grades.</i>	
FM/COC or FM (Single/Multiple FMU)	Main Evaluation – Major if detected prior to certificate issuance
	Re-Evaluation/ Surveillance – Major if certificate is not valid (e.g., suspended)
CW/FM (Single/Multiple/Group)	All – Major per 3.1 of SCS COC Indicators for FMEs
Annex A – TM Management System (TMMS)	All – Major if TMMS not approved by SCS or SCS affiliate
Annex B – Group	Main Evaluation – Major
	Re-Evaluation/ Surveillance – Major or Minor depending on the scale/scope

1. General Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks (FSC “checkmark-and-tree” logo, initials “FSC,” and/or name “Forest Stewardship Council”)		
<b>Trademark uses reviewed:</b>		
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.
Group member website	Case number 258471	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Group member website	Case number 310288	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Smallholder group informational material	Case number 309809	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Group member website	-	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> All known uses reviewed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample reviewed. Rationale that sample choice is sufficient to confirm requirements are met: Review of trademark use for all audited non SLIMF FMUs, sample of 4 uses during audit of Group Entity Central Office. Approval was identified for all but one FMU who was using FSC trademarks on their website.  <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</i>		

<p><i>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><b>1.2 Trademark License Agreement and valid certificate</b>                  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>	<p>Maintained on file by SCS Main Office</p>
<p><b>Evidence 1.2:</b> Maintained on file by SCS Main Office.</p>	
<p><b>1.6 Product Group List</b>                  The products intended to be labeled or promoted as FSC certified have been included in the organization’s certified product group list.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p>
<p><b>Evidence 1.6:</b> <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><b>1.3 Trademark License Code</b>                  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>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p>
<p><b>1.4 Trademark Symbol</b>                  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 Stewardship 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>	<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/ una o más de las exenciones anotadas aplica</p>
<p><b>2.1 Restrictions on using FSC trademarks</b>                  The organization <b>has not used</b> the FSC trademarks in the following ways:                  a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p>

<p>loss of credibility to the FSC certification scheme;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification;</p> <p>d) in product brand or company names, such as 'FSC Golden Timber' or website domain names;</p> <p>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 delivery documentation, in conformity with FSC chain of custody requirements.</p>	
<p><b>2.2 Translations</b>                  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>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no translations/ no hay traducciones</p>
<p><b>Evidence 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 2.2:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above;  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected Trademark use on group members website is not accompanied by the FSC license code, see CAR 2021.19; or  <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	
<p><b>Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules</b>                  The organization has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• color and font (8.1-8.3);</li> <li>• format and size (8.4-8.9);</li> <li>• label placement (8.10); and</li> <li>• 'Forests For All Forever' marks (9.1-9.7).</li> </ul>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p>
<p><b>1.5 Trademark Use Approval</b>                  The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval.                  OR                  The organization has an <b>approved trademark use management system</b> in place. (If the organization has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p>
<p><b>4.6 FSC trademarks</b> 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>	<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/ no se usan las marcas registradas en marcas de separación</p>

<p><b>Evidence Graphic Rules, 1.5, and 4.6:</b> <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>	<p>All Group Members’ use of the trademark has not been submitted for approval. See CAR 2021.19.</p>
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**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><b>6.1 Catalogues, Brochures, and Websites</b>                  When the FSC trademarks have been used in catalogues, brochures, or websites, the following requirements apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is sufficient to present the promotional elements only once in catalogues, brochures, websites, etc.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>If some or all of the products are available as FSC certified on request only, this is be clearly stated.</li> </ul>	<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 in catalogues/ brochures/websites/ no se usan marcas en catálogos, folletos y páginas web</p>
<p><b>6.2 Sales and Delivery Documents</b>                  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>	<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 on templates for FSC &amp; non-FSC products/ no se usan marcas registradas en plantillas para productos FSC y no FSC</p>
<p><b>6.3 Promotional Items</b>                  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>	<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/ no se etiquetan artículos promocionales</p>
<p><b>6.5 Trade Fairs</b>                  When the FSC trademarks are used for promotion at trade fairs, the organization has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>clearly marked which products are FSC certified, or</li> <li>add a visible disclaimer stating “Ask for our FSC®-certified products” or similar if no FSC-certified products are displayed.</li> </ol> <p><i>NOTE: Use of text to describe the FSC certification of the organization does not require a disclaimer.</i></p>	<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/ no se usan marcas registradas en ferias comerciales</p>
<p><b>Section 6.6 and 6.7 Investment/Financial Claims</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>



