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|  | SGS QUALIFOR (Associated Documents) | Number: | AD 33-06 |
| | | Version Date: | 28/06/2018 |
| | | Page: | 1 of 85 |
| | | Approved by: | Gerrit Marais |

SGS QUALIFOR

UKWAS – FSC & PEFC FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD FOR UK 2018

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| Project Nr.: | XXXXXX-GB |
| Client: | ABC Limited |
| Certificate Nr: | (FSC) SGS-FM/CoC-XXXX (PEFC) |

This checklist presents the UKWAS standard for forest certification against the FSC Principles and Criteria in the FSC format. PEFC accept this checklist because it is based on the UKWAS as the primary base checklist. Both FSC International and PEFC International have approved the UKWAS V4.0 on 01 April 2018. Both FSC-UK and PEFC-UK were key members involved in the production of UKWAS 4.0 by the UKWAS Steering Group. This standard forms the basis for:

- Scoping assessment
- Certification assessment
- Surveillance assessment–Note Criteria to be assessed at each annual audit, see p.2/highlighted
- Information to stakeholders on the assessment criteria used by SGS Qualifor

| PHYSICAL ADDRESS | International | | Local |
|------------------|---------------|--|---|
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CHANGES SINCE THE PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE STANDARD

| Section | Change | Date |
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| | Changes throughout due to FSC International insisting on switch to FSC-UK FM Standard presentation instead of previous UKWAS format. | 28/06/2018 |

| Principle | Subject | Number of individual indicators | |
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| 1 | Compliance with Laws | 16 | 8.9% |
| 2 | Workers' Rights and Employment Conditions | 13 | 7.1% |
| 3 | Indigenous Peoples' Rights (no IP in UK) | zero | |
| 4 | Community Relations | 13 | 7.1% |
| 5 | Benefits from the Forest | 11 | 6.0% |
| 6 | Environmental Values and Impacts | 32 | 17.6% |
| 7 | Management Planning | 9 | 4.9% |
| 8 | Monitoring and Assessment | 9 | 4.9% |
| 9 | High Conservation Value | 23 | 12.7% |
| 10 | Implementation of Management Activities | 56 | 30.8% |
| Total | | 182 | 100% (requires mind- numbing double checking) |

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| FSC Criterion | Notes for each annual audit & Indicators required (49 total inc 27 under P.10 of which 17 (10.6/10.7) relate to pesticides & fertilisers) (UKWAS 3.1 had 5 indicators ...) |
| 1.6 | <u>Dispute mechanisms</u> Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha ; 1.6.1, 1.6.2 |
| 2.3 | <u>H&S, Emergency, Competency</u> Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha ; 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3 |
| 4.4 | <u>Public access</u> Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha ; 4.4.1, 4.4.2 |
| 6.4 | <u>R&T species & habitats</u> Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs 6.4.2 |
| 6.6 | <u>Native species. NRs. LTRS. Vets. Deadwood. Game rear & Shooting</u> Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs 6.6.1, 6.6.2, 6.6.3, 6.6.4, 6.6.5, 6.6.6, 6.6.7 |
| 7.6 | <u>Consultation</u> Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha ; 7.6.1 |
| 8.5 | <u>Chain of Custody</u> Compulsory for all certificates 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.5.3 |

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| 9.4 | <u>HCV Monitoring inc MP review</u> Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs 9.4.1, 9.4.2, 9.4.3 |
| 10.2 | <u>Species selection</u> Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha 10.2.1, 10.2.2, 10.2.3, 10.2.4 |
| 10.3 | <u>Non-natives, Invasives</u> Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha 10.3.1, 10.3.2, 10.3.3, 10.3.4 |
| 10.6 Really ? when 10.7 as well ? | <u>Fertilisers, Pesticides, BCAs</u> Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs and/or plantations larger than 10,000 ha 10.6.1, 10.6.2, 10.6.3, 10.6.4, 10.6.5, 10.6.6, 10.6.7 |
| 10.7 | <u>Fertilisers, Pesticides, BCAs inc IPMS & records</u> Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha 10.7.1, 10.7.2, 10.7.3, 10.7.4, 10.7.5, 10.7.6, 10.7.7, 10.7.8, 10.7.9, 10.7.10 |
| 10.12 | <u>Waste</u> Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha 10.12.1, 10.12.2 |

LAYOUT OF THE STANDARD:

The standard follows the FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship (FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2 EN, approved 22 July 2015). The Standard is divided into 10 sections, each corresponding to one of the FSC principles with the criteria listed underneath each principle. Refer below for further clarification.

Each page of the standard is divided into 3 columns. The standard also serves as the checklist that is used during an assessment and for every criterion the following is provided:

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| The Qualifor Requirement: Indicator <i>All local adaptations or additions are indicated in red.</i> | This outlines the norm or indicators that Qualifor requires for compliance with the specific FSC criterion. A potential source of information or evidence that allows an auditor to evaluate compliance with an indicator. Some indicators make a distinction between the requirements for "normal" forests and SLIMF operations (Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests). |
| Verifiers | Verifiers are examples of what the SGS assessor will look for to ascertain if the specific norm or indicator has been met. This list is not exhaustive and the assessor may use other means of verifying the relevant indicator. |
| Guidance | Guidance is written in <i>italics</i> and assists the assessor in understanding the requirement of the specific indicator. |

PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS:

Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well being of forest workers and local communities.

Criterion 4.1: The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services

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| Indicator 4.1.6 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Policies and procedures and the implementation thereof make qualifications, skills and experience the basis for recruitment, placement, training and advancement of staff at all levels | <i>No evidence of discrimination on the basis of: race, colour, culture, sex, age, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin</i> |
| SLIMF: Employees are not discriminated in hiring, advancement, dismissal remuneration and employment related to social security | Employment policies and procedures. Interviews with Forest Managers, workers and Labor Union representatives. |
| | SLIMF: Interviews with workers and contractors |

An SGS Qualifor Guideline (Italics)

The year of the evaluation

The SGS Qualifor Indicator

The SGS Qualifor observation i.t.o. the indicator

The SGS Qualifor verifier

THE STANDARD

RE. SA2019.44

FSC-UK STANDARD (FSC-STD-GBR-03-2017--V1-0 – EN *UK ALL FOREST TYPES AND SCALES*)

UK WOODLAND ASSURANCE STANDARD (UKWAS) - VERSION 4.0

PEFC-UK STANDARD ADAPTED FROM UK WOODLAND ASSURANCE STANDARD (UKWAS) 4TH EDITION (4.0)

CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS (CARs)

minor CAR, Major CAR

OBSERVATIONS:

Observations - alert to potential to become a CAR against UKWAS

Observations - scope to further improve compliance against the UKWAS

Observations - of commendation in performance against the UKWAS

Observations - of context relevant to the report

PRINCIPLE 1. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:

The Organization shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and nationally- ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements.

Criterion 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.

Indicator 1.1.1

The legal identity of the owner/manager shall be documented. [UKWAS 1.1.3(a)]

Verifiers & Guidance:

- Long term unchallenged use
- Integrated Agriculture Control System (IACS) registration
- A signed declaration detailing nature and location of tenure documentation
- Solicitor's letter
- Title deeds
- Land registry records
- Companies House records.

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Indicator 1.1.2

Verifiers & Guidance:

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| <p>Legal authority to carry out specific operations, where required by the relevant authorities, shall be documented. [UKWAS 1.1.3(d)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licences • Written permissions from competent authorities. <p><i>Depending on the nature of woodland operations, the competent authorities providing legal authorisation may include the relevant forestry authorities or other statutory bodies.</i></p> |
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| <p>Criterion 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.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 1.2.1</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>The boundaries of the owner's/manager's legal ownership or tenure shall be documented. [UKWAS 1.1.3(b)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term unchallenged use • Integrated Agriculture Control System (IACS) registration • A signed declaration detailing nature and location of tenure documentation • Solicitor's letter • Title deeds • Land registry records • Companies House records. <p><i>Explanatory note: In the UK context, tenure and use rights are closely linked. See Indicator 1.3.1 regarding legal rights to manage the Management Unit.</i></p> |
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| <p>Criterion 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.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 1.3.1</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>The scope of the owner's/manager's legal rights to manage the WMU and to harvest products and/or supply services from within the WMU shall be documented. [UKWAS 1.1.3(c)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term unchallenged use • Integrated Agriculture Control System (IACS) registration • A signed declaration detailing nature and location of tenure documentation • Solicitor's letter • Title deeds • Land registry records • Companies House records. |
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| Indicator 1.3.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Payment shall be made in a timely manner of all applicable legally prescribed charges connected with forest management. [UKWAS 1.1.3(e)] | <p>Records of payments.</p> <p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 1.3.1 and 1.3.2:</i></p> <p>Long term unchallenged use might be demonstrated by the existence of previous grant scheme documentation or long-term certification to this standard.</p> <p>Examples of circumstances which may affect the scope of the owner's/manager's legal rights to manage the WMU and to harvest products and/or supply services from within it include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sporting or mineral rights are held by third parties • The owner/manager is bound by a restrictive covenant • The WMU is managed under a forestry-only lease. <p>See the section on third party rights in [section 7].</p> <p>Legally prescribed charges connected with forest management may include fees for licences or permissions, or grant repayments where grant conditions have not been fulfilled.</p> |
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| Indicator 1.3.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| There shall be compliance with the law. There shall be no substantiated outstanding claims of non-compliance related to woodland management. [UKWAS 1.1.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence of non-compliance from audit • Evidence of correction of any previous non-compliance • A system to be aware of and implement requirements of new legislation. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 1.3.3:</i></p> <p>The certification standard does not go into detail in all areas covered by UK legislation. The Appendix provides a non-exhaustive list of relevant legislation.</p> <p>Certification bodies will be checking that there is no evidence of non-compliance with relevant legal requirements including that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and workers understand and comply with all legal requirements relevant to their roles and responsibilities • All documentation including procedures, work instructions, contracts and agreements meet legal requirements and are respected • No issues of legal non-compliance are raised by regulatory authorities or other interested parties. <p>In the event of a perceived conflict between the requirements of the certification standard and legal requirements owners/managers should seek guidance from the UKWAS Interpretation Panel.</p> <p><i>See the list of applicable legislation in Annex A.</i></p> |
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| Indicator 1.3.4 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| There shall be conformance to the spirit of any relevant codes of practice or good practice guidelines. [UKWAS 1.1.2] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No evidence of non-conformance from audit Evidence of correction of any previous non-conformance A system to be aware of and conform to new codes of practice and good practice guidelines. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 1.3.4:</i> The Appendix provides further information on good practice guidelines and codes of practice.</p> <p>Conformance to the spirit means that the owner/manager is aiming to achieve the principles set out in relevant codes of practice or good practice guidelines and that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and workers understand and conform to the spirit of codes and guidelines relevant to their roles and responsibilities All documentation including procedures, work instructions and contracts conform to the spirit of relevant codes and guidelines. <p>In the event of a perceived conflict between the requirements of the certification standard and relevant codes and guidelines, owners/managers should seek guidance from the UKWAS Interpretation Panel.</p> |
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| Criterion 1.4 | 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. |
| Indicator 1.4.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| The owner/manager shall take all reasonable measures, including engagement with the police and statutory bodies, to prevent or stop illegal or unauthorised uses of the woodland that could jeopardise fulfilment of the objectives of management. [UKWAS 1.2.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The owner/manager is aware of potential and actual problems Evidence of response to actual current problems Evidence of a pro-active approach to potential and actual problems including follow-up action Engagement with statutory bodies. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 1.4.1:</i> The phrase 'reasonable measures' means measures that are both within the law, within the terms of any forestry tenancy and within the jurisdiction of the owner/manager and that the measures are economically viable and environmentally and socially acceptable.</p> <p>The scope of illegal activities which the owner/manager may encounter is so diverse that it is not possible to prescribe actions in every case. In specific cases a legal opinion may be required in order to prescribe 'reasonable measures'.</p> |
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| Criterion 1.5 | 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. | |
| Indicator 1.5.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| There shall be compliance with legislation relating to the transportation and trade of forest products, including, where relevant, the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and phytosanitary requirements. [UKWAS 1.1.7] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant procedures and records. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 1.5.1:</i> The owner/manager should comply with any relevant phytosanitary movement licences and other statutory plant health requirements.</p> <p>In rare cases the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) may apply. The import, export and use for commercial gain of certain species requires a CITES permit. CITES species present in the UK include Snowdrops (<i>Galanthus</i> spp.) and Monkey-puzzle (<i>Araucaria araucana</i>).</p> <p><i>See the list of applicable legislation in Annex A.</i></p> | |
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| Indicator 1.5.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| Priority species shall not be harvested or controlled without the consent of the relevant statutory nature conservation and countryside agency. [UKWAS 2.4.4] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion with the owner/manager Monitoring records Species inventories. <p><i>See also Indicator 1.3.3 regarding compliance with the law, and Indicator 1.3.4 regarding conformance to best practice.</i></p> | |
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| Criterion 1.6 | 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. | |
| Indicator 1.6.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| Mechanisms shall be employed to identify, prevent and resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights through appropriate consultation with interested parties. [UKWAS 1.1.4(a)] Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of dispute resolution mechanism. <p><i>See also the guidance note on Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 regarding appropriate consultation.</i></p> | |
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| Indicator 1.6.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Where possible, the owner/manager shall seek to resolve disputes out of court and in a timely manner. [UKWAS 1.1.4(b)] Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of dispute resolution mechanism. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 1.6.1 and 1.6.2:</i> Unresolved disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an entity from being certified.</p> <p>Examples of relevant tenure claims and use rights may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supplies • Joint access routes • Shooting rights. |
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| Criterion 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. |
| Indicator 1.7.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| There shall be conformance to guidance on anti-corruption legislation. [UKWAS 1.1.6(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Written procedures • Public statement of policy. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Guidance on procedures to prevent bribery is available from the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p><i>Explanatory note: The principal anti-corruption legislation in the UK is the Bribery Act 2010.</i></p> |
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| Indicator 1.7.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Large enterprises shall have and implement a publicly available anti-corruption policy which meets or exceeds the requirements of legislation. [UKWAS 1.1.6(b)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Written procedures • Public statement of policy. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Guidance on procedures to prevent bribery is available from the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p><i>Explanatory note: The principal anti-corruption legislation in the UK is the Bribery Act 2010.</i></p> |

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| Criterion 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. |
| Indicator 1.8.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>The owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to conformance to this certification standard, and • Have declared an intention to protect and maintain the woodland management unit and its ecological integrity in the long term. [UKWAS 1.1.5(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed declaration of commitment • Dissemination of the requirements of this certification standard to workers, licensees and leaseholders • Public statement of policy. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Workers, licensees and leaseholders should be informed of the aim of the certification standard and, to the degree that is relevant, of the practical implications for them in carrying out their activities. This might be done through, for example, meetings or briefings and the provision of appropriate written material.</p> <p>If a substantial failure has led to withdrawal of a woodland certification to this standard in the past, then substantial changes in ownership, policy commitment and management regime should have been implemented or a two-year track record of conformance established.</p> <p><i>Advice to owners/managers</i> Owners/managers may be subject to additional requirements from their certification scheme relating to any adjustment of the area in the woodland management unit. Owners/managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.</p> |
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| Indicator 1.8.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>A statement of these commitments shall be made publicly available upon request. [UKWAS 1.1.5(b)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed declaration of commitment • Dissemination of the requirements of this certification standard to workers, licensees and leaseholders • Public statement of policy. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Workers, licensees and leaseholders should be informed of the aim of the certification standard and, to the degree that is relevant, of the practical implications for them in carrying out their activities. This might be done through, for example, meetings or briefings and the provision of appropriate written material.</p> <p>If a substantial failure has led to withdrawal of a woodland certification to this standard in the past, then substantial changes in ownership, policy commitment and management</p> |