<p>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.</p> <p>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>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not making financial claims about FSC status/ no se hacen declaraciones financieras sobre el estado FSC</p>
<p><b>7.1 and 7.2 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos</b></p> <p>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>	<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 using other scheme logos/ no se usan logotipos de otros esquemas</p>
<p><b>7.3 Business Cards</b></p> <p>The FSC trademarks have not used on business cards to promote the organization’s certification.</p> <p>The FSC logo or ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks are not used on business cards for promotion.</p> <p>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>	<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, approval granted prior to July 1, 2011/ aprobación otorgada antes de 1/jul/2011</p>
<p><b>7.4 Promotion with CB Logo</b></p> <p>FSC certified products have not been promoted using only the SCS Kingfisher and/or SCS Global Services logo.</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><b>Evidence 6.1-6.3, 6.5-6.7, 7.1-7.4:</b> <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>	

**Annex A: Trademark use management system**  
 NA, not using a trademark management system (*Annex A checklist may be deleted*)

**Annex B, Additional trademark rules for group FM certificate holders**  
 NA, not a group FM certificate or group does not use FSC trademarks (*Annex B checklist may be deleted*)

<p><b>Annex B, 1.1</b> 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 type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS</p>
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<b>Evidence 1.1:</b> Interview with Group Entity staff and review of group members trademark use. One group member did not have approval for use of FSC trademark on their website.	
<b>Annex B, 1.2</b> 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: a) "Managing the FSC® group certification program of SCS Global Services" b) "Group certification by SCS Global Services"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not issuing individual membership documents/ no se emiten documentos de membresía individual
<b>Annex B, 1.3</b> 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. <i>Note: This only applies to documents issued per Annex B, 1.2 and NOT other documents such as group procedures.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS
<b>Annex B, 1.4</b> Subcodes of members shall not be added to the license code.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS/ c/ OBS
<b>Evidence 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4:</b> Review of individual member documents, clarifications are made that these are not to be confused with certificates. Documents do not contain any other certification scheme logo/trademark.	

## Appendix 9 – Peer Review and SCS Evaluation Team Response to Peer Review

A peer review was not conducted as part of this evaluation.

## Appendix 10 – SLIMF Eligibility Criteria

An FMU qualifies as a 'SLIMF' if it is either a 'small' FMU OR managed as a 'low intensity' FMU. Per INT-STD-01-003\_01, the area of a small forest is defined in relation to productive forest area. Permanent protected areas and areas with other uses within the FMU that are clearly indicated in the FMP and on the ground are not considered when calculating the size of the FMU to be classified as a SLIMF. Any SLIMF FMU under the scope of the FME under evaluation must meet at least one of the following criteria:

<input type="checkbox"/> N/A – none of the FMU(s) under evaluation qualify as a SLIMF according to the criteria below.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Small' FMU(s)	According to the SLIMF Eligibility Criteria addendum of FSC-STD-01-004a, the country/countries in which this certificate holder is located has a small SLIMF threshold of (check only one box): <input type="checkbox"/> 100 ha (247 acres) or less <input type="checkbox"/> Between 100 ha (247 acres) and 1,000 ha (2,471 acres) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1,000 ha (2,471 acres) or less

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>'Low intensity' FMU(s)</b> –The scope of the certificate includes FMU(s) in which the rate of harvest is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) AND these FMUs meet one of the following additional criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> The annual harvest from the total production forest area for any one FMU is less than 5000 cubic meters (2.1 million board feet).
	<input type="checkbox"/> The average annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5000 m <sup>3</sup> / year (2.1 million board feet / year) during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.

## Appendix 11 – Group Management Program

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

### Group Management Conformance Table

REQUIREMENT	C/NC/NA
<b>1. Requirements for Group Entities</b>	
1.1. The Group Entity shall be a person or group of persons registered as one independent legal entity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
1.2. The Group Entity shall comply with the applicable legal obligations, such as registration and payment of relevant fees and taxes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
1.3. When a Group Entity manages more than one group, it shall have enough capacity and resources to manage more than one certificate.  <i>NOTE: Each group will result in one certificate. In any one group, either all members are FSC FM/CoC, or all members are CW/FM; if some members are certified according to FM standards and others according to CW standards, then these would be two different groups.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; group entity manages a single group/ la entidad de grupo solamente administra un grupo
1.4. The Group Entity shall be responsible for conformance with this standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
1.5. The Group Entity shall make sure that all actors in the group demonstrate sufficient knowledge to fulfil their corresponding responsibilities within the group.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC

<p><b>Evidence Section 1:</b> Prosilva is a registered stock company. No pending claims from tax agency. They are certified to ISO 14001 have access to <a href="http://www.regelratt.se">www.regelratt.se</a> which is a website used by the forest industry to have access to relevant laws. Management system is available on the company web site and includes commitment to FSC. <a href="http://skogscertifiering.se/">http://skogscertifiering.se/</a></p> <p>Prosilva offers training on PEFC/FSC and Nature Value Assessments to all agents within the group, some of which are mandatory. Prosilva has performed trainings for its agents who shall inform the GM about the FSC rules when they prior to signing the certification agreement (joining the Group).</p> <p>OBS: In interviews with GMs, several of them demonstrated very poor knowledge of the FSC requirements.</p>	
<p><b>2. Requirements for Group Members</b></p>	
<p>2.1. A declaration of consent shall be signed by each member wishing to join a group. In the declaration, the member shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) commit to follow the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and the Group Rules;</li> <li>b) declare that the management units they are bringing into the group are not included in another FSC certificate;</li> <li>c) agree to allow the Group Entity, the certification body, FSC and ASI to fulfill their responsibilities;</li> <li>d) agree that the Group Entity will be the main contact for certification.</li> </ul> <p><i>NOTE: The declaration of consent 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 relationship agreed between the member and the Group Entity.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE 2: For Communities, the declaration may also be some other form of agreement such as assembly minutes, forest management contracts, tribal agreements for Indigenous communities, recordings of interviews in case of oral agreements, etc.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>2.1.1. The declaration shall be signed either by the group member or by their representative (e.g. Resource Manager or consultant).</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>

<p>2.1.2. When the member is represented by another party (e.g. Resource Manager or consultant), the declaration shall also include a verifiable agreement (legal or otherwise) between the member and their representative.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The requirement for the agreement to be verifiable means that the representatives must be able to prove that they have been authorized by the member to act on their behalf.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> NA; this situation does not occur within the group(s) / esta situación no ocurre en el (los) grupo(s)</p>
<p><b>Group Entity responsibilities:</b> The GE is responsible for developing all procedures for the group, legal documents, monitoring, marketing and FSC coordination and training.</p> <p><b>SLIMF and Non SLIMF Group member responsibilities:</b> The GM is responsible for all field operations, contacts with local clients, stakeholders and contractors, internal audit, training and FSC for contractors.</p> <p>The division of responsibilities between the group entity and the group members is described in the agreement signed by the GE and the GM.</p>	
<p><b>3. Division of Responsibilities</b></p>	
<p>3.1 The Group Entity can divide the responsibilities among the different actors in the group (e.g. Group Entity, members, contractors, etc.).</p> <p><i>NOTE: The Group Entity is free to determine at what level implementation of requirements is carried out as long as conformance is demonstrated for each management unit (as per Clause 4.1).</i></p>	<p><i>This indicator is optional; evaluation of conformity to division of responsibilities occurs under 3.2/ Este indicador es opcional; la evaluación de la división de responsabilidades ocurre bajo 3.2</i></p>
<p>3.2 The Group Entity shall define and document the division of key responsibilities within the group, as described in Clause 3.1.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>3.3. <b>[Resource Manager and Resource Management Unit only]</b> Some or all members of a group may choose to transfer the responsibility to ensure conformance with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard in their management unit(s) to one Resource Manager, and may be grouped into one Resource Management Unit (RMU).</p>	<p><i>This indicator is optional; evaluation of conformity occurs under 3.3.1/ Este indicador es opcional; su evaluación ocurre bajo 3.3.1</i></p>