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| | <p>regime should have been implemented or a two-year track record of conformance established.</p> <p><i>Advice to owners/managers</i></p> <p>Owners/managers may be subject to additional requirements from their certification scheme relating to any adjustment of the area in the woodland management unit. Owners/managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.</p> |
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| <p>PRINCIPLE 2. WORKERS' RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS:</p> <p>The Organization shall maintain or enhance the social and economic wellbeing of workers.</p> | |
| <p>Criterion 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 Labour Conventions.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 2.1.1</p> <p>There shall be compliance with workers' rights legislation, including equality legislation. [UKWAS 5.6.1(a)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with workers • Documented policies. <p><i>Explanatory note: The UK has ratified all eight of the ILO Core Labour Conventions, and their requirements are incorporated into UK legislation. See the list of applicable legislation in Annex A, section 3.5.</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 2.1.2</p> <p>Workers shall not be deterred from joining a trade union or employee association. [UKWAS 5.6.1(b)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with workers • Documented policies. |
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| <p>Indicator 2.1.3</p> <p>Direct employees shall be permitted to negotiate terms and conditions, including grievance procedures, collectively should they so wish. [UKWAS 5.6.1(c)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with workers • Documented policies. |
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| Criterion 2.2 | The Organization shall promote gender equality in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement and management activities. | |
| Indicator 2.2.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| There shall be compliance with workers' rights legislation, including equality legislation. [UKWAS 5.6.1(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with workers • Documented policies. <p><i>Explanatory note: The principal equality legislation in Great Britain is the Equality Act 2010. The principal gender equality legislation in Northern Ireland is the Equal Pay Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 and the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976.</i></p> | |
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| Indicator 2.2.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| Methods of consultation and engagement shall be designed to ensure that local people, relevant organisations and other interested parties have reasonable opportunities to participate equitably and without discrimination. [UKWAS 2.3.1(d)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with the relevant forestry authority • Evidence that users of the WMU are informed about high impact operations (e.g. signs, letters or other appropriate means) • A list of interested parties • Established means of pro-active communication • A public contact point. <p><i>See also the guidance note on Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 regarding appropriate consultation.</i></p> | |
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| Criterion 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. | |
| Indicator 2.3.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| There shall be: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation that health and safety legislation and codes of practice are being implemented • Discussion with workers demonstrates that they are aware of relevant requirements and have access to appropriate FISA codes of practice • Contracts specifying health and safety requirements | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with health and safety legislation • Conformance with associated codes of practice • Conformance with FISA guidance. [UKWAS 5.4.1(a)] | | |

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| <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records maintained and up to date (e.g. accident book, site risk assessments, chemical record book, tree safety reports) • System to ensure that anyone working in the woodland has had relevant instruction in safe working practice and that the appropriate number has had training in basic first aid and, where relevant, holds a certificate of competence • Procedure for monitoring compliance with safety requirements (written for larger organisations) and for dealing with situations where safety requirements are not met • Documented health and safety policy and consideration of issues in all procedures and work instructions • Evidence of a systematic approach to accident prevention. <p><i>This requirement relates to anyone on the work site, including workers and members of the public.</i></p> <p><i>Advice to owners/managers</i></p> <p><i>With respect to health and safety, it is important for owners/managers to be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to fulfilling one or more of the relevant management roles as described in FISA guidance.</i></p> <p><i>See FISA Guidance listed in the Appendix.</i></p> <p><i>Explanatory note: FISA is the Forest Industry Safety Accord. FISA guidance sets out best practice for the management of health and safety in forestry.</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 2.3.2</p> <p>There shall be contingency plans for any accidents. [UKWAS 5.4.1(b)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 2.3.1.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 2.3.3</p> <p>There shall be appropriate competency. [UKWAS 5.4.1(c)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 2.3.1.</p> |
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| Criterion 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. |
| Indicator 2.4.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Wages paid to workers shall meet or exceed the statutory national living wage. [UKWAS 5.6.1(e)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with workers • Documented policies. <p>The statutory national living wage is defined in national minimum wage regulations. The owner/manager may choose to pay wages that are higher than the statutory national living wage, for example a voluntary living wage such as that calculated by the Living Wage Foundation.</p> <p><i>Explanatory note: In the UK context there are no minimum forest industry wage standards or other recognised forest industry wage agreements. Under the National Minimum Wage Act 1998, the 'national minimum wage' established under the National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015 is replaced by a 'national living wage rate' under the National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Regulations 2016 from 1 April 2016.</i></p> |
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| Criterion 2.5 | The Organization shall demonstrate that workers have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the management plan and all management activities. |
| Indicator 2.5.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| All workers shall have appropriate qualifications, training and/or experience to carry out their roles in conformance to the requirements of this standard, unless working under proper supervision if they are currently undergoing training. [UKWAS 5.5.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of appropriate certificates of competence • Discussion with workers • System to ensure that only workers who are appropriately trained or supervised work in the woodland • No evidence of workers without relevant training, experience or qualifications working in the woodland • Documented training programme for employees • Training records for all employees. <p>Where requirements of the work are likely to change, a programme of ongoing training and development should be undertaken.</p> <p><i>See Annex B.</i></p> <p><i>See also Indicator 2.3.3 regarding appropriate competency.</i></p> |
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| Criterion 2.6 | | The Organization through engagement with workers shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation to workers for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases, or occupational injuries sustained while working for The Organization. |
| Indicator 2.6.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| Direct employees shall be permitted to negotiate terms and conditions, including grievance procedures, collectively should they so wish. [UKWAS 5.6.1(c)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with workers • Documented policies. | |
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| Indicator 2.6.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| Workers shall have recourse to mechanisms for resolving grievances which meet the requirements of statutory codes of practice. [UKWAS 5.6.1(d)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with workers • Documented policies. | |
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| Indicator 2.6.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| The owner/manager and workers shall be covered by adequate public liability and employer's liability insurance. [UKWAS 5.7.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance documents • Self-insurance with a policy statement. | |
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| PRINCIPLE 3. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS: | | |
| 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>Explanatory note: Within the international context of FSC, indigenous peoples, as defined, are not considered to be present in the UK.</i> | | |

PRINCIPLE 4. COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

The Organization shall contribute to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of local communities.

Criterion 4.1 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.

Indicator 4.1.1

Local people, relevant organisations and interested parties shall be identified and made aware that:

- **New or revised management planning documentation, as specified under [Criterion 7.2], is being produced**
- **High impact operations are planned**
- **The woodland is being evaluated for certification. [UKWAS 2.3.1(a)]**

Verifiers & Guidance:

- Consultation with the relevant forestry authority
- Evidence that users of the WMU are informed about high impact operations (e.g. signs, letters or other appropriate means)
- A list of interested parties
- Established means of pro-active communication
- A public contact point.

Guidance note:

The owner should be able to justify the frequency and level of consultation and the certification body will look for corroborating evidence. Examples of methods for identifying and making local people and relevant organisations aware include:

- Statutory consultations by the relevant forestry authority or voluntary consultation with statutory bodies
- Letters to individuals or groups
- Temporary or permanent signs in or near the affected woodland
- Information in local newspapers or other publications
- Meetings and dialogue
- Internet
- Consultation with the relevant archaeology service.

Consultation and engagement with local people should be sufficient to identify:

- their permissive or traditional uses of the woodland
- sites or features of special cultural or historical significance.

For social and economic issues include those who derive their income from the forest or are dependent on the supply of forest products such as forest workers, hauliers and timber processors.

For access issues, owners/managers should seek to identify and consult local representative groups or bodies which can represent users, including the statutory Local Access Forum where relevant.

For biodiversity issues, owners/ managers should seek to identify and consult local representative groups or bodies which can represent biodiversity interests, including the Local Biodiversity Partnership (or equivalent) where relevant.

Consultation and engagement should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of woodland management and to the risk of potential impacts on the interests of stakeholders. For smaller woodlands, engagement may be informal and largely verbal. For larger woodlands with many potentially affected local people, it may be more appropriate to engage with representatives of local communities rather than with individuals.

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| | <p>Whether an operation is high impact depends very much on circumstances and must be assessed on a case by case basis. A proportionate, risk-based assessment of social impacts might be carried out in a similar way to the assessment of environmental impacts required in [Indicator 6.2.1]. The owner/manager should be able to demonstrate that they have considered how many interests will be affected, to what degree and over what timescale.</p> <p><i>See also [Indicator 9.1.7] which covers sites and features of special cultural or historical significance and [Indicator 4.1.4] which covers permissive or traditional uses.</i></p> |
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| Indicator 4.1.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| The owner/manager shall ensure that there is full co-operation with the relevant forestry authority's consultation processes. [UKWAS 2.3.1(b)] | as for Indicator 4.1.1. <i>See also Indicator 7.6.1 regarding appropriate consultation.</i> |
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| Indicator 4.1.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| At least 30 days shall be allowed for people to respond to notices, letters or meetings before certification. [UKWAS 2.3.1(f)] | as for Indicator 4.1.1. |
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| Indicator 4.1.4 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Existing permissive or traditional uses of the woodland shall be identified and sustained except when such uses can be shown to threaten the integrity of the woodland or the achievement of the objectives of management. [UKWAS 5.1.1(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation or maps of all existing permissive and traditional uses of the woodland • Discussion with interested parties • Field observation of public rights of way • Evidence presented to justify any restriction of permissive or traditional uses. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Permissive and traditional uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permissive access routes • <i>De facto</i> access to well-known landmarks • Gathering fruit or fungi by the public for their own consumption where this does not jeopardise the |

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| | <p>achievement of biodiversity objectives (having regard to codes of good practice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supplies. <p>Permissive routes can be closed annually to maintain their permissive status.</p> <p>Traditional uses that exploit the woodland resource (e.g. peat cutting) should be carried out at a traditional scale.</p> <p>'Integrity' refers principally to the ecological maintenance of the woodland.</p> <p><i>See also Indicator 1.3.3 regarding compliance with the law.</i></p> <p><i>Explanatory note: In the UK context, most rights of tenure, access and resource use will be held by statutory law.</i></p> |
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| Criterion 4.2 | 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>Explanatory note: In the UK context, while local communities may have various rights relating to land within or adjoining the Management Unit, they would not have legal or customary rights to control management activities. As such, this Criterion is not considered to be applicable. However, the Organization would have to be mindful of the rights of local communities as per Indicators 1.3.3 and 4.1.4.</i> |
| Criterion 4.3 | 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. |
| Indicator 4.3.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>The owner/manager shall promote the integration of woodlands into the local economy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the best use of the woodland's potential products and services consistent with other objectives. • Providing local people with equitable opportunities for employment and to supply goods and services. [UKWAS 5.3.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local or specialist market opportunities • Promoting and encouraging enterprises to strengthen and diversify the local economy • Provision for local employment and suppliers. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 4.3.1:</i></p> <p>Promotion of integration into the local economy may be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing local or specialist markets opportunities to purchase small scale or specialist parcels • Promoting and encouraging enterprises which will strengthen and diversify the woodland economy and the local economy • Making equitable provision for local employment for contractors and suppliers to provide services and supplies and making this known. <p>The woodland's potential products include non-timber woodland products and recreational activities.</p> <p>An example of how the owner/manager might help to diversify the processing industry is that a proportion of timber parcels are advertised and sold by open tender or auction.</p> <p>Reference to country forestry strategies and engagement with local woodland and community forest initiatives may highlight opportunities to fulfil this requirement.</p> <p><i>See also Indicator 5.4.2 regarding training and recruitment.</i></p> |

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| <p>Criterion 4.4 The Organization shall implement additional activities, through engagement with local communities, that contribute to their social and economic development, proportionate to the scale, intensity and socio-economic impact of its management activities.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 4.4.1</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>There shall be provision for some public access subject only to limited exemptions. [UKWAS 5.1.2(a)] Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation to confirm that access is available • Maps show public rights of way and/or core paths through or beside the wood • Evidence of publicised annual open days or guided walks • Access agreements with local authorities • Evidence that account has been taken of local demand • Evidence from consultation with interested parties • Records of publicised annual open days or guided walks, school visits or research undertaken in the woodland • Evidence of access provision, path maintenance, conservation management (particularly in regard to visitor erosion) and interpretation at significant cultural and historic environment assets. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>Woodlands containing or adjoining notable historic environment or ecological features may attract large numbers of visitors even to small properties. This presents an opportunity to promote public access and/or educate visitors about the multiple benefits of forestry.</p> <p>Professional associations can advise on necessary safety and insurance provisions, ways of supporting educational visits and studies, and methods for recovering some or all of the extra costs of satisfying public demand.</p> <p><i>In Scotland:</i></p> <p>The Land Reform (Scotland) Act (2003) provides for responsible access on foot, cycle or horse and also for responsible management of access by land owners and managers.</p> <p>The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides guidance on responsible behaviour of those taking and managing access together with circumstances where access may be restricted. In addition, supplementary guidance is published on specific aspects such as events and core paths.</p> <p><i>In England, Wales and Northern Ireland:</i></p> <p>There is no statutory right of general access to woodland thus emphasising the value of allowing some public access which may be provided through one or more of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permissive freedom to roam • Public rights of way through or beside the wood • Publicised open days or guided walks each year • Permissive access on specified routes • Access management agreements with local authorities • In England and Wales only - by voluntarily dedicating woodland for public access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW). |

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| | <p>Public access, other than on public rights of way, and environmental education may be denied in the following example situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands under 10 ha in size with a high private amenity value • Areas that adjoin dwellings or private gardens • Isolated woodlands to which there is no ready access route for the public across adjoining land • Woodlands where there is current evidence of serious and sustained abuse or damage. Persistent vandalism may force owners/managers to place particular woodland blocks or areas 'out of bounds'. Reasons should be communicated through local schools, libraries, post offices and parish halls to help stimulate community co-operation to combat damage • Areas of the woodland that contain sites, species or features that would be particularly vulnerable to disturbance • Periods or days when country sports, outdoor recreation or special events would be jeopardised • Temporary closures in order to ensure public safety. <p><i>See also Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 7.6.1 regarding engagement with local communities.</i></p> |
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| Indicator 4.4.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Where there is a special demand for further public access for the purpose of environmental education, the owner/manager shall make reasonable efforts to meet this demand. [UKWAS 5.1.2(b)] Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | as for Indicator 4.4.1. |
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| Criterion 4.5 | 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 scale, intensity and risk of those activities and negative impacts. |
| Indicator 4.5.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>The owner/manager shall respond to issues raised or requests for ongoing dialogue and engagement and shall demonstrate how the results of the consultation including community and social impacts have been taken into</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of interested parties • Established means of pro-active communication • A public contact point. |

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| account in management planning and operations. [UKWAS 2.3.1(e)] | | |
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| Indicator 4.5.2 | The owner/manager shall mitigate the risks to public health and safety and other negative impacts of woodland operations on local people. [UKWAS 5.2.1] | Verifiers & Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence of legal non-compliance • Evidence that complaints have been dealt with constructively • Documented evidence that owners/managers have considered actual and potential impacts of operations on local people and interest groups and have taken steps to mitigate them • Use of risk assessment and site management with safety signs and diversions around active operational sites. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Examples of impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public safety and access implications of woodland operations • Timber traffic, particularly in and around the woodland • Natural hazards to workers and the public, e.g. hazardous trees • Smoke • Management of hazards caused by visitor use. <p><i>See also Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 7.6.1 regarding engagement with local communities, and Indicator 5.3.1 regarding impacts of operations.</i></p> |
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| Criterion 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. | |
| Indicator 4.6.1 | The owner/manager shall respond constructively to complaints, seek to resolve grievances through engagement with complainants in the first instance, and follow established legal process should this become necessary. [UKWAS 5.2.2] | Verifiers & Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with interested parties • A complaints process • A public contact point. <p><i>See also Indicator 2.6.3 regarding liability insurance, and Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 7.6.1 regarding engagement with local communities.</i></p> |
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| Criterion 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. |
| Indicator 4.7.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Through engagement with the relevant statutory historic environment agencies, local people and other interested parties, and using other relevant sources of information, the owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sites and features of special cultural and historical significance, • Assess their condition, and • Adopting a precautionary approach, devise and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance them. [UKWAS 4.8.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any known features mapped and/or documented • Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates rationale for management of relevant sites • Records of consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities and interest groups to identify features • Documented plans. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>Examples of relevant sources of information include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps • Databases • Field observations. <p>Typical examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent viewing points • Landscape features • Veteran and other notable trees • Historical features and archaeological sites • Woodlands which feature in literature or which are of artistic significance • Historic landscapes and woodlands which are still managed under traditional systems. <p>Where relevant, a professional archaeological walkover survey may be required to inform decisions and provide baseline evidence.</p> <p>Sites of potential historical importance discovered during the course of forest management should be reported to the relevant statutory historic environment agencies.</p> <p>See also [Indicators 4.1.1 to 4.1.3, 4.5.1 and 7.6.1] in relation to consultation.</p> |
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| Criterion 4.8 | The Organization shall uphold the right of local communities 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 local communities for such utilization through Free, Prior and Informed Consent before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the protection of intellectual property rights. |
| <p><i>Explanatory note: In the UK context, as elsewhere in Europe, there are unlikely to be situations in which the Organization can exploit the traditional knowledge of local communities. As such, this Criterion is not considered to be applicable. However, intellectual property is protected by law, for example under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, and the Organization would have to be mindful of the rights of local communities as per Indicator 1.3.3.</i></p> | |

PRINCIPLE 5. BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST:

The Organization shall efficiently manage the range of multiple products and services of the Management Unit to maintain or enhance long term economic viability and the range of environmental and social benefits.

Criterion 5.1 The Organization shall identify, produce, or enable the production of, diversified benefits and/or products, based on the range of resources and ecosystem services existing in the Management Unit in order to strengthen and diversify the local economy proportionate to the scale and intensity of management activities.

Indicator 5.1.1

All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:

5.1.1.1 Assessment of relevant components of the woodland resource, including potential products and services which are consistent with the management objectives. [UKWAS 2.2.1 (part)]

Verifiers & Guidance:

- Management planning documentation
- Appropriate maps and records.

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Indicator 5.1.2

The owner/manager shall promote the integration of woodlands into the local economy by:

- Making the best use of the woodland's potential products and services consistent with other objectives.
- Providing local people with equitable opportunities for employment and to supply goods and services. [UKWAS 5.3.1]

Verifiers & Guidance:

- Local or specialist market opportunities
- Promoting and encouraging enterprises to strengthen and diversify the local economy
- Provision for local employment and suppliers.

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Criterion 5.2 The Organization shall normally harvest products and services from the Management Unit at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.

Indicator 5.2.1

The owner/manager shall plan and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance long-term soil and hydrological functions. [UKWAS 2.4.1]

Verifiers & Guidance:

- Management planning documentation
- Field observation.

Guidance note:

Protection of basic ecosystem functions in terms of soils and hydrology is fundamental to sustainable forest management. The owner/manager should refer to relevant guidelines on soils and water.

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| Indicator 5.2.2 | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compartment records • Growth and yield estimates • Production records or appropriate standing sale volume assessments and reconciliation with estimates • Demonstrated control of thinning intensity • Discussion with the owner/manager • Field observation. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 5.2.2 and 5.2.3:</i> Timber harvesting in excess of increment may be justified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During restructuring of even-aged woodlands • During habitat management or restoration for biodiversity • In response to pests, diseases or storm damage. <p>Examples of growth and yield estimates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average growth rates or yield class for major species on different site types • Predictions of thinning and felling yields for different crop types • Forecasts of areas to be subject to harvesting operations in future years. <p>Accuracy of growth and yield estimates should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation.</p> <p>The resilience of the woodland and different species to climate change should be considered.</p> <p>In low intensity managed woodlands, or in woodlands being restructured in areas of high windthrow risk, area rather than volume predictions are acceptable in planning and monitoring.</p> <p>Timber crops should not be creamed or high graded [Indicator 5.2.3]. However, selective harvesting of high quality stems may be entirely appropriate in stands which have been managed to promote regeneration from the most promising individuals, for example.</p> |
| <p>Timber shall normally be harvested from the WMU at or below a level which can be permanently sustained. [UKWAS 2.4.2(a)]</p> | |
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| Indicator 5.2.3 | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 5.2.2.</p> |
| <p>Selective harvesting shall not be to the long-term detriment of the quality and value of stands. [UKWAS 2.4.2(b)]</p> | |
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| Indicator 5.2.4 | Harvesting of non-timber woodland products or use of ecosystem services from the WMU shall be at or below a level which can be permanently sustained. [UKWAS 2.4.3] | Verifiers & Guidance: Evidence from records and discussion with the owner/manager that quantities harvested are in line with sustainable growth rates and that there are no significant adverse environmental impacts. <i>Guidance note:</i> Non-timber woodland products include foliage, moss, fungi, berries, seed, venison and other animal products. It is recognised that objective information on sustainable harvesting levels for NTWPs is limited, and also that in the case of venison it may be desirable to harvest at a level that reduces the deer population in the long term. However, in all cases the owner/manager should give careful thought to the annual allowable harvest and should be able to justify harvest levels on the basis of their objectives and best practice. See also [Indicator 10.3.4] in relation to protection from wild mammals, and [Indicator 6.6.7] in relation to game management. |
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| Criterion 5.3 | The Organization shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities of operation are included in the management plan. | |
| Indicator 5.3.1 | Woodland management planning shall take fully into account the long-term positive and negative economic, environmental and social impacts of proposed operations, including potential impacts outside the WMU. [UKWAS 2.1.2] | Verifiers & Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Management planning documentation. <i>Guidance note:</i> Management planning should be proportionate to the scale and intensity of woodland management, and to the potential economic, environmental and social impacts of management activities. |
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| Criterion 5.4 | 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. | |
| Indicator 5.4.1 | The owner/manager shall promote the integration of woodlands into the local economy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the best use of the woodland's potential products and services consistent with other objectives. | Verifiers & Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local or specialist market opportunities • Promoting and encouraging enterprises to strengthen and diversify the local economy • Provision for local employment and suppliers. <i>Guidance note on Indicator 5.4.1:</i> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing local people with equitable opportunities for employment and to supply goods and services. [UKWAS 5.3.1] | <p>Promotion of integration into the local economy may be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing local or specialist markets opportunities to purchase small scale or specialist parcels • Promoting and encouraging enterprises which will strengthen and diversify the woodland economy and the local economy • Making equitable provision for local employment for contractors and suppliers to provide services and supplies and making this known. <p>The woodland's potential products include non-timber woodland products and recreational activities.</p> <p>An example of how the owner/manager might help to diversify the processing industry is that a proportion of timber parcels are advertised and sold by open tender or auction.</p> <p>Reference to country forestry strategies and engagement with local woodland and community forest initiatives may highlight opportunities to fulfil this requirement.</p> <p><i>Explanatory note: In the UK context, the preferential use of local services is limited by the EU Competition Directive. While it may not be possible to give preference to local service providers, they should not be disadvantaged.</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 5.4.2</p> <p>The owner/manager of large enterprises shall promote training, and encourage and support new recruits to the industry. [UKWAS 5.5.2]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented policy • Involvement with industry bodies promoting training, including FISA • Records of training sessions, provision of sites for training, subsidies for training courses. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>Promotion of training may be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing sites for training courses • Offering subsidies for training courses. <p><i>Explanatory note: In the UK context, it is unlikely to be reasonable to make any attempts to establish local services beyond generally increasing levels of training and capacity amongst workers.</i></p> |
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| <p>Criterion 5.5 The Organization shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to scale, intensity and risk, its commitment to long-term economic viability.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 5.5.1</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |

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| <p>Woodland management planning shall demonstrate a commitment to long-term economic viability. [UKWAS 2.1.3(a)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Management planning documentation • Financial records relating to the woodland resource • Budget forecasting, expenditure and potential sources of funding. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Management planning should be proportionate to the scale and intensity of woodland management. Management planning should show how the stated policy and objectives of management can be achieved and sustained economically in the long term, for example from future timber production or other sources of income. Detailed projections are not required but there should be evidence that the longer term resourcing of essential forest operations has been considered. For example, management planning documentation may show how silvicultural systems, species choice and tree densities and other woodland management are designed to achieve long-term economic viability.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 5.5.2</p> <p>The owner/manager shall aim to secure the necessary investment to implement the management plan in order to meet this standard and to ensure long-term economic viability. [UKWAS 2.1.3(b)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Management planning documentation • Financial records relating to the woodland resource • Budget forecasting, expenditure and potential sources of funding. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Management planning should be proportionate to the scale and intensity of woodland management. Management planning should show how the stated policy and objectives of management can be achieved and sustained economically in the long term, for example from future timber production or other sources of income. Detailed projections are not required but there should be evidence that the longer term resourcing of essential forest operations has been considered. For example, management planning documentation may show how silvicultural systems, species choice and tree densities and other woodland management are designed to achieve long-term economic viability.</p> |
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PRINCIPLE 6. ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND IMPACTS:

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.

Criterion 6.1 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.

Indicator 6.1.1

All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:

6.1.1.1 Assessment of environmental values, including those outside the WMU potentially affected by management, sufficient to determine appropriate conservation measures and to provide a baseline for detecting possible negative impacts. [UKWAS 2.2.1 (part)]

Verifiers & Guidance:

- Management planning documentation
- Appropriate maps and records.

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Criterion 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.

Indicator 6.2.1

The impacts of new planting and other woodland plans on environmental values shall be assessed before operations are implemented, in a manner appropriate to the scale of the operations and the sensitivity of the site. [UKWAS 2.5.1(a)]

Verifiers & Guidance:

- Management planning documentation
- Documented environmental impact assessment or Appropriate Assessment where such has been requested by the relevant forestry authority
- Documented environmental appraisals
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Field observation.

Guidance note:

The owner/manager should be aware of relevant legal requirements for environmental impact assessment.

Depending on scale and sensitivity the assessment of environmental impacts may be:

- Brief environmental appraisals for planting or felling which might affect sites recognised for cultural, landscape, hydrological or ecological value
- Ecological assessments of ancient semi-natural woodland and projections of their response to management and natural processes
- Specific assessments for unusual and/or extensive operations

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks against relevant country level plans for priority habitats and species. <p>It may be appropriate to seek specialist advice on the potential impacts of operations, for example in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority habitats and species • Historic environment sites and landscapes • Flood risk and mitigation potential in accordance with local flood risk management plans or strategies. |
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| Criterion 6.3 | The Organization shall identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of management activities on the environmental values, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of these impacts. |
| Indicator 6.3.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| The results of the environmental assessments shall be incorporated into planning and implementation in order to avoid, minimise or repair adverse environmental impacts of management activities. [UKWAS 2.5.1(b)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Documented environmental impact assessment or Appropriate Assessment where such has been requested by the relevant forestry authority • Documented environmental appraisals • Discussion with the owner/manager |
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| Indicator 6.3.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| The owner/manager shall adopt management practices that minimise diffuse pollution arising from woodland operations. [UKWAS 3.7.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of consultation with statutory environment protection agencies • Field observation • Operational plans • Incident response plans • Diffuse pollution risk assessment in high risk situations • Use of biodegradable lubricants. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 6.3.2:</i> Diffuse pollution may arise from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil spills and leaks • Cutting-chain lubricants • Siltation of water courses or drains that connect to watercourses • Pesticide or fertiliser run-off • Smoke. <p>Biodegradable cutting-chain lubricants should be used where practicable. Practicability encompasses operator health and costs of running machinery.</p> |
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| Indicator 6.3.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Plans and equipment shall be in place to deal with accidental spillages of fuels, oils, fertilisers or other chemicals. [UKWAS 3.7.2] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager and relevant workers • Appropriate equipment available in the field • Written plans. |
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| Criterion 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 scale, intensity and risk of management activities and to the conservation status and ecological requirements of the rare and threatened species. The Organization shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of rare and threatened species beyond the boundary of the Management Unit, when determining the measures to be taken inside the Management Unit. |
| Indicator 6.4.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Appropriate measures shall be taken to protect identified priority species and habitats in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies. In planning and implementing measures within the WMU, the owner/manager shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of priority species beyond the boundary of the WMU. [UKWAS 4.1.2] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Management planning documentation • Discussion with the owner/manager. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Measures should include steps to protect features such as breeding sites, resting places and display sites of priority species. See also Indicator 1.5.2 regarding harvesting and control of priority species. See also Indicators under Criteria 6.5 and 6.6 for specific measures to maintain and manage habitats.</p> |
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| Criterion 6.5 | 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 scale, intensity and risk of management activities. |
| | NOTE: By default, riparian zones do not qualify to be included in the Conservation Area Network. Riparian zones may however be included, if those areas fully meet the definitions of representative sample areas, conservation zones, protection areas, connectivity as exemplified by wildlife corridors, providing the riparian zones are not disproportionately represented in the Conservation Area Network. Riparian zones "created" or planted for purely functional roles, e.g. erosion control should be excluded. |
| Indicator 6.5.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Management planning shall identify a minimum of 15% of the WMU where management for | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation including maps |