<p><b>3.3.1. [Resource Manager and Resource Management Unit only]</b> The Resource Manager of an RMU shall assume the responsibility to conform with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and to follow the Group Rules on behalf of all members within their RMU.</p> <p><i>NOTE: An RMU can include all members of a group or a sub-set of members within a group. There may be more than one RMU within one group.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE 2: Members of an RMU may implement some management activities in their management units, as long as the responsibility to ensure that there is conformance with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard remains with the Resource Manager.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; not an RMU/ no es una UMR</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 3:</b> The agreement between group entity and each group member and agent govern responsibilities, these are also clearly defined in the management system.</p>	
<p><b>4. Conformance across management units</b></p>	
<p>4.1. Conformance with all requirements of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard shall be demonstrated for each management unit within the scope of the FSC FM/CoC or CW/FM group certificate, except as provided for in Clause 4.2.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>4.2. Conformance with area thresholds in the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard with regards to Criterion 6.5, can be demonstrated across management units rather than at the level of the individual management unit for FM/CoC SLIMF management units.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA; does not have SLIMF MUs/ no cuenta con UM SLIMF</p>
<p>4.2.1. <b>[Mixed SLIMF and non-SLIMF groups only]</b> In groups with SLIMF and non-SLIMF management units, the non-SLIMF management units may support SLIMF management units to conform with such requirement, partially or fully.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Non-SLIMF management units always need to conform with Criterion 6.5 in each management unit.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA; not a mixed SLIMF &amp; non-SLIMF group / no se trata de un grupo mixto de SLIMF y no SLIMF</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 4:</b></p>	
<p><b>5. Group Size</b></p>	
<p>5.1. The Group Entity shall determine, based on its human and technical capacities, the maximum group size that it can manage, in terms of:</p> <p>a) number of group members;</p> <p>b) individual management unit size; and/or</p> <p>c) total forest area and distribution.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>

<p>5.2. The Group Entity shall develop a group management system (as per Part II of this standard) that allows the continuous and effective management of all members of the group.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 5:</b> The group entity has determined to have sufficient resources to manage the group and has been able to support rapid growth in the number of members. There are additional personnel available should the need arise. The group entity has specified the maximum number of group members in its group management procedures.</p>	
<p><b>6. Multinational Groups</b></p>	
<p>6.1. FM/CoC and CW/FM groups shall only be established at a national level, except in the cases described in clause 6.2.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; not a multinational group / no se trata de un grupo multinacional</p>
<p>6.2. In cases where homogeneous conditions between countries allow for an effective and credible multinational implementation of the group management system, the Group Entity shall request formal approval from FSC International through their certification body to allow certification of such a group.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not a multinational group / no se trata de un grupo multinacional</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 6:</b></p>	
<p><b>7. Adding new members to the group</b></p>	
<p>7.1 The Group Entity shall evaluate every applicant who wishes to join the group and ensure that there are no major non-conformities with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard, nor with membership requirements, before adding the new member to the group.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>7.1.1. The Group Entity shall conduct a field evaluation to conform with Clause 7.1, except for applicants meeting the SLIMF eligibility criteria or the definition of Communities in this standard, whose evaluation may be done through a desk audit.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> N/A; no non-SLIMF group members added / no se agregó ningún miembro no SLIMF</p>
<p>7.1.2. When a member wants to move from one group to another group managed by the same Group Entity, the Group Entity shall implement this evaluation to allow for the move.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A; no such movements / no hubo ningún movimiento de este tipo</p>

<p><b>Evidence Section 7:</b> There is a checklist to be filled in by the applicant. The checklist covers the FSC P&amp;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>Agents are not allowed to onboard non-SLIMF FMUs, this is done by Prosilvas own personnel and includes training of relevant staff for the joining group member.</p>	
<p><b>8. Provision of information to members</b></p>	
<p>8.1. The Group Entity shall provide each member with information, or access to information, about how the group works. The information shall include:</p> <p>a) The Group Rules and the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard, and an explanation of how to conform with them. The Group Entity shall provide access to other applicable normative documents upon request;</p> <p>b) An explanation of the certification body’s evaluation process;</p> <p>c) An explanation that the certification body, FSC and ASI have the right to access the members' management unit(s) and documentation;</p> <p>d) An explanation that the certification body will publish a public summary of their evaluation report; ASI may publish a public summary of their evaluation; and FSC will include information about the group in its database;</p> <p>e) Explanation of any costs associated with joining the group.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>8.1.1. When the Group Entity provides members with a summary of these items, it shall make available the full documentation upon request from the members.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA; only full documentation provided/ solo se proporciona documentación completa</p>
<p>8.1.2. The information shall be presented in a way that is understandable for members.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 8:</b> Information included in agreements and checklists as summaries. Links to full standards via the group entities website.</p>	
<p><b>9. Group Rules</b></p>	



<p>9.1. The Group shall develop, implement and keep updated written rules to manage the group covering all applicable requirements of this standard, according to the scale and complexity of the group, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Rules setting out who can become a member of the group;</li> <li>b) Rules setting out how new members are included in the group;</li> <li>c) Rules setting out when members can be suspended or removed from the group;</li> <li>d) An internal monitoring system for the group;</li> <li>e) A process to resolve corrective action requests issued internally and by the certification body, including timelines and implications if any of the corrective actions are not solved;</li> <li>f) A procedure to solve complaints from stakeholders to group members;</li> <li>g) A system for tracking and tracing the FSC-certified forest products produced by the group members up to the defined 'forest gate', in conformance with Criterion 8.5 of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard;</li> <li>h) Requirements related to marketing or sales of products;</li> <li>i) Rules setting out how to use the FSC trademarks and the trademark license code.</li> </ul> <p><i>NOTE: The reference to the scale and complexity of the group refers to the fact that larger and more complex groups, with higher associated risk, might require more comprehensive procedures to ensure the protection of environmental and social values, such as High Conservation Values, Indigenous Peoples, Rare and Threatened Species, etc. Smaller groups, with less associated risk, may develop simpler procedures, but still need to develop all the mentioned Group Rules.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 9:</b> Management system includes all required procedures except g) which is governed by wood purchasing companies according to industry standard. Certain information, such as complaints procedure, inclusion/exclusion in the group and standard requirements are also made public via the webpage and/or included in the agreement.</p>	
<p><b>10. Group Records</b></p>	
<p>10.1. The Group Entity shall maintain up-to-date records covering all applicable requirements of this standard and the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard. These shall include:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>

<p>a) A list of the members of the group, including for each member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. name and contact details;</li> <li>ii. the date of entering the group and, where relevant, the date of leaving the group, and the reason for leaving;</li> <li>iii. number and area of management units included in the group;</li> <li>iv. geographical location (e.g. coordinates) of each management unit included in the group, supported by a map or documentation;</li> <li>v. type of forest ownership per member (e.g. privately owned; state managed; communal management; etc.);</li> <li>vi. main products;</li> <li>vii. the sub-certificate codes where these have been issued.</li> </ul> <p>b) Any records of training provided to staff and/or group members;</p> <p>c) Declaration of consent from all group members, as per Clause 2.2;</p> <p>d) Documentation and records regarding recommended practices for forest management (e.g. silvicultural systems);</p> <p>e) Records demonstrating the implementation of the group management system. These shall include records of internal monitoring, non-conformities identified in such monitoring, actions taken to correct any identified non-conformity, etc.;</p> <p>f) Records of the actual or estimated annual harvesting volume of the group and actual annual FSC sales volume of the group.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The Group Entity must fulfil data protection responsibilities when gathering this information.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: The amount of records maintained centrally by the Group Entity may vary from case to case. In order to reduce costs and increase the efficiency of evaluations by the certification body, and subsequent monitoring by FSC and/or ASI, records should be stored centrally or be accessible digitally whenever possible.</i></p>	
<p>10.2. The Group Entity shall retain group records for at least five (5) years.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>

<p>10.3. In countries where FSC International has determined that there is a high risk of false claims involving material harvested from groups, the Group Entity shall maintain up-to-date records of the harvesting and FSC sales volumes of each management unit in the group.</p> <p><i>NOTE: For management units in the group where the harvesting and sales are carried out by a contractor, the Group Entity should verify that the volumes sold by the contractor correspond to the estimated volumes bought from its group. For this purpose, the contract between the forest owner and the contractor should include a requirement for the contractor to communicate to the forest owner and the Group Entity the actual (measured) volume harvested and sold.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; FSC has not determined high risk/ el FSC no ha determinado riesgo alto</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 10:</b> Prosilva has a database where all members are registered. Physical originals of consent agreements are retained for at least 7 years.</p> <p>Prosilva has records of both external and internal training of personnel, as verified through record review.</p> <p>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 (requirement for FMUs &gt; 20 ha) and are available for all forest owners by the Swedish Forestry Agency. Management plans also include annual harvesting volumes.</p> <p>The members only use certified contractors that are trained in FSC and government regulations.</p>	
<p><b>11. Internal monitoring</b></p>	
<p>11.1. The Group Entity shall implement a documented internal monitoring system that includes at least the following:</p> <p>a) A description of the internal monitoring system, sufficient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. make sure there is continued conformance with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard in the management units in the group;</li> <li>ii. check the adequacy of the group management system and the Group Entity’s overall performance.</li> </ul> <p>b) Regular (at least annual) monitoring visits to a sample of management units within the group;</p> <p>c) Regular (at least annual) analysis of the results of the internal monitoring to improve the group management system.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>