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| <p>conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is the primary objective. [UKWAS 2.11.1(a)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2:</i></p> <p>Where areas and features identified in [Indicator 6.5.2] comprise less than 15% of the WMU additional areas should be identified.</p> <p>The balance of areas managed with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural reserves • Long-term retentions • Riparian zones integral to the WMU • Lower impact silvicultural systems • Existing open habitats integral to the WMU. <p>In larger and more dispersed woodland management units, this requirement may be fulfilled across the WMU as a whole rather than reserving specified areas in each and every wood.</p> <p>Aim for a balance between the dispersal of sites across the WMU and a concentration of sites in important locations with benefits for conservation and/or enhancement of biodiversity.</p> <p>The conservation areas and features identified under [Indicator 6.5.2] may fall into more than one category but can only be counted once towards the 15% of the WMU managed with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as the major objective.</p> <p><i>Explanatory note: There are specific area requirements, contributing to the 15% of the WMU forming the Conservation Area Network as per Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2, for natural reserves (Indicator 6.6.1), long-term retentions and/or areas managed under LISS (Indicator 6.6.2), and other valuable semi-natural habitats (Indicator 6.5.8).</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 6.5.2</p> <p>This shall include conservation areas and features identified in the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory designated sites ([Indicator 9.1.1]) • Ancient semi-natural woodland ([Indicator 9.1.3]) • Plantations on ancient woodland sites ([Indicators 9.1.4 and 9.1.5]) • Other valuable semi-natural habitats ([Indicators 6.5.3 to 6.5.8]) • Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control ([Indicator 9.1.6]) • Natural reserves ([Indicator 6.6.1]) • Long-term retentions and/or areas managed under lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS) ([Indicator 6.6.2]). [UKWAS 2.11.1(b)] | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 6.5.1.</p> |
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| Indicator 6.5.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Areas, species and features of conservation value in [woodlands not on ancient woodland sites] shall be identified. [UKWAS 4.4.1(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Discussion with the owner/manager • Management planning documentation • Historical maps • Monitoring records. <p><i>Explanatory note: Woodlands on ancient woodland sites are considered under Principle 9.</i></p> <p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 6.5.3, 6.5.4 and 6.5.5:</i></p> <p>This requirement relates to woodlands other than ASNW and PAWS (see [Indicators 9.1.3 and 9.1.4]).</p> <p>Priority should be given to woodlands or woodland relicts that may have retained/acquired valuable ecological characteristics.</p> <p>Typically, these values may be found in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural woodlands • Long established woodlands of planted origin • Woodland relicts • Veteran trees • New native woodlands. <p>Potential adverse impacts may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browsing by rabbits, deer and other animals • Grazing by livestock • Colonisation by invasive non-native species • Visitor pressure. |
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| Indicator 6.5.4 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| The identified areas, species and features of conservation value shall be maintained and where possible enhanced. [UKWAS 4.4.1(b)] | as for Indicator 6.5.3. |
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| Indicator 6.5.5 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Adverse ecological impacts shall be identified and inform management. [UKWAS 4.4.1(c)] | as for Indicator 6.5.3. |

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| <p>Indicator 6.5.6</p> <p>Valuable small-scale semi-natural habitats that have been colonised, planted, or incorporated into the WMU, but which have retained their ecological characteristics (or have a high potential to be restored), shall be identified and enhanced, restored or treated in a manner that does not lead to further degradation of their potential for restoration. [UKWAS 4.4.2(a)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers are aware of such sites and of any plans for their management • For all potentially damaging operations, awareness demonstrated of how areas shall be protected and/or safeguarded • Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrate how such areas will be managed • Planning documentation shows how areas will be managed. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>This requirement relates to small-scale habitats within the WMU, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moorland • Peatland • Heathland • Wood pasture • Grassland • Freshwater habitats such as ponds. <p>Appropriate management may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rides and glades containing remnant semi-natural communities are widened and extended • Areas with a rich ground flora and shrub layer are heavily thinned • Remnants of wood pasture, veteran trees or other 'open-forest' habitat are gradually opened up • Heathland, bog and other open habitats are re-created by premature felling without restocking • Maintenance of open ground around historic environment sites. <p>Particular attention should be paid to priority habitats and to habitats identified in country level forest and peatland policies.</p> <p>Potential adverse impacts may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browsing by rabbits, deer and other animals • Grazing by livestock • Colonisation by invasive non-native species • Drainage. <p>Non-native species may be retained where they have a high ecological or cultural value.</p> <p>Woodland removal to facilitate infrastructure or built development which is not integral to the management of the rest of the woodland cannot meet this requirement.</p> <p><i>See also [Indicators 6.9.2 and 6.9.3] which cover larger scale habitat restoration through conversion to non-forested land.</i></p> |
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| Indicator 6.5.7 | Verifiers & Guidance: as for Indicator 6.5.6. | |
| Adverse ecological impacts shall be identified and inform management. [UKWAS 4.4.2(b)] | | |
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| Indicator 6.5.8 | Verifiers & Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Field observation. <i>Guidance note:</i> Preference should be given to restoring to semi-natural woodland unless there are clear biodiversity gains to be made by restoring to open habitats. These areas contribute to the minimum of 15% of the WMU where management for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is the primary objective, as identified in [Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2]. <i>Explanatory note:</i> Indicators 6.5.3 to 6.5.8 apply to semi-natural habitats which are not statutory designated sites or on ancient woodland sites, all of which are treated as high conservation values under Principle 9. The extent of habitat to be restored will depend on the extent of existing habitats and/or remnant features, particularly priority habitats, but must constitute a minimum of 5% of the WMU as per Indicator 6.5.8. These areas contribute to the minimum of 15% of the WMU forming the Conservation Area Network as per Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2. | |
| Areas of semi-natural habitats shall constitute a minimum of 5% of the WMU. Where existing habitats or restored remnant features comprise less than 5% of the WMU, the owner/manager shall take action to convert other areas to more natural conditions. [UKWAS 4.4.3] | | |
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| Criterion 6.6 | 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. | |
| Indicator 6.6.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation including maps • Field observation. <i>Guidance note:</i> Where a WMU is made up of more than one woodland, the owner/manager should locate natural reserves where they will | |
| Natural reserves shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be located where they will deliver the greatest biodiversity benefit • Constitute a proportion of the WMU equivalent to at least 1% of the plantation | | |

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| <p>area and 5% of the semi-natural woodland area. [UKWAS 4.6.1]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs</p> | <p>deliver greatest biodiversity benefit, rather than necessarily in every individual woodland.</p> <p>There should be no loss of existing natural reserves.</p> <p>Areas managed as natural reserves within the areas identified by [Indicators 9.1.1 to 9.1.6 and Indicators 6.5.3 to 6.5.8] may fulfil this requirement.</p> <p>These areas contribute to the minimum of 15% of the WMU where management for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is the primary objective, as identified in [Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2].</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 6.6.2</p> <p>Long-term retentions and/or areas managed under lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS) shall constitute a minimum of 1% of the WMU. Where this is impracticable, an additional minimum 1% of natural reserve shall be identified. [UKWAS 4.6.2]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation including maps • Field observation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>Where a WMU is made up of more than one woodland, the owner/manager should locate long-term retentions or LISS areas where they will deliver greatest biodiversity benefit, rather than necessarily in every individual woodland.</p> <p>Areas managed as long-term retentions and/or LISS within the areas identified by [Indicators 9.1.1 to 9.1.6 and Indicators 6.5.3 to 6.5.8] may fulfil this requirement.</p> <p>These areas contribute to the minimum of 15% of the WMU where management for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is the primary objective, as identified in [Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2].</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 6.6.3</p> <p>The owner/manager shall plan and take action to maintain continuity of veteran tree habitat by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping existing veteran trees, and • Managing or establishing suitable trees to eventually take the place of existing veterans. [UKWAS 4.6.3] <p>Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Harvesting contracts • Discussion with the owner/manager and workers • If there is a conflict with safety, the issues have been documented • Management planning documentation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>This requirement applies in WMUs where there are existing veteran trees.</p> <p>Owners/managers of WMUs without veteran trees may choose to promote future veteran trees, as part of their wider management to maintain and/or enhance biodiversity value.</p> <p>Actions may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeing from shading and/or competition |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollarding younger trees or lopping older trees to prolong their life. <p>Veteran tree management should not conflict with safety of the public or workers.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 6.6.4</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>The owner/manager shall plan and take action to accumulate a diversity of both standing and fallen deadwood over time in all wooded parts of the WMU, including felled areas. [UKWAS 4.6.4(a)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field observation Harvesting contracts Discussion with the owner/manager and workers If there is a conflict with safety or woodland health, the issues have been documented Management planning documentation. |
| <p>Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs</p> | <p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 6.6.4 and 6.6.5:</i></p> <p>The owner/manager should refer to deadwood guidance produced by relevant statutory conservation agencies, forestry authorities and others when identifying areas of greatest nature conservation benefit and when planning actions to accumulate deadwood.</p> <p>Current evidence suggests that, over the long term, deadwood (not including stumps, which are usually retained after felling) should accumulate to roughly 20 m³ per hectare averaged – though not uniformly distributed – across the WMU.</p> <p>In most hectares there should be a few standing and fallen stems contributing to the overall deadwood provision.</p> <p>Deadwood management should not conflict with safety of the public or workers or the health of the woodland.</p> <p>Actions may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping standing dead trees and snags Keeping and protecting old and/or previously pollarded trees alive through appropriate management Only harvesting windblow when it is of significant value unless more than 3 m³/ha is blown and sufficient deadwood is already accumulating on site Keeping naturally fallen trees or major branches When thinning or clearfelling, and where safe to do so, creating snags and providing fallen deadwood where insufficient has already accumulated. <p>The accumulation of deadwood throughout a rotation provides for greater continuity of the full range of deadwood habitat types.</p> <p>The most valuable areas within which to develop deadwood habitats are where linkages can be made with existing deadwood habitats to develop ecological connectivity over time; these areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood pasture/parklands Ancient semi-natural woodland with veteran trees Long-term retentions and natural reserves Riparian or wet woodland. |

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| | <p>Retained deadwood should be matched to the requirements of those species likely to be important on the site. Habitat diversity is improved by having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stems of greater than 20 cm diameter, particularly large dimension timber from native species • Snags at variable height • A range of tree/shrub species at varying stages of decay and in a variety of light conditions • Deadwood in living trees. <p><i>See also [Indicator 4.5.2] in relation to mitigation of risks to public health and safety.</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 6.6.5</p> <p>The owner/manager shall identify areas where deadwood is likely to be of greatest nature conservation benefit, and shall plan and take action to accumulate large dimension standing and fallen deadwood and deadwood in living trees in those areas. [UKWAS 4.6.4(b)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 6.6.4.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 6.6.6</p> <p>Where appropriate and possible, the owner/manager shall consider opportunities for cooperating with neighbours in landscape scale conservation initiatives. [UKWAS 2.3.2(c)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Management planning documentation. |
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| <p>Indicator 6.6.7</p> <p>Game rearing and release, shooting and fishing shall be carried out in accordance with the spirit of codes of practice produced by relevant organisations. [UKWAS 4.9.1]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Relevant permissions and leases |

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| <p>Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager/responsible person demonstrates awareness of the law and good practice • Discussion with interested parties • Permissions from statutory bodies where these are required • Membership of sporting and conservation organisation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Consider impacts on priority habitats and species and other native species. Release and feeding areas should be located in areas where there will be low impact on ground flora. Predator control should be carried out in line with best practice. The use of lead shot over wetland is restricted by regulations. See also Indicators 10.2.3 and 10.2.4 regarding natural regeneration or use of local native seed on ancient woodland sites or in other semi-natural woodlands, and Criterion 10.5 regarding appropriate silvicultural systems in semi-natural woodlands.</p> |
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| <p>Criterion 6.7 The Organization shall protect or restore natural water courses, 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.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 6.7.1</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>The planning of woodland operations shall include:</p> <p>6.7.1.1 Obtaining any relevant permission and giving any formal notification required.</p> <p>6.7.1.2 Assessing and taking into account on and off-site impacts.</p> <p>6.7.1.3 Taking measures to protect water resources and soils, and prevent disturbance of and damage to priority species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values, including adapting standard prescriptions where required. Any disturbance or damage which does occur shall be mitigated and/or repaired, and steps shall be taken to avoid recurrence.</p> <p>6.7.1.4 Measures to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the value of identified services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries. [UKWAS 3.1.2]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented permissions • Contracts • Discussion with the owner/manager and workers • Demonstration of awareness of impacts and measures taken • Site-specific, documented assessment of impacts • Operational site assessments. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Particular attention should be given to ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local people potentially affected are informed at the onset of operations • workers are involved in the planning of operations at the implementation stage. <p>Checks should be made against relevant country level plans for priority habitats and species.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 6.7.2</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |

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| <p>The impacts of woodland plans shall be considered at a landscape level, taking due account of the interaction with adjoining land and other nearby habitats. [UKWAS 2.5.2]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Maps • Discussion with the owner/manager. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> In particular, planning including layout and design of woodland should take into account the following factors and action should be taken if required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The character of other woodland in the area • Needs or impacts of animals (both wild and domestic) which use both woodland and surrounding land • Impacts on flora in the woodland and on surrounding land • Scale and pattern of open land • Habitats which are continuous from inside to outside the woodland (e.g. water courses) • Buffering of water courses and water bodies, and connectivity of riparian habitats • Woodland margins as transitional habitats • Linking open space within the woodland with similar habitats outside • The spread of invasive species into or out of the woodland • Impacts on natural features (e.g. wetlands, rock exposures, drainage patterns) • Catchment level impacts on water flows and flood risk • Nature of historic landscapes and relationships between historic environment sites inside and outside the woodland • Priority habitats and species. <p><i>See also Indicator 10.10.1 regarding conformance to forestry best practice guidance.</i></p> <p><i>Explanatory note: Operations must take account of best practice guidance, including the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) Guidelines on water. Forests and Water addresses issues including buffer areas, acidification, sediment delivery, nutrient enrichment, pesticides, water yield and low flows, peak flows and flooding, and shade and shelter.</i></p> |
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| <p>Criterion 6.8 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.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 6.8.1</p> <p>New woodlands shall be located and designed in ways that will:</p> <p>6.8.1.1 Deliver economic goods and/or ecosystem services,</p> <p>6.8.1.2 Maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the wider landscape, and</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Field surveys • Discussion with the owner/manager • Maps • Field observation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Economic goods should be understood in the widest sense and may include:</p> |

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| <p>6.8.1.3 Ensure the creation of a diverse woodland over time. [UKWAS 2.6.1]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber • Non-timber woodland products • CO2 sequestration • Recreation • Landscape renewal projects. <p>New woodlands should contribute to the conservation of neighbouring semi-natural woodland and other habitats. Priority habitats and species should be protected and, where possible, enhanced.</p> <p>Historic environment features should be identified and protected.</p> <p>The general aim should be to create a woodland that is sufficiently diverse to ensure long-term forest resilience.</p> <p>A diverse woodland may be achieved through one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of a diversity of species, clones and provenances • Planting mixed stands • Variation in site types and growth rates • Phased planting • Retention of open ground • Design and creation of wind firm edges. |
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| <p>Indicator 6.8.2</p> <p>Even-aged woodlands shall be gradually restructured to achieve an appropriately diverse mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles. This structural diversity shall be maintained or enhanced. [UKWAS 2.7.1]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Discussion with the owner/manager • Maps • Field observation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>Restructuring should be planned and implemented in conformance with good forest design practice.</p> <p>A greater degree of uniformity may be appropriate in very small woodlands.</p> <p>In larger even-aged plantations, the age structure may be improved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phased felling • Prescribing restocking, which will provide options for further diversification and reduction in coupe size at the end of the next rotation • Designing future coupes with windfirm edges. <p>Smaller coupe sizes should be favoured for economic, environmental and social reasons.</p> <p>Site factors favouring larger coupe sizes might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windthrow risk • Landscape scale • Historical plantation design • Historic environment features • Wildlife habitats. |