<p>11.2 The Group Entity shall select the requirements from the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard to be monitored at each internal evaluation according to the scale, intensity and risk.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The Group Entity may focus their monitoring during a particular internal evaluation on specific elements of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard, with the provision that all aspects of the Forest Stewardship Standard are evaluated for the group, through the sampled management units, during the period of validity of the certificate.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC										
<p>11.3 The Group Entity shall specify what constitutes an active management unit for the group and justify the classification of activities as active or inactive management.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC										
<p>11.4 The minimum sample of management units to be visited annually for internal monitoring shall be calculated according to this table:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Size Class</th> <th>Internal Monitoring</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Active management units &gt; 1,000 ha</td> <td><math>x = \sqrt{y}</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Active management unit <math>\leq</math> 1,000ha; SLIMF management units and Communities</td> <td><math>x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inactive management units</td> <td><math>x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management units in Resource Management Units</td> <td>At the discretion of the Group Entity</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Where:                      x = number of management units to be sampled;                      y = number of active or inactive management units within each category.</p>	Size Class	Internal Monitoring	Active management units > 1,000 ha	$x = \sqrt{y}$	Active management unit $\leq$ 1,000ha; SLIMF management units and Communities	$x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}$	Inactive management units	$x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}$	Management units in Resource Management Units	At the discretion of the Group Entity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Size Class	Internal Monitoring										
Active management units > 1,000 ha	$x = \sqrt{y}$										
Active management unit $\leq$ 1,000ha; SLIMF management units and Communities	$x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}$										
Inactive management units	$x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}$										
Management units in Resource Management Units	At the discretion of the Group Entity										
<p>11.5 The number of units calculated (X) using Table 1 shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC										
<p>11.6 Inactive management units may be monitored remotely if the necessary information is available (e.g. remote sensing, digital imagery, phone interviews, documents proving payments/sales/provision of material and training).</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA; does not use remote monitoring/ no se use el monitoreo remoto										
<p>11.7 The Group Entity may lower the minimum sample defined in Clause 11.4 based on the regular analysis of the results of the monitoring as per Clause 11.1 c).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; minimum sample not altered/ no se ha modificado el muestreo mínimo										

<p>11.8 The Group Entity shall increase the calculated minimum sample when high risks are identified (e.g. unresolved substantiated land tenure or use rights disputes, High Conservation Values (HCVs) are threatened, substantiated stakeholder complaints, etc.).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; high risks not identified/ no se han identificado riesgos altos</p>
<p>11.9 The Group Entity should visit different management units during the internal monitoring from the ones previously visited by the certification body, unless there are pending corrective actions, complaints or risk factors that require a revisit of the same units.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>11.10 The Group Entity shall issue corrective action requests to address non-conformities identified during the internal monitoring and follow up their implementation.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Non-conformities identified at the level of a group member may result in non-conformities at the Group Entity level when the non-conformities are determined to be the result of the Group Entity's performance.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 11:</b> Review of procedure for internal auditing and for internal auditor competence. Procedure govern calculations for minimum samples for SLIMF/non-SLIMF members and are in compliance with FSC requirements. All FMUs are deemed “active” with the risk factor higher for larger FMUs with more forestry activities. A long term internal audit plan has been produced to cover all FSC P&amp;Cs over 5 years.</p>	
<p><b>12. Chain of Custody</b></p>	
<p>12.1. The Group Entity shall implement a tracking and tracing system for FSC-certified products, to ensure that they are not mixed with non-certified material.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no sales of FSC-certified material/ no se ha vendido material certificado FSC</p>
<p>12.2. The Group Entity shall ensure that all invoices for sales of FSC-certified material include the required information (as per the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard).</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no sales of FSC-certified material/ no se ha vendido material certificado FSC</p>
<p>12.3. The Group Entity shall ensure that all uses of the FSC trademarks are approved by their certification body in advance.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> NA; no use of FSC TMs/ no se usan las marcas de FSC</p>

<p>12.4. The Group Entity shall not issue any kind of certificates to their members that could be confused with FSC certificates.</p> <p><i>NOTE: To prove that certain management units are covered by the group certificate, the member can use the list of the members of the group or a member certificate issued by the certification body. It is important that none of these documents are confused with the FSC certificate of the group held by the Group Entity.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 12:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group entity does not issue any kind of certificates to their members that could be confused with FSC certificates per review of group records cited in this checklist and/or other evidence: (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no other evidence)</p>	<p><b>Minor CAR:</b> See CHK for 50-001, indicator 1,3 and CAR report.</p>

REQUIREMENT	NA
<b>13. Requirements for forestry contractors</b>	
<p>13.1. Forestry contractors <b>may</b> only join an FSC FM/CoC group.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Forestry contractors can join more than one group, and operate under the FSC group certificate(s) but only in the management units of the group(s) that they have joined.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE 2: Forestry contractors can have a separate CoC certificate to operate in management units outside the group.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE 3: Upon completion of the ongoing revision of standard FSC-STD-30-010 V2-0 FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises, this clause will be reviewed to consider the possibility for forestry contractors to also join CW/FM groups.</i></p>	<p><i>This indicator is optional; evaluation of conformity occurs under 13.3/ Este indicador es opcional; su evaluación ocurre bajo 13.3</i></p>
<p>13.2. The Group Entity may allocate responsibilities to conform with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard to forestry contractors in the group, as per Clause 3.1.</p>	<p><i>This indicator is optional; evaluation of conformity occurs under 3.1 and 13.3/ Este indicador es opcional; su evaluación ocurre bajo 3.1 y 13.3</i></p>

<p>13.3. A contract, including a declaration of consent, shall be signed by each forestry contractor wishing to join a group. In the contract, the forestry contractor shall:</p> <p>a) commit to follow the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and the Group Rules, and to ensure that any sub-contractors will follow them as well;</p> <p>b) agree to allow the Group Entity, the certification body, FSC and ASI to fulfil their responsibilities;</p> <p>c) agree that the Group Entity will be the main contact for certification;</p> <p>d) include the agreed terms between the forestry contractor and the Group Entity.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 13:</b></p>	
<p><b>14. Group Rules for contractors</b></p>	
<p>14.1. The Group Entity shall adapt the Group Rules to include forestry contractors.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>14.2. The Group Entity shall define the process for forestry contractors to report to the Group Entity the type (e.g. harvesting, planting, management plan development), location (management units of the group) and outcomes (e.g. volume harvested, number of plants planted, documents developed) of their operations.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 14:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to section 9 for evidence for 14.1 and 14.2:</p>	
<p><b>15. Evaluation of new forestry contractors</b></p>	
<p>15.1. The Group Entity shall evaluate each forestry contractor applying to join the group, prior to approving the application, through:</p> <p>15.1.1. An on-site evaluation of an operation in a sample management unit; and/or</p> <p>15.1.2. A verification that the contractor has sufficient qualifications or knowledge to operate according to the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and fulfil their responsibilities within the group.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C, applies 15.1.1 and 15.1.2 or/ se aplican 15.1.1 y 15.1.2 o; <input type="checkbox"/> C, applies 15.1.1 or/ se aplica 15.1.1 o; <input type="checkbox"/> C, applies 15.1.2/ se aplica 15.1.2 <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>15.2. When a forestry contractor wants to move from one group to another group managed by the same Group Entity, the Group Entity shall implement this evaluation to allow for the move.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA; this situation has not occurred / esta situación no ha ocurrido</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 15:</b></p>	
<p><b>16. Records regarding contractors</b></p>	

<p>16.1. When forestry contractors are included in the group, the Group Entity shall maintain up-to-date records, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Name and contact details;</li> <li>b) The date of entering the group and, where relevant, the date of leaving the group, and the reason for leaving;</li> <li>c) Any records of training provided by the Group Entity;</li> <li>d) The results of the forestry contractors' monitoring through the sampled management units (Clause 17.1) and the targeted internal evaluation (Clause 18.1);</li> <li>e) Records of the harvesting and sales volumes, at least annually, if applicable, resulting from operations carried out by contractors within the group certificate.</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>						
<b>Evidence Section 16:</b>							
<b>17. Internal monitoring with contractors in the group</b>							
<p>17.1. In management units where outsourced services are carried out only by forestry contractors in the group, the Group Entity shall follow Section 11 of this standard, but instead of using Table 1 in clause 11.4, the minimum sample of management units to be visited annually for internal monitoring shall be calculated according to Table 2:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity in the management units</th> <th>Internal monitoring</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Active management units</td> <td><math>x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inactive management units</td> <td><math>x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}</math></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Where:  x = number of management units to be sampled;  y = number of active or inactive management units within each category.</p>	Activity in the management units	Internal monitoring	Active management units	$x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}$	Inactive management units	$x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}$	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> N/A; not all outsourced services are carried out by forestry contractors / no todos los servicios subcontratados son llevados a cabo por contratistas forestales</p>
Activity in the management units	Internal monitoring						
Active management units	$x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}$						
Inactive management units	$x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}$						
<b>Evidence Section 17:</b>							
<b>18. Internal monitoring of contractors</b>							