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| Indicator 6.8.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Where appropriate, contact shall be made with the owners of adjoining woodlands to try to ensure that restructuring of one woodland complements and does not unreasonably compromise the management of adjoining ones. [UKWAS 2.3.2(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of potential problems and verbal description of appropriate action Felling plan. <p><i>See also Criterion 10.2 regarding species choice, and Criterion 10.5 regarding silvicultural systems.</i></p> |
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| Criterion 6.9 | The Organization shall not convert natural forest to plantations, nor natural forests or plantations on sites directly converted from natural forest to non-forest land use, except when the conversion: |
| | <p>a) affects a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit, and</p> <p>b) will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit, and</p> <p>c) does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values.</p> |
| Indicator 6.9.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Woodland identified in [Criterion 9.1] shall not be converted to plantation or non-forested land. [UKWAS 2.13.1(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No evidence of conversion Field observation Discussion with the owner/manager Management planning documentation. |
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| Indicator 6.9.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Conversion to non-forested land shall take place only in certain limited circumstances as set out in [Indicator 6.9.3]. [UKWAS 2.13.2(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition plan Management planning documentation for the converted area after felling Records of planning process and discussions Consultation with interested parties Monitoring records Environmental impact assessment process documentation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> |

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| | <p>Conversion to non-forested land should be planned and implemented in accordance with the UKFS Guidelines on biodiversity, landscape and historic environment.</p> <p>A transition plan should set out as a minimum the justification for conversion and a strategy for implementation, subsequent management and monitoring.</p> <p>Under current regulations an environmental impact assessment may be required before such conversions are implemented.</p> <p>Planning consent or an approved Environmental Statement can provide sufficient evidence that there is no unresolved substantial dispute.</p> <p>Deforestation to facilitate infrastructure or built development which is not integral to the management of the rest of the woodland cannot meet this requirement.</p> <p><i>See also [Indicator 6.5.6] in relation to restoration of small-scale habitats within a woodland matrix.</i></p> <p><i>Advice to owners/managers</i></p> <p>Only timber felled in accordance with this requirement can be certified.</p> <p>Owners/managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.</p> <p><i>Explanatory note: All ancient semi-natural woodlands and plantations on ancient woodland sites are considered to be of high conservation value, so shall not be converted. As such, there can be no conversion of the nearest equivalent to natural forest in the UK, nor any conversion of plantations on sites directly converted from natural forest. It is because of this complete ban on conversion of these types of forest that indicators make no reference to a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit as in the Criterion. Conversion is only possible in plantations established on previously open habitats, and even in these cases, which are not covered by this Criterion, restrictions are applied by Indicator 6.9.3.</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 6.9.3</p> <p>The new land use shall be more valuable than any type of practicably achievable woodland cover in terms of its biodiversity, landscape or historic environment benefits, and all of the following conditions shall be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The woodland is not identified as of high conservation value in [Criterion 9.1], nor identified as contributing to the cultural and historical values in [Criterion 9.1]. • There is no evidence of unresolved substantial dispute. • The conversion and subsequent site management protect and substantially enhance at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The status and condition of priority species and habitats • Important landscape features and character | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 6.9.2.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important historic environment features and character • Important carbon stores. • The subsequent management of the converted area shall be integrated with the rest of the WMU. [UKWAS 2.13.2(b)] | |
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| <p>Indicator 6.9.4</p> <p>Woodland areas shall be converted to areas used solely for Christmas tree production only where conversion is consistent with other requirements of this certification standard, including the need to leave open space, and in accordance with any approved management plan from the relevant forestry authority, or when clearance is required for non-forestry reasons such as a wayleave agreement. [UKWAS 2.13.3(a)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Management records. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 6.9.4:</i> The requirement restricting conversion relates to use for growing Christmas trees of less than 4 metres in height.</p> |
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| <p>Criterion 6.10</p> <p>Management Units containing plantations that were established on areas converted from natural forest after November 1994 shall not qualify for certification, except where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) clear and sufficient evidence is provided that The Organization was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or b) 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. | |
| <p>Indicator 6.10.1</p> <p>Areas converted from ancient and other semi-natural woodlands after 1994 shall not normally qualify for certification. [UKWAS 2.13.1(b)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evidence of conversion • Field observation • Discussion with the owner/manager • Management planning documentation. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 6.10.1:</i> Certification of converted ancient and other semi-natural woodlands may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the owner/manager is not responsible directly or indirectly for such conversion. Woodland removal to facilitate infrastructure or built development which is not integral to the management of the rest of the woodland cannot meet this requirement.</p> |
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| <p>PRINCIPLE 7. MANAGEMENT PLANNING:</p> <p>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.</p> | |
| <p>Criterion 7.1 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.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 7.1.1</p> <p>The owner/manager shall have a long term policy and management objectives which are environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically viable. [UKWAS 2.1.1(a)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager and workers • Management planning documentation • Toolbox talks. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>The long term policy should articulate the overall vision for woodland management. Management objectives should set out tangible, shorter term steps towards achieving that vision.</p> <p>The owner/manager should be aware that long-term forest resilience will underpin environmental, social and economic objectives.</p> <p>Economic viability need not be based on, or solely on, the sale of products from woodland. Income from other sources, such as membership subscriptions, government funding or private investment, may be sufficient to achieve the policy and objectives of management.</p> <p>The level of detail required in the policy and objectives should be proportionate to the scale and intensity of management. While a formal, written policy and detailed objectives may be appropriate for a large organisation, it may be appropriate for the owner of a small woodland managed at a low intensity to be able to communicate their vision and some simple objectives verbally.</p> <p>Workers should be aware of the policy and objectives to the extent necessary for them to contribute to achieving the aims of management; they should understand how their actions might have positive or negative effects on meeting those aims.</p> <p>Means of communicating the policy and objectives to workers should always be proportionate to the extent of their influence on the outcomes of management, and might range from detailed notes or staff meetings to a simple verbal briefing. Where contractors are used, the emphasis should be on ensuring that those responsible for supervising them are appropriately briefed and can instruct them accordingly.</p> |
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| Indicator 7.1.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| The policy and objectives, or summaries thereof, shall be proactively communicated to workers consistent with their roles and responsibilities. [UKWAS 2.1.1(b)] | as for Indicator 7.1.1. |
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| Indicator 7.1.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:</p> <p>7.1.3.1 A long-term policy for the woodland.</p> <p>7.1.3.2 Prioritised objectives, with verifiable targets to measure progress. [UKWAS 2.2.1(part)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Appropriate maps and records. |
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| <p>Criterion 7.2 The Organization shall have and implement a management plan for the Management Unit which is fully consistent with the policies and objectives as established according to Criterion 7.1. The management plan shall describe the natural resources that exist in the Management Unit and explain how the plan will meet the FSC certification requirements. The management plan shall cover forest management planning and social management planning proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of the planned activities.</p> | |
| Indicator 7.2.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:</p> <p>7.2.1.1 A long-term policy for the woodland.</p> <p>7.2.1.2 Assessment of relevant components of the woodland resource, including potential products and services which are consistent with the management objectives.</p> <p>7.2.1.3 Assessment of environmental values, including those outside the WMU potentially affected by management, sufficient to determine appropriate conservation measures and to provide a baseline for detecting possible negative impacts.</p> <p>7.2.1.4 Identification of special characteristics and sensitivities of the woodland and appropriate treatments.</p> <p>7.2.1.5 Specific measures to maintain and where possible enhance those areas identified</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Appropriate maps and records. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>The [Indicators listed in Annex E] provide additional guidance and information on how to meet this requirement.</p> <p>There should be a link between features and sensitivities identified in [7.2.1.2, 7.2.1.3, 7.2.1.4, 7.2.1.5 and 7.2.1.6] and the setting of management objectives.</p> <p>Equally, monitoring should be linked to potential positive and negative impacts of management on these features and sensitivities and to the delivery of management objectives.</p> <p>The documentation and level of detail associated with the planning process should be appropriate to scale, intensity and risk.</p> <p>The documentation might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For low intensity managed woodlands: a brief statement of intent and an annotated map • For other woodlands: a plan covering a 20-year period and incorporating an assessment at the landscape level |

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| <p>under [Criterion 9.1], considering areas where either the extent of these areas or their sensitivity to operations may be unknown.</p> <p>7.2.1.6 Identification of community and social needs and sensitivities.</p> <p>7.2.1.7 Prioritised objectives, with verifiable targets to measure progress.</p> <p>7.2.1.8 Rationale for management prescriptions.</p> <p>7.2.1.9 Outline planned felling and regeneration over the next 20 years.</p> <p>7.2.1.10 Where applicable annual allowable harvest of non-timber woodland products (NTWPs).</p> <p>7.2.1.11 Rationale for the operational techniques to be used.</p> <p>7.2.1.12 Plans for implementation, first five years in detail.</p> <p>7.2.1.13 Appropriate maps.</p> <p>7.2.1.14 Plans to monitor at least those elements identified under [Criterion 8.1] against the objectives. [UKWAS 2.2.1]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a WMU consisting of multiple areas: an overarching plan. <p>The management planning documentation should cover all elements of the requirement but may refer to other documents as appropriate; these may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fire plan • A deer management plan • An integrated pest management strategy • A research policy • Project plans • Necessary permissions from applicable regulatory and licensing authorities. <p>See Annex E.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 7.2.2</p> <p>The implementation of the work programme shall be in close agreement with the details included in the management planning documentation. Any deviation from prescription or planned rate of progress shall be justified, overall objectives shall still be achieved and the ecological integrity of the woodland maintained. [UKWAS 2.14.1]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-correlation between the management planning documentation, annual work programmes and operations seen on the ground • Owner's/manager's familiarity with the management planning documentation and woodland • Documentation or owner's/manager's explanation of any deviation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>Changes in planned timing of operations should be such that they do not jeopardise the ecological integrity of the woodland in the long term.</p> <p>Changes in planned timing may be justified on economic grounds if overall management practices continue to conform to the other requirements of this certification standard.</p> <p>Catastrophic events such as wind damage or pest and disease outbreaks may necessitate amendment of the work programme and management planning documentation.</p> <p>See also [Indicator 10.5.1] in relation to thinning, felling and regeneration plans.</p> |
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| Criterion 7.3 | | The management plan shall include verifiable targets by which progress towards each of the prescribed management objectives can be assessed. | |
| Indicator 7.3.1 | <p>All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:</p> <p>7.3.1.1 Prioritised objectives, with verifiable targets to measure progress. [UKWAS 2.2.1(part)]</p> | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Appropriate maps and records. | |
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| Criterion 7.4 | | The Organization shall update and revise periodically the management planning and procedural documentation to incorporate the results of monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances. | |
| Indicator 7.4.1 | <p>The management planning documentation shall be reviewed periodically (at least every ten years), taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring results, • Results of certification audits, • Results of stakeholder engagement, • New research and technical information, and • Changed environmental, social, or economic circumstances. [UKWAS 2.2.3] | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Examples of changed circumstances include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major windthrow • Pest or disease outbreaks • Changes in markets. | |
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| Criterion 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. | |
| Indicator 7.5.1 | <p>While respecting the confidentiality of information, the owner/manager shall, upon request, make publicly available either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation, or • A summary of the management planning documentation. [UKWAS 2.2.2] | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of fulfilling requests for management planning documentation or summaries • A public contact point • Summary management planning documentation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> This requirement deliberately gives the owner/manager discretion as to how they make management planning documentation available to allow for situations where they are</p> | |

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| | <p>happy to provide documentation in full and where producing a summary may be an unnecessary administrative burden. This may often be the case for owners/managers of smaller woodlands or woodlands managed at a low intensity. However, owners/managers of woodlands with lengthy, complex management planning documentation should note that a summary may be more useful for non-specialist stakeholders.</p> <p>Owners/managers may demonstrate that they are receptive for requests to make documentation available by providing details of a public contact point, for example in the form of a dedicated e-mail address.</p> <p>Examples of confidential information include data and content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related to investment decisions • About intellectual property rights • Which is client confidential • Which is, by law, confidential • Whose dissemination could put at risk the protection of wildlife species and habitats • About sites which are of special cultural and historical importance to local people, where they have requested confidentiality. |
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| <p>Criterion 7.6 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.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 7.6.1</p> <p>The owner/manager shall consult appropriately with local people, relevant organisations and other interested parties, and provide opportunities for their engagement in planning and monitoring processes. [UKWAS 2.3.1(c)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of interested parties • Established means of pro-active communication • A public contact point. <p><i>See also the guidance note on Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 regarding appropriate consultation.</i></p> |
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PRINCIPLE 8. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT:

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.

Criterion 8.1 The Organization shall monitor the implementation of its management plan, including its policies and objectives, its progress with the activities planned, and the achievement of its verifiable targets.

Indicator 8.1.1

The owner/manager shall devise and implement a monitoring programme appropriate to the scale and intensity of management. [UKWAS 2.15.1(a)]

Verifiers & Guidance:

- A monitoring programme as part of management planning documentation
- Evidence of a consistent approach to recording site visits
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Monitoring records.

Guidance note:

The primary purpose of monitoring is to help the owner/manager to implement and adapt the management of the WMU to meet the management objectives.

Monitoring should be linked to potential and actual positive and negative impacts of management on the condition of features and sensitivities of the WMU identified in [Indicator 7.2.1], and to the delivery of management objectives.

Monitoring may include:

- Supervision during woodland operations
- Regular management visits and systematic collection of information
- Longer-term studies on changes to the woodland ecosystem, particularly for special environmental features.

Examples of appropriate monitoring include:

- Implementation of woodland operations
 - Health and Safety
 - Compliance with Forest and Water Guidelines
 - Worksite supervision
- Harvesting yields
 - Information from sales invoices or weight tickets compared to predicted yields from production forecasts or timber inventories
- Social impacts
 - Condition and accessibility of public access facilities
 - Impacts of timber haulage
- Environmental impacts
 - Impacts of operations on priority habitats and species, landscape or water and soils
 - Impacts of non-native invasive species
 - Impacts of grazing and browsing
- Changes in environmental condition
 - Tree health
 - Woodland composition and structure
 - Areas and features of conservation value
 - Ancient woodland features and remnants, including responses to management and any threats
 - Condition of cultural heritage features.

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| | <p>When monitoring environmental impacts and changes in environmental condition, particular attention should be paid to the features of high conservation value identified in [Criterion 9.1].</p> <p>Detail of information collected should be appropriate to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of the enterprise • Intensity of operations • Objectives of management • Sensitivity of the site. <p>The owner/manager may consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal written records • A less formal site diary • Photographic records • Verbally communicated records. <p>Note that there may be legal requirements for record keeping in some cases, for example pesticide usage.</p> <p>Owners/managers should be aware of the potential usefulness of information gathered for other purposes, for example to fulfil statutory requirements, which may meet or supplement monitoring needs. It may also be possible to make use of freely available information from sources such as statutory bodies or local interest groups.</p> <p><i>See Annex G.</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 8.1.2</p> <p>The monitoring programme shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the management planning documentation • Consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change • Kept in a form that ensures that results are of use over the long term. [UKWAS 2.15.1(b)] | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as for Indicator 8.1.1. |
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| <p>Indicator 8.1.3</p> <p>The owner/manager shall where applicable monitor and record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of policies and objectives and the achievement of verifiable targets | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 8.1.1.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of woodland operations • Harvesting yields • Social impacts • Environmental impacts • Changes in environmental condition • Usage of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers and any adverse impacts • Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials. [UKWAS 2.15.1(c)] | |
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| <p>Criterion 8.2 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.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 8.2.1</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>The owner/manager shall where applicable monitor and record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of policies and objectives and the achievement of verifiable targets • Implementation of woodland operations • Harvesting yields • Social impacts • Environmental impacts • Changes in environmental condition • Usage of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers and any adverse impacts • Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials. [UKWAS 2.15.1(c)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A monitoring programme as part of management planning documentation • Evidence of a consistent approach to recording site visits • Discussion with the owner/manager • Monitoring records. <p><i>See Annex G.</i> <i>See also the guidance note on Indicators 8.1.1, 8.1.2 and 8.1.3.</i></p> |
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| <p>Criterion 8.3 The Organization shall analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 8.3.1</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>The owner/manager shall take monitoring findings into account, particularly during revision of the management planning documentation, and if necessary shall revise management objectives, verifiable targets and/or management activities. [UKWAS 2.15.2]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring records • Management planning documentation • Discussion with the owner/manager. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> |

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| | Expert advice should be sought where necessary and taken into account. <i>See also Indicator 7.4.1 regarding revision of management planning documentation.</i> |
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| Criterion 8.4 | The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information. |
| Indicator 8.4.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Monitoring findings, or summaries thereof, shall be made publicly available upon request. [UKWAS 2.15.3] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written or verbal evidence of responses to requests. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> The monitoring findings or summaries may exclude confidential information. The means of sharing monitoring findings should be appropriate to the nature of the records and to the needs of the interested parties. Owners/managers of smaller management units, relying more on informal monitoring methods and records, may find it more appropriate to communicate results verbally. Owners/managers of larger management units, relying more on formal surveys and reports, may find it more appropriate to produce a written summary. <i>See [the guidance note on Indicator 7.5.1] for examples of confidential information.</i></p> |
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| Criterion 8.5 | 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. |
| 8.5.1 Harvesting and sales documentation shall enable all timber and non-timber woodland products (NTWPs) that are to be supplied as certified to be traced back to the woodland of origin. [UKWAS 3.2.2] | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Must be assessed every surveillance for all certificates. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvesting output records Contract documents Sales documentation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that certified products can be traced back to the point of sale from the woodland (in the case of timber, for example, standing, at roadside or delivered). The responsibility of the owner/manager is limited to ensuring that certified products removed from the woodland can be traced forward along the supply chain from the first point of supply. Where certified products from other sources are being stored in the same area, appropriate records should be maintained to demonstrate the source and quantity of produce obtained from other woodland areas.</p> |

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| | <p><i>Advice to owners/managers</i></p> <p>[FSC requires] certificate holders to provide additional information on sales documentation relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chain-of-custody certification, and • the use of certification scheme trademarks. <p>[FSC also requires] documentation to be retained for a specific time.</p> <p>Owners/managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.</p> <p><i>Explanatory note: See Indicators 8.5.2 and 8.5.3 regarding documentation.</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 8.5.1</p> <p>8.5.2 (not 8.5.1)</p> <p>Information about all products sold is compiled and documented, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common and scientific species name; • Product name or description; • Volume (or quantity) of product; • Information to trace the material to the source of origin logging block; • Logging date; • If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume produced; and • Whether or not the material was sold as FSC certified. [IGI] <p>Must be assessed every surveillance for all certificates.</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 8.5.1.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 8.5.2</p> <p>8.5.3 (not 8.5.2)</p> <p>Sales invoices or similar documentation are kept for a minimum of five years for all products sold with an FSC claim, which identify at a minimum, the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and address of purchaser; • The date of sale; • Common and scientific species name; • Product description; • The volume (or quantity) sold; • Certificate code; and | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 8.5.1.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FSC Claim “FSC 100%” identifying products sold as FSC certified. [IGI] • The PEFC Claim “100% PEFC” identifying products sold as PEFC certified. <p>Must be assessed every surveillance for all certificates.</p> | |
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| <p>PRINCIPLE 9. HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES:</p> | |
| <p>The Organization shall maintain and/or enhance the High Conservation Values in the Management Unit through applying the precautionary approach.</p> | |
| <p><i>See the separate National High Conservation Value Framework for the United Kingdom.</i></p> <p><i>Explanatory note: Use of the HCV Framework is not compulsory. However, it is intended to help users conform to the requirements of Principle 9 and contains useful guidance on sources of information and relevant stakeholders. As such, it is strongly recommended that Standard users make use of the Framework.</i></p> <p><i>Explanatory note: HCV 2 is not considered to be present in the UK.</i></p> | |
| <p>Criterion 9.1</p> | <p>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:</p> <p>HCV 1 - Species diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.</p> <p>HCV 2 - Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant 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>HCV 3 - Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.</p> <p>HCV 4 - Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.</p> <p>HCV 5 - Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>HCV 6 - Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples.</p> |
| <p>Indicator 9.1.1</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>Areas and features of high conservation value having particular significance for biodiversity shall be identified by reference to statutory designations at national or regional level and/or through assessment on the ground. [UKWAS 4.1.1(a)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All known areas and features mapped • Field observation • Approval of forest plan by the relevant forestry authority • Workers are aware of such sites and of plans for their management • For all potentially damaging operations, awareness is demonstrated of how areas will be protected and/or safeguarded • Management plans for statutory conservation areas and monitoring of implementation of those plans |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition statements from statutory bodies • Maps • Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates how areas will be safeguarded and/or enhanced • Planning documentation shows how areas will be safeguarded and/or enhanced • Pro-active approach to the identification of areas and features of significance for biodiversity, appropriate to likely biodiversity value. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> The system of designated sites in the UK forms a representative sample of existing ecosystems within the landscape.</p> <p>These areas and features of high conservation value include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation • Special Protection Areas • Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Areas of Special Scientific Interest • Ramsar Sites • National Nature Reserves <p>Identification and mapping of these features may be carried out on an ongoing basis, provided that it has been completed for an area prior to significant woodland management operations taking place.</p> <p><i>Explanatory note: Statutory designations are taken as surrogates for HCV 1 and HCV 3.</i></p> |
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| Indicator 9.1.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| There shall be ongoing communication and/or consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities, wildlife trusts and other relevant organisations. [UKWAS 4.1.1(c)] | as for Indicator 9.1.1. |
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| Indicator 9.1.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Ancient semi-natural woodland shall be identified by reference to published maps and/or by assessment on the ground. [UKWAS 4.2.1(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Discussion with the owner/manager • Management planning documentation including relevant forestry authority management plan and restocking plans • Ancient woodland inventories • Other studies • Monitoring records. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> |

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| | <p>Ancient semi-natural woodlands are the key priority sites for woodland conservation in the UK.</p> <p>Establishing the validity of the site's status should not solely rely on ancient woodland inventories. Assessment on the ground should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils • Vegetation • Old trees • Historical and archaeological features and landscape implications. <p><i>Explanatory note: Ancient semi-natural woodlands are considered to be HCV 3.</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 9.1.4</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>The owner/manager shall maintain and enhance or restore features and areas of high conservation value within plantations on ancient woodland sites. [UKWAS 4.3.1(a)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Ancient woodland inventories • Other studies • Remnant threat analyses • Field observation • Discussion with the owner/manager. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 9.1.4 and 9.1.5:</i></p> <p>Establishing the validity of the site's status need not solely rely on ancient woodland inventories. In evaluating, prioritising and implementing actions owners/managers should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical and archaeological features and landscape implications • Remnant features • The relationship with other biodiversity features and priorities and management objectives within the WMU and adjacent land use as a whole. <p><i>Explanatory note: Plantations on ancient woodland sites are considered to be HCV 3.</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 9.1.5</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>The owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate remnant features, • Identify and evaluate threats, • Adopting a precautionary approach, prioritise actions based on the level of threat and the value of remnants, and • Implement targeted actions. [UKWAS 4.3.1(b)] | <p>as for Indicator 9.1.4.</p> |

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| Indicator 9.1.6 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control shall be identified in consultation with relevant statutory bodies. [UKWAS 4.5.1(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of consultation • Management planning documentation • Monitoring records • Licences or consents. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Situations where forest management is critical for watershed management or erosion control are relatively rare, and are likely to be identified during consultation processes.</p> <p>Further information is available in UKFS Guidelines on soils and water.</p> <p><i>Explanatory note: These areas and features are considered to be HCV 4.</i></p> |
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| Indicator 9.1.7 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Through engagement with the relevant statutory historic environment agencies, local people and other interested parties, and using other relevant sources of information, the owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sites and features of special cultural and historical significance, • Assess their condition, and • Adopting a precautionary approach, devise and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance them. [UKWAS 4.8.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any known features mapped and/or documented • Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates rationale for management of relevant sites • Records of consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities and interest groups to identify features • Documented plans. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 9.1.7:</i> Examples of relevant sources of information include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps • Databases • Field observations. <p>Typical examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent viewing points • Landscape features • Veteran and other notable trees • Historical features and archaeological sites • Woodlands which feature in literature or which are of artistic significance • Historic landscapes and woodlands which are still managed under traditional systems. <p>Where relevant, a professional archaeological walkover survey may be required to inform decisions and provide baseline evidence.</p> <p>Sites of potential historical importance discovered during the course of forest management should be reported to the relevant statutory historic environment agencies.</p> |

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| | <p><i>See also [Indicators 4.1.1 to 4.1.3, 4.5.1 and 7.6.1] in relation to consultation.</i></p> <p><i>Explanatory note: These sites and features are considered to be HCV 6.</i></p> <p><i>See also Indicator 4.1.4 regarding the identification of permissive or traditional uses, including water supplies.</i></p> <p><i>Explanatory note: Water supplies are considered to be the only instance of HCV 5 in the UK context.</i></p> |
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| <p>Criterion 9.2 The Organization shall develop effective strategies that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values, through engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and experts.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 9.2.1</p> <p>Management strategies and actions shall be developed to maintain and, where possible, enhance the areas and features of high conservation value identified in the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory designated sites ([Indicator 9.1.1]) • Ancient semi-natural woodland ([Indicator 9.1.3]) • Plantations on ancient woodland sites ([Indicators 9.1.4 and 9.1.5]) • Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control ([Indicator 9.1.6]). [UKWAS 2.11.2(a)] | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Discussion with the owner/manager • Specialist surveys. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> <i>Areas and features of high conservation value may not always be well mapped. The owner/manager should therefore consider the need for specialist surveys to confirm the presence of areas and features of high conservation value in order to apply the precautionary approach when developing management strategies and actions.</i></p> |
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| <p>Indicator 9.2.2</p> <p>Management strategies and actions shall be developed in consultation with statutory bodies, interested parties and experts. [UKWAS 2.11.2(b)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance: as for Indicator 9.2.1.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 9.2.3</p> <p>Through engagement with the relevant statutory historic environment agencies, local people and other interested parties, and using</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any known features mapped and/or documented • Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates rationale for management of relevant sites |

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| <p>other relevant sources of information, the owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sites and features of special cultural and historical significance, • Assess their condition, and • Adopting a precautionary approach, devise and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance them. [UKWAS 4.8.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities and interest groups to identify features • Documented plans. |
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| <p>Criterion 9.3 The Organization shall implement strategies and actions that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values. These strategies and actions shall implement the precautionary approach and be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 9.3.1</p> <p>Adopting a precautionary approach, the [areas, species and features of high conservation value identified in Indicator 9.1.1] shall be maintained and, where possible, enhanced. [UKWAS 4.1.1(b)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All known areas and features mapped • Field observation • Approval of forest plan by the relevant forestry authority • Workers are aware of such sites and of plans for their management • For all potentially damaging operations, awareness is demonstrated of how areas will be protected and/or safeguarded • Management plans for statutory conservation areas and monitoring of implementation of those plans • Condition statements from statutory bodies • Maps • Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates how areas will be safeguarded and/or enhanced • Planning documentation shows how areas will be safeguarded and/or enhanced • Pro-active approach to the identification of areas and features of significance for biodiversity, appropriate to likely biodiversity value. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Where the boundaries of a designated site extend beyond the boundary of the WMU, it may not be possible for the owner/manager to significantly influence or change the overall condition of the site.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 9.3.2</p> <p>Statutory designated sites shall be managed in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies, and shall be marked on maps. [UKWAS 4.1.1(d)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance: as for Indicator 9.3.1.</p> |

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| Indicator 9.3.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Adopting a precautionary approach, the high conservation value of ancient semi-natural woodlands shall be maintained and, where possible, enhanced. [UKWAS 4.2.1(b)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Discussion with the owner/manager • Management planning documentation including relevant forestry authority management plan and restocking plans • Ancient woodland inventories • Other studies • Monitoring records. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>Use should be made of natural regeneration or planting stock from parental material growing in the local native seed zone where appropriate and possible. Following outbreaks of pests or diseases, the owner/manager may seek advice from relevant forestry authorities or statutory bodies.</p> <p>Maintenance of biodiversity values often requires targeted interventions. Management should be in accordance with the relevant FC practice guides for semi-natural woodlands.</p> <p>Potential adverse impacts may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browsing by rabbits, deer and other animals • Grazing by livestock • Colonisation by invasive non-native species • Visitor pressure. |
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| Indicator 9.3.4 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Adverse ecological impacts of pests, diseases and non-native species shall be identified and inform management. [UKWAS 4.2.1(c)] | as for Indicator 9.3.3. |
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| Indicator 9.3.5 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| The owner/manager shall maintain and enhance or restore features and areas of high conservation value within plantations on ancient woodland sites. [UKWAS 4.3.1(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Ancient woodland inventories • Other studies • Remnant threat analyses • Field observation • Discussion with the owner/manager. |

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| | <p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 9.3.5 and 9.3.6:</i></p> <p>Active management is likely to be required to maintain the biodiversity, environmental and cultural values of these sites, including where continued growth of plantations for timber or woodfuel production is to be undertaken. Restocking and thinning should be carried out in such a way that remnant features are enhanced and buffered.</p> <p>A precautionary approach is appropriate in most instances even if initially no remnant features may appear to be present. A gradual approach should be the default where remnants are threatened.</p> <p>Threats may include shading, deer browsing, windthrow and ground damage from harvesting, and damage to veteran trees from woodland operations.</p> <p>Where remnants are not threatened or where site characteristics allow a more rapid approach may be adopted. In some situations, such as inaccessible, unthinned stands or where there are heavy shade-casting species present, it may not be possible to apply a gradual approach, even though it would be the preferred option for threatened remnant features. In such circumstances, where possible, remnant features should be bolstered before operations.</p> <p>Exploratory silvicultural interventions may help inform the choice of management prescriptions. Where complete canopy removal has occurred it will be important to ensure a successor canopy is established as soon as possible to alleviate further threats. The context of the site within the WMU and wider landscape will also inform any prioritised restoration plans. All operations within PAWS need to take account of remnant features, including ground flora, and mitigate against damage to them.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 9.3.6</p> <p>The owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate remnant features, • Identify and evaluate threats, • Adopting a precautionary approach, prioritise actions based on the level of threat and the value of remnants, and • Implement targeted actions. [UKWAS 4.3.1(b)] | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 9.3.5.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 9.3.7</p> <p>Where critically important areas or features are identified [in Indicator 9.1.6], their management shall be agreed with the relevant statutory bodies. [UKWAS 4.5.1(b)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of consultation • Management planning documentation • Monitoring records • Licences or consents. |