<p>18.1. The Group Entity shall implement a targeted internal evaluation of all forestry contractors included in the group at least once during the validity of the certificate.</p> <p><i>NOTE: This targeted internal evaluation is additional to the internal monitoring of the contractors' performance through the management units sampled annually (as per Clause 17.1). The objective of this evaluation is to ensure that contractors are adequately fulfilling the responsibilities that the Group Entity has allocated to them (e.g. planning, evaluation of new members, internal monitoring, development of documents).</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p>18.1.1 The Group Entity shall increase this internal evaluation intensity when high risks are identified (e.g. recurrent non-conformities by the contractor, substantiated stakeholder complaints about the contractor's performance).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p>18.2 The Group Entity shall issue corrective action requests to address non-conformities identified during the monitoring of the forestry contractors and follow up their implementation.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> N/A; no NC identified / no se identificaron NC
<p><b>Evidence Section 18:</b></p>	
<p><b>19. Contractors' Chain of Custody</b></p>	
<p>19.1 Forestry contractors shall have records of the annual harvesting volume and annual FSC sales volume of their harvesting and sales activities covered by the certificate of the group.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p>19.2 Such volume records shall be provided to the Group Entity.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p>19.3 Forestry contractors shall ensure that all invoices for sales of FSC-certified material include the required information (as per the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard) and provide a copy of these invoices to the Group Entity.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p>19.4 When selling FSC-certified material, the contractor shall use in the invoices the certificate code of the group from which the material comes from.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p><b>Evidence Section 19:</b>                  List evidence or check box below, if table has been completed:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> See completed table in this report, "SCS FSC Chain of Custody Indicators for Forest Management Enterprises"</p>	

## Group Management Program Members

Non-SLIMF group members are identified below. SLIMF group members have been withheld from the audit report to protect privacy.

Public Identifier for Group Member*	Location & Coordinates	Forest Area (hectares)	Area by Management Type (Private, State, Community)	Main Products	Year(s) Evaluated
Large FMUs (>10,000 ha)					
Brevens Bruk	-	13 000	Private	-	-
Kopparfors Skogar AB	-	228400	Private	-	-
Hällefors Tierp Skogar AB	-	82169	Private	-	-
Gysinge skogsfastigheter AB	-	55000	Private	-	-
BOXHOLMS SKOGAR AB	-	38200	Private	-	-
Transtrands Besparingskog	-	20521	Private	-	-
Malung-Sälens kommun	-	14607	Private	-	-
Silvestica Green Forest Sverige AB	-	36265	Private	-	-
Lima Besparingskog	-	35835	Private	-	-
Medium FMUs (>1,000 – 10,000 ha)					
Örebro Kommun		5500		-	-
NySkog 23 AB		5000		-	-
Östersunds Kommun		4910		-	-
Brenäs skogar AB		4900		-	-

Slottstornet AB		4610,9		-	-
Stiftelsen Danviks Hospital		2931		-	-
Fredriksnäs Säteri AB		2688,5		-	-
Kristinehamns Kommun		1477		-	-
Oxbergs Gemensamhets skog Samfällighetsförening		1254		-	-
Leksands Kommun		1072		-	-
Fagersta kommun		1065,9		-	-
Älvdalens kommun		1026		-	-
Stockholm Vatten VA AB				-	-
Åkers Kronopark AB		4520		-	-
Norrköpings kommun		2557,4		-	-
Linköpings kommun		2484		-	-
Kvills Bruks AB		1714		-	-
Harpsunds nämnden (SFV)		1290		-	-
Tretorp Skog AB		1268,8		-	-
Stenhammars gods förvaltning AB (SFV)		1209,9		-	-
S-2360		5525		-	-
S-4888		1857		-	-
S-6812		1680		-	-

S-6303		1550,7			
S-6810		1171			
S-6804		1161,1			
S-6800		1156			
S-7147		1022,4			

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