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| | <i>Guidance note on Indicator 9.3.7:</i> Further information is available in UKFS Guidelines on soils and water. |
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| Indicator 9.3.8 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Through engagement with the relevant statutory historic environment agencies, local people and other interested parties, and using other relevant sources of information, the owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify sites and features of special cultural and historical significance, Assess their condition, and Adopting a precautionary approach, devise and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance them. [UKWAS 4.8.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any known features mapped and/or documented Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates rationale for management of relevant sites Records of consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities and interest groups to identify features Documented plans. |
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| Indicator 9.3.9 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>A precautionary approach shall be adopted in relation to water supplies. [UKWAS 5.1.1(b)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation or maps of all existing permissive and traditional uses of the woodland Discussion with interested parties. |
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| Indicator 9.3.10 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Operations shall cease or relocate immediately where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They damage sites or features of conservation value or of special cultural and historical significance identified in [Criterion 9.1]. Operations in the vicinity shall recommence only when action has been taken to repair damage and prevent any further damage, including establishing buffer areas where appropriate. They reveal previously unknown sites or features which may be of conservation value or of special cultural and historical significance. Operations in the vicinity shall recommence only when the sites or features have been investigated and appropriate management agreed, where | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion with the owner/manager Site diaries Field observation. |

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| relevant in discussion with statutory bodies and/or local people. [UKWAS 3.1.4] | | |
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| Criterion 9.4 | 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. | |
| Indicator 9.4.1 | Monitoring targets shall fully consider any special features of the WMU. [UKWAS 2.15.1(d)] | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| | Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Monitoring records. |
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| Indicator 9.4.2 | The owner/manager shall consult appropriately with local people, relevant organisations and other interested parties, and provide opportunities for their engagement in planning and monitoring processes. [UKWAS 2.3.1(c)] | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| | Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of interested parties • Established means of pro-active communication • A public contact point. <p><i>See also the guidance note on Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 regarding appropriate consultation.</i></p> |
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| Indicator 9.4.3 | The owner/manager shall take monitoring findings into account, particularly during revision of the management planning documentation, and if necessary shall revise management objectives, verifiable targets and/or management activities. [UKWAS 2.15.2] | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| | Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring records • Management planning documentation • Discussion with the owner/manager. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Expert advice should be sought where necessary and taken into account. <i>See also Indicator 7.4.1 regarding revision of management planning documentation.</i></p> |
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| PRINCIPLE 10. IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: | |
| Management activities conducted by or for The Organization for the Management Unit shall be selected and implemented consistent with The Organization's economic, environmental and social policies and objectives and in compliance with the Principles and Criteria collectively. | |
| Criterion 10.1 | After harvest or in accordance with the management plan, The Organization shall, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions. |
| Indicator 10.1.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Regeneration (natural or planted) shall restore stand composition in a timely manner to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions. [UKWAS 2.8.1(b)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Field observation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>As a general principle, management should at least maintain and where possible enhance species diversity of the woodland. Larger WMUs will generally present more opportunities for species diversification.</p> <p>In semi-natural woodlands, regeneration should restore the pre-harvesting stand composition or should create a greater range of species and structural variation appropriate to the woodland type. In ancient semi-natural woodland, regeneration should be in accordance with [Indicators 9.3.3 and 9.3.4]. In other semi-natural woodland, regeneration should be in accordance with [Indicators 6.5.3, 6.5.4 and 6.5.5].</p> <p>In plantations on ancient woodland sites, regeneration should be in accordance with [Indicators 9.3.5 and 9.3.6].</p> <p>Owners/managers should also be aware of the guidelines on species proportions and open ground in the UK Forestry Standard.</p> |
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| Criterion 10.2 | The Organization shall use species for regeneration that are ecologically well adapted to the site and to the management objectives. The Organization shall use native species and local genotypes for regeneration, unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others. |
| Indicator 10.2.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>The range of species selected for new woodlands, and natural or artificial regeneration of existing woodlands shall be suited to the site and shall take into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of long-term forest resilience • Management objectives • Requirements for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity (see [Principles 6 and 9]) • Requirements for enhancement and restoration of habitats (see [Principles 6 and 9]) • Landscape character. [UKWAS 2.8.1(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates that consideration has been given to a range of species, including native species • Evidence of Ecological Site Classification analysis • Management planning documentation • Field observation. <p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 10.2.1 and 10.2.2:</i></p> <p>Results of research into site suitability of different species origins and provenances and their resilience to climate change should be used to assist species choice. Because of the uncertain effects of climate change, selecting a range of genotypes may be prudent.</p> <p>Soil analyses and use of Forest Research's Ecological Site Classification (ESC) tool may be helpful when considering economic and ecological resilience to climate change. It may</p> |

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| <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | <p>also be appropriate to consider specialist advice for semi-natural woodlands, especially ancient semi-natural woodlands. See also [Indicators 10.3.1 to 10.3.3] in relation to non-native species and [Indicators 10.2.3 and 10.2.4] in relation to natural regeneration and planting stock in semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 10.2.2</p> <p>Native species shall be preferred to non-native. If non-native species are used it shall be shown that they will clearly outperform native species in meeting the owner's objectives or in achieving long-term forest resilience. [UKWAS 2.8.1(c)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 10.2.1.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 10.2.3</p> <p>In woodlands identified in [Criterion 9.1], where appropriate and possible, owners/managers shall use natural regeneration or planting stock from parental material growing in the local native seed zone (native species). [UKWAS 4.7.1(a)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed and plant supply invoices and other relevant records Evidence of efforts to identify planting stock from source-identified stands in the local native seed zone. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>There should be clear justification where non-local sources are used. This may include reasons of tree vigour, timber quality, and long term forest resilience.</p> <p>The identity code used for parental material includes an 'N' when it applies to native material from known indigenous sources.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 10.2.4</p> <p>In ancient and other semi-natural woodland, where natural regeneration is insufficient, planting stock from 'source-identified' stands in the local native seed zone shall be used if it is available. If timber quality is an objective of the planting, the use of stock deriving from selected stands within the local native seed zone shall be considered appropriate. [UKWAS 4.7.1(b)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <p>as for Indicator 10.2.3.</p> |

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| Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha; | | |
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| Criterion 10.3 | 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. | |
| Indicator 10.3.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| Non-native tree species shall only be introduced to the WMU when evidence or experience shows that any invasive impacts can be controlled effectively. [UKWAS 2.9.1(a)] Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented impact assessment of any introductions made after the first certification • Discussion with the owner/manager • Field observation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Introductions refer to species not currently present in WMU. The requirement includes the re-introduction of once native animals not currently present within the United Kingdom. Owners/managers should be aware that introduced species may exhibit differing degrees of invasiveness in different habitats or parts of the country. Use of non-native biological control agents such as <i>Rhizophagus grandis</i> may be desirable to control non-native pests. Game species may be introduced if managed in accordance with [Indicator 6.6.7].</p> | |
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| Indicator 10.3.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| Other non-native plant and animal species shall only be introduced if they are non-invasive and bring environmental benefits. [UKWAS 2.9.1(b)] Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha; | as for Indicator 10.3.1. | |
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| Indicator 10.3.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| All new introductions shall be carefully monitored, and effective mitigation measures shall be implemented to control negative impacts outside the area in which they are established. [UKWAS 2.9.1(c)] | as for Indicator 10.3.1. | |

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| Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha; | | |
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| Indicator 10.3.4 | | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Management of invasive plants and of wild mammals shall be undertaken where relevant in co-operation with statutory bodies and where possible and practicable in co-ordination with neighbours (see also [Indicator 10.9.4] in relation to deer). [UKWAS 2.3.2(b)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of a wildlife management group • Where there is a significant problem caused by wildlife, a documented plan (which may take the form of a contract or licence) for control. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>If management cannot maintain populations of wild mammals at a level that ensures they are not causing ecological damage, then sensitive areas - including regeneration sites, coppice coupes and areas with vulnerable flora - should be protected from browsing and other damage.</p> <p>An example of a wildlife management group might be a Grey Squirrel (<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>) control group, in which landowners and managers coordinated their control efforts in the context of a landscape-level plan.</p> <p><i>Explanatory note: It may not always be feasible to control invasive species that were not introduced by the Organization, for example if they are so widespread that they would require co-ordinated control across many ownerships or the costs would be extremely high, but working with statutory bodies and neighbours may help to mitigate impacts.</i></p> |
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| Criterion 10.4 | The Organization shall not use genetically modified organisms in the Management Unit. | |
| Indicator 10.4.1 | | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) shall not be used. [UKWAS 1.3.1]</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant supply records • Discussion with the owner/manager. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>GMOs are created through gene transfer under laboratory conditions and are not the product of tree breeding, vegetative propagation, cloning or tissue culture programmes.</p> |
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| Criterion 10.5 | The Organization shall use silvicultural practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives. | |
| Indicator 10.5.1 | | Verifiers & Guidance: |

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| <p>Appropriate silvicultural systems shall be adopted which are suited to species, sites, wind risk, tree health risks and management objectives and which stipulate soundly-based planting, establishment, thinning, felling and regeneration plans. [UKWAS 2.10.1(a)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Discussion with the owner/manager • Field observation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> The choice of silvicultural system should take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term forest resilience • Silvicultural characteristics of the species • Management objectives • Site limitations including potential growth rates and wind firmness • Intended stem size and quality • Current and future markets for timber products • Impacts on the landscape and wildlife • Age-structure and felling plan of nearby woodlands • Ecological processes and natural disturbance regime for that woodland type • Historical management practices • Views of local people. <p>Use of lower impact silvicultural systems may not be appropriate where there is evidence that clearfelling is necessary for the conservation of priority habitats or species.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 10.5.2</p> <p>Where species, sites, wind risk, tree health risk and management objectives allow, a range of silvicultural approaches, and in particular lower impact silvicultural systems, shall be adopted with the aim of diversifying ages, species and stand structures. [UKWAS 2.10.1(b)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance: as for Indicator 10.5.1.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 10.5.3</p> <p>In semi-natural woodland lower impact silvicultural systems shall be adopted. All felling shall be in accordance with the specific guidance for that type of woodland in the relevant Forestry Commission Practice Guide. [UKWAS 2.10.2(a)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Discussion with the owner/manager • Field observation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> For areas with priority habitats and species, consider consulting with relevant species and habitat experts in statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies or NGOs.</p> |

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| | There may be practical or biodiversity enhancement reasons for clearfelling in some semi-natural woodlands, but owners/managers should be aware that best practice guidance for semi-natural woodlands managed as high forest generally advises small coupe fellings which, depending on the type of woodland, may be up to around 2 ha in size. |
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| Indicator 10.5.4 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| In semi-natural woodlands over 10 ha, no more than 10% shall be felled in any five-year period unless justified in terms of biodiversity enhancement or lower impact. [UKWAS 2.10.2(b)] | as for Indicator 10.5.3. |
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| Indicator 10.5.5 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| Christmas trees shall be grown using traditional, non-intensive techniques. [UKWAS 2.13.3(b)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Management records. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>The chemicals regime for Christmas trees must meet all the requirements of [Criteria 10.6 and 10.7].</p> <p>Examples of Christmas trees which may be covered by a certificate are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees (<4 m in height) grown on areas within the woodland matrix used solely for Christmas tree production • Trees (<4 m in height) grown on areas used solely for Christmas tree production which, although outwith the woodland, form part of the woodland management unit • Thinnings from forest tree crops • Tops from harvested forest tree crops • Trees grown by interplanting of forest tree crops • Mature trees (>4 m height) • Trees which have regenerated onto, and have been harvested from, adjacent open land in the interest of maintaining its biodiversity or landscape value, and provided that the adjacent area is managed as part of the woodland management unit. <p>Christmas trees grown as a horticultural or nursery crop are outside the scope of this certification standard.</p> |
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| Criterion 10.6 | | The Organization shall minimize or avoid the use of fertilizers. When fertilizers are used, The Organization shall demonstrate that the use is equally or more ecologically and economically beneficial than the use of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values, including soils. |
| Indicator 10.6.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| The use of pesticides and fertilisers shall be avoided where practicable. [UKWAS 3.4.1(a)] Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs and/or plantations larger than 10,000 ha | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Pesticide policy or position statement. | |
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| Indicator 10.6.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| The use of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers shall be minimised. [UKWAS 3.4.1(b)] Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs and/or plantations larger than 10,000 ha | as for Indicator 10.6.1. | |
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| Indicator 10.6.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| Fertilisers (inorganic and organic) shall only be used where they are necessary to secure establishment or to correct subsequent nutrient deficiencies. [UKWAS 3.4.5(a)] Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs and/or plantations larger than 10,000 ha | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager and workers • Field observation, particularly in respect to storage, application sites, protective clothing and warning signs • Adequate written procedures, work instructions, and other documentation. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Unnecessary use of fertilisers may be avoided through the appropriate choice of species. Where appropriate, hand application should be preferred to aerial application particularly in sensitive catchments. See also Indicator 8.1.3 regarding monitoring of fertiliser usage and impacts.</p> | |
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| Indicator 10.6.4 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| Where fertilisers are to be used the owner/manager and workers shall be aware of and shall be implementing legal requirements and best practice guidance for their use in forestry. [UKWAS 3.4.5(b)] | as for Indicator 10.6.3. | |

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| Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs and/or plantations larger than 10,000 ha | | |
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| Indicator 10.6.5 | No fertilisers shall be applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in priority habitats • around priority plant species, or • around veteran trees. [UKWAS 3.4.5(c)] Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs and/or plantations larger than 10,000 ha | Verifiers & Guidance: as for Indicator 10.6.3. |
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| Indicator 10.6.6 | In addition, bio-solids shall only be used following an assessment of environmental impacts in accordance with [Indicators 6.2.1, 6.3.1 and 6.7.2]. [UKWAS 3.4.5(d)] Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs and/or plantations larger than 10,000 ha | Verifiers & Guidance: as for Indicator 10.6.3. |
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| Indicator 10.6.7 | The owner/manager shall keep a record of fertiliser usage, including types, rates, frequencies and sites of application. [UKWAS 3.4.5(e)] Compulsory for certificates containing HCVs and/or plantations larger than 10,000 ha | Verifiers & Guidance: as for Indicator 10.6.3. |
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| Criterion 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. | |
| Indicator 10.7.1 | | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| <p>The use of pesticides and fertilisers shall be avoided where practicable. [UKWAS 3.4.1(a)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Pesticide policy or position statement. <p><i>Explanatory note: Damage to human health is prevented by implementing legal requirements and guidance (Indicator 10.7.8) and other health and safety measures (Criterion 2.3).</i></p> | |
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| Indicator 10.7.2 | | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| <p>The use of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers shall be minimised. [UKWAS 3.4.1(b)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | | as for Indicator 10.7.1. | |
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| Indicator 10.7.3 | | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| <p>Damage to environmental values from pesticide and biological control agent use shall be avoided, mitigated and/or repaired, and steps shall be taken to avoid recurrence. [UKWAS 3.4.1(c)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | | as for Indicator 10.7.1. | |
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| Indicator 10.7.4 | | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| <p>The owner/manager shall prepare and implement an effective integrated pest management strategy that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is appropriate to the scale of the woodland and the intensity of management • Adopts management systems that shall promote the development and application of non-chemical methods of pest and crop management by placing primary reliance on | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Written policy and strategy or statement. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>Sites and features with special biodiversity attributes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ancient woodland sites • Valuable or diverse wildlife communities • Priority habitats and species, including breeding sites and feeding areas | |

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| <p>duration of the current woodland ownership if that is less than five years. [UKWAS 3.4.2(d)]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | |
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| <p>Indicator 10.7.8</p> <p>Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used:</p> <p>10.7.8.1 The owner/manager and workers shall be aware of and implement legal requirements and non-legislative guidance for use of pesticides and biological control agents in forestry</p> <p>10.7.8.2 The owner/manager shall keep records of pesticide usage and biological control agents as required by current legislation. [UKWAS 3.4.3]</p> <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COSHH assessments • Risk assessments • Record of reason for use and pesticide choice • Personal protective equipment • FEPA records • Waste transfer notes • Discussion with the owner/manager and workers • Field observation, particularly in respect to storage, application sites, protective clothing, warning signs and availability of lockable boxes for transport of pesticides • Operators are trained and competent, and hold pesticide operator certification • Adequate written procedures, work instructions, and other documentation • Availability of appropriate absorbent materials • Emergency plan. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p>Collection of information on pesticide usage should enable trends to be observed and future action to be targeted accordingly, including any necessary revision of the strategy.</p> <p>Usage should be recorded in such a way that comparisons can be made year on year and fed back into the integrated pest management strategy to demonstrate that pesticide usage is avoided and/or minimised. Therefore, additional to the legal recording requirements (which include product, application rates and area treated), owners and managers may find it useful to sub-divide usage according to operations.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 10.7.9</p> <p>Pesticides and biological control agents shall only be used if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are approved for forest use by the UK regulatory authorities, • They are not banned by international agreement, and • Their use is permitted by [FSC]. [UKWAS 3.4.4(a)] | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of chemicals purchased and used • Field observation • Discussion with the owner/manager and workers. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p><i>Advice to owners/managers</i></p> <p>Owners/managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager on any additional certification scheme requirements relating to the use of pesticides.</p> |

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| Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha; | <i>See also Indicator 8.1.3 regarding monitoring of pesticide usage and impacts.</i> |
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| Indicator 10.7.10 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Pesticides categorised as Type 1A and 1B by the World Health Organization or any other pesticides whose use is restricted by [FSC] shall not be used unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effective and practicable alternatives are available, • Their use is sanctioned using a mechanism endorsed by [FSC], and • Any such mechanism provides for their use to be justified and on the condition that usage shall be discontinued once effective and practicable alternatives are available. [UKWAS 3.4.4(b)] <p>Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha;</p> | as for Indicator 10.7.9. |
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| Criterion 10.8 | 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. |
| Indicator 10.8.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>The use of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers shall be minimised. [UKWAS 3.4.1(b)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Pesticide policy or position statement. |
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| Indicator 10.8.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Damage to environmental values from pesticide and biological control agent use shall be avoided, mitigated and/or repaired, and steps shall be taken to avoid recurrence. [UKWAS 3.4.1(c)]</p> | as for Indicator 10.8.1. |
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| Indicator 10.8.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>The owner/manager shall prepare and implement an effective integrated pest management strategy that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is appropriate to the scale of the woodland and the intensity of management • Adopts management systems that shall promote the development and application of non-chemical methods of pest and crop management by placing primary reliance on prevention and, where this is not practicable, biological control methods • Takes account of the importance of safeguarding the value of sites and features with special biodiversity attributes when considering methods of control, and • Demonstrates knowledge of the latest published advice and its appropriate application. [UKWAS 3.4.2(a)] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Written policy and strategy or statement. |
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| Indicator 10.8.4 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used the strategy shall justify their use demonstrating that there is no practicable alternative, in terms of economic, social and environmental costs. [UKWAS 3.4.2(c)]</p> | as for Indicator 10.8.3. |
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| Indicator 10.8.5 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>The strategy shall include a description of all known use over the previous five years, or the duration of the current woodland ownership if that is less than five years. [UKWAS 3.4.2(d)]</p> | <p>as for Indicator 10.8.3.</p> <p><i>See also the guidance note on Indicators 10.7.4, 10.7.5, 10.7.6 and 10.7.7.</i></p> |
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| Indicator 10.8.6 | Verifiers & Guidance: |

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| <p>Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used:</p> <p>10.8.6.1 The owner/manager and workers shall be aware of and implement legal requirements and non-legislative guidance for use of pesticides and biological control agents in forestry</p> <p>10.8.6.2 The owner/manager shall keep records of pesticide usage and biological control agents as required by current legislation. [UKWAS 3.4.3]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COSHH assessments • Risk assessments • Record of reason for use and pesticide choice • Personal protective equipment • FEPA records • Waste transfer notes • Discussion with the owner/manager and workers • Field observation, particularly in respect to storage, application sites, protective clothing, warning signs and availability of lockable boxes for transport of pesticides • Operators are trained and competent, and hold pesticide operator certification • Adequate written procedures, work instructions, and other documentation • Availability of appropriate absorbent materials • Emergency plan. |
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| <p>Indicator 10.8.7</p> <p>Pesticides and biological control agents shall only be used if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are approved for forest use by the UK regulatory authorities, • They are not banned by international agreement, and • Their use is permitted by [FSC]. [UKWAS 3.4.4(a)] | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of chemicals purchased and used • Field observation • Discussion with the owner/manager and workers. <p><i>See also Indicator 8.1.3 regarding monitoring of biological control agents.</i></p> <p><i>Explanatory note: The unlicensed release into the wild of non-native species is prohibited under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.</i></p> |
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| <p>Criterion 10.9 The Organization shall assess risks and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from natural hazards proportionate to scale, intensity, and risk.</p> | |
| <p>Indicator 10.9.1</p> <p>The owner/manager shall assess the potential negative impacts of natural hazards on the WMU, including drought, floods, wind, fire, invasive plant and animal species, and other pests and diseases. [UKWAS 2.5.3(a)]</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning documentation • Discussion with the owner/manager. <p><i>Guidance note:</i></p> <p><i>Evaluation should consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust planting design • Long-term forest resilience • Diversity of species, ages and distribution of open ground • Flood hazard maps. |
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| Indicator 10.9.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: as for Indicator 10.9.1. |
| Planting and restructuring plans shall be designed to mitigate the risk of damage from natural hazards. [UKWAS 2.5.3(b)] | |
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| Indicator 10.9.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager • Emergency response plans • In sites with high risk of fire, evidence of contact with the fire and rescue service and that their advice has been taken into consideration. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Incidents may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire • Extreme weather events • Outbreaks of pests, diseases or invasive species • Accidents • Chemical spills and other pollution. <p>Where appropriate, plans may be as simple as a reference card, but as a minimum should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibilities for action • Contact details • Emergency procedures. <p>Plans should take into account FISA best practice guidance and issues such as the remoteness of some WMUs, which may affect both communication and the ability of emergency services to reach sites in timely manner.</p> |
| There shall be an emergency response plan appropriate to the level of risk. [UKWAS 2.12.2] | |
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| Indicator 10.9.4 | Verifiers & Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of potential problems • Awareness of actual damage • Description of appropriate action in the management planning documentation • Membership of a deer management group • Evidence of cull targets and achievements |
| Management of wild deer shall be based on a strategy that identifies the management objectives, and aims to regulate the impact of deer. [UKWAS 2.12.1] | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where there is a significant problem caused by deer, a documented plan for control; this may take the form of a contract or licence. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> For larger organisations and WMUs, the strategy should be in writing. This requirement may involve the setting of cull targets and should involve the membership of a Deer Management Group where appropriate.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 10.9.5</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>Where appropriate, wildlife management and control shall be used in preference to fencing. [UKWAS 3.5.1]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion with the owner/manager. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> This requirement is especially important in areas where Capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>) and Black Grouse (<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>) are present.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator 10.9.6</p> | <p>Verifiers & Guidance:</p> |
| <p>Where fences are used, alignment shall be designed to minimise impacts on access (particularly public rights of way), landscape, wildlife and historic environment sites. [UKWAS 3.5.2]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field visits to verify alignments chosen Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates an awareness of impacts of fence alignments and of the alternatives Documented policy or guidelines regarding any specific significant impacts Expert advice sought for significant one-off fencing operations. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Decisions to erect fences and their alignment should take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Public rights of way Existing users of the woodland Wildlife especially woodland grouse The historic environment The need for badger gates, tunnels and ladders. <p>Where fence crossings are provided they should be appropriate to the abilities of likely users.</p> |
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| Criterion 10.10 | | 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. |
| Indicator 10.10.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| Woodland operations shall conform to forestry best practice guidance. [UKWAS 3.1.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Discussion with the owner/manager and workers • Monitoring and internal audit records. | |
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| Indicator 10.10.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| <p>The planning of woodland operations shall include:</p> <p>10.10.2.1 Obtaining any relevant permission and giving any formal notification required.</p> <p>10.10.2.2 Assessing and taking into account on and off-site impacts.</p> <p>10.10.2.3 Taking measures to protect water resources and soils, and prevent disturbance of and damage to priority species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values, including adapting standard prescriptions where required. Any disturbance or damage which does occur shall be mitigated and/or repaired, and steps shall be taken to avoid recurrence.</p> <p>10.10.2.4 Measures to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the value of identified services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries. [UKWAS 3.1.2]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented permissions • Contracts • Discussion with the owner/manager and workers • Demonstration of awareness of impacts and measures taken • Site-specific, documented assessment of impacts • Operational site assessments. | |
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| Indicator 10.10.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: | |
| <p>Operational plans shall be clearly communicated to all workers so that they understand and implement safety precautions, environmental protection plans, biosecurity protocols, emergency procedures, and prescriptions for the management of features of high conservation value. [UKWAS 3.1.3]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with workers • Records of pre-commencement meetings • Field observation • Biosecurity policy • Relevant plans and procedures. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Contracts can be in writing or workers may be given oral instructions where this is appropriate to the scale and sensitivity of the operation.</p> | |
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| Indicator 10.10.4 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>All necessary consents shall be obtained for construction, extension and upgrades of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest roads • Mineral extraction sites • Other infrastructure. [UKWAS 3.3.1] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of consents • Environmental assessment where required. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Consents may relate to planning, environmental impact assessment or construction regulations.</p> |
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| Indicator 10.10.5 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Roads and timber extraction tracks, visitor access infrastructure and associated drainage shall be designed, created, used and maintained in a manner that minimises their environmental impact. [UKWAS 3.3.2]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented plans for the design and creation of permanent roads and tracks • Control systems for the creation and use of temporary tracks and extraction routes • Field observation • Documented maintenance plans. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Where new roads are planned, a documented evaluation should be made to achieve a balance between timber extraction distances and road density, which takes into account the impact on the environment. Non-timber activities also need to be taken into account, e.g. access for sporting.</p> <p>Particular attention should be paid to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding features of historic environment, biological, geological or cultural value • Use of bridges, arches or culverts to cross water courses • Barriers to fish movement caused by water crossing points • Ensuring that verges and ditches are created and managed to promote their habitat value • Materials used, especially rock type, are in keeping with the ecology of the woodland • Avoiding erosion and adverse impacts on water systems and wildlife habitats • Careful landscaping of roads, both internally and externally • Use of brash mats. |
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| Criterion 10.11 | The Organization shall manage activities associated with harvesting and extraction of timber and non-timber forest products so that environmental values are conserved, merchantable waste is reduced, and damage to other products and services is avoided. |
| Indicator 10.11.1 | Verifiers & Guidance: |

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| <p>Timber and non-timber woodland products (NTWPs) shall be harvested efficiently and with minimum loss or damage to environmental values. [UKWAS 3.2.1(a)]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Discussion with the owner/manager. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Thinning/cutting trees to waste may be appropriate in some circumstances.</p> |
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| Indicator 10.11.2 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Timber harvesting shall particularly seek to avoid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to soil and water courses during felling, extraction and burning • Damage to standing trees, especially veteran trees, during felling, extraction and burning • Degrade in felled timber. [UKWAS 3.2.1(b)] | <p>as for Indicator 10.11.1.</p> |
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| Indicator 10.11.3 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Whole tree harvesting or stump removal shall be practised only where there is demonstrable management benefit, and where a full consideration of impacts shows that there are not likely to be any significant negative effects. UKWAS 3.2.3]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates awareness that impacts have been considered • Documented appraisal. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Significant negative impacts to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaching • Soil compaction • Soil erosion • Soil carbon loss • Nutrient loss • Damage to historical features and archaeological deposits. |
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| Indicator 10.11.4 | Verifiers & Guidance: |
| <p>Lop and top shall be burnt only where there is demonstrable management benefit, and where a full consideration of impacts shows that there are not likely to be any significant negative effects. [UKWAS 3.2.4]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates awareness that impacts have been considered • Evidence of registration of exempt activity • Documented appraisal. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> If lop and top is burned:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The location and density of fire sites should be carefully planned Some lop and top should be left unburned as habitat except where it will result in pest or disease problems The requirements of the relevant statutory environment protection agencies should be met. <p>The owner/manager should be aware that it may be necessary for burning on site to be registered as an exempt activity with the statutory environment protection agencies.</p> |
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| Criterion 10.12 The Organization shall dispose of waste materials in an environmentally appropriate manner. | |
| Indicator 10.12.1 Waste disposal shall be in accordance with current waste management legislation and regulations. [UKWAS 3.6.1] Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha; | Verifiers & Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No evidence of significant impacts from waste disposal Documented policy or guidelines on waste disposal including segregation, storage, recycling, return to manufacturer. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Waste includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic waste including tree shelters and tree bags Surplus chemicals Chemical containers Fuels and lubricants. |
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| Indicator 10.12.2 The owner/manager shall prepare and implement a prioritised plan to manage and progressively remove redundant materials. [UKWAS 3.6.2] Compulsory for certificates containing plantations larger than 10,000 ha; | Verifiers & Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field observation Removal plan Budget. <p><i>Guidance note:</i> Prioritisation and timescales for removal should take into account social, environmental and economic impacts. Examples of redundant materials include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree shelters Fencing Culvert pipes High seats. <p><i>See the list of applicable legislation in Annex A, section 3.3. See also Indicator 6.3.3 regarding accidental spillages, and Indicator 8.1.3 regarding monitoring environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials.</i></p> |
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