

Job No:	7071-CA
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SGS QUALIFOR

DRAFT MAIN ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST FOR ONTARIO May 2001

The following checklist has been derived from the generic Main Assessment 'Checklist' of the SGS QUALIFOR Programme that is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council for use in Forest Certification. This checklist will be used by SGS for certification assessments in Ontario until an endorsed regional FSC standard for Ontario has been published or elements of that standard are resolved through the regional process.

The requirements of the FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C) are shown in bold type.

The column "QUALIFOR Programme Requirements" lists the indicators to be used by SGS QUALIFOR's QUALIFOR Programme to assess whether the requirements have been met for each criterion.

In the column "CAR or Observation," areas where non-conformance's are observed are described and ranked and corrective action requests defined. The evaluation of conformance with assessment criteria and indicators is based on objective evidence and the professional judgment of the assessor. Final decisions at the criterion and principle level are made by consensus of the assessment team. Non-compliance at the indicator level does not normally preclude certification but will result in a requirement for minor corrective action to be implemented within a defined time frame and to be verified or 'closed out' during subsequent surveillance audits. Non-compliance at the criterion level normally precludes certification and results in a requirement for major corrective action that must be implemented and 'closed out' within a defined time frame before certification can be proceed.

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QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
1. <i>COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES - Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.</i>		
1.1 Forest management shall respect all national, and local laws and administrative requirements		
1.1.1 there is an up-to-date register and current copies of all relevant federal, provincial, and municipal legislation, regulations and guidelines. For organisations with several operating regions, relevant copies are available at each region office.		
1.1.2 there is a system for ensuring that all summaries or reference copies of legislation and regulations are up to date and are circulated to operating regions.		
1.1.3 there is an up to date list at each operations office of the contact details of all authorities that regulate an organisation's activities		
1.1.4 managers, employees and contractors are aware of their legal responsibilities and of the implications of their activities.		
1.1.5 relevant statutes and regulations are implemented through standard operating procedures or guidelines		
1.1.6 where non-compliances are identified corrective actions are implemented		
1.1.7 there is no evidence of significant, recurring non-compliance with legal requirements. Compliance records will be reviewed with statutory authorities.		
1.2 All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid		
1.2.1 there is up-to-date information on all applicable and legally prescribed fees (including stumpage payments, royalties, taxes, etc)		
1.2.2 there is evidence that required payments have been made		

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1.2.3 provision has been made to meet the costs of future fees		
1.3 In signatory countries, the provisions of all the binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.		
1.3.1 there is an up to date list and awareness of the requirements of applicable international agreements and how they apply to forest management		
1.3.2 guidelines or principles arising from or reflecting relevant agreements have been applied to relevant activities. These include: (but may not be limited to) - CITES-listed species - ILO respect for worker's - rights to organise and undertake collective bargaining - conventions that cover protection for biodiversity, wetlands, greenhouse gases, and migratory birds - Montreal Process & Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management		
1.4 Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case-by-case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.		
1.4.1 any identified conflicts are documented by the manager and the context clearly described		
1.4.2 involved and affected parties (regional and national FSC bodies, governments, stakeholders, & interest groups) are consulted and kept informed		
1.4.3 <i>actions taken to address conflicts are described and demonstrate an intent to achieve appropriate resolution</i>		
1.5 Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorised activities		

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1.5.1 unauthorised and illegal activities are identified, monitored, and controlled by the manager and /or the relevant local authority (ie licensee or owner, MoF, MoELP, DFO)		
1.5.2 there are adequate personnel and surveillance resources to monitor & control such activities		
1.6 Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria		
1.6.1 there is a publicly available policy endorsed by the most senior management stating commitment to the FSC P&C		
1.6.2 the policy is communicated throughout the organisation and to contractors		
1.6.3 the policy is reviewed and updated regularly		
1.6.4 there is evidence of resources invested in long term management (eg research, inventory, management planning, roading, controlled harvesting, post harvest monitoring & forest protection)		
2. TENURE AND RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES - Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.		
2.1 Clear long-term tenure and forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated		
2.1.1 there is documentation showing the legal status of all forest land and that demonstrates legal, long-term (or renewable) rights to manage the land and/or utilise forest resources		
2.1.2 <i>licensees operating on Crown land can demonstrate authorisation from Provincial authorities to manage the forest in accordance with the FSC P&C.</i>		
2.1.3 geographic areas assigned for volume based tenures are stable and provide for a long term management approach consistent with the FSC P&C		

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2.1.4 the extent and location of overlapping tenure and/or use rights to land and resources are documented		
2.2 Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies. (Note: First Nations tenure issues are assessed under Principle 3)		
2.2.1 Local communities, and/or other stakeholders who have recognised legal or customary tenure or use rights within the forest area have been identified and the nature of these rights and associated resources described and documented (refer to draft BC regional standard P2.2 for examples)		
2.2.2 the impacts of proposed forest management operations on entitled uses and users are <i>adequately</i> evaluated		
2.2.3 all holders of overlapping use rights are aware of current and proposed management activities that may affect their rights and activities		
2.2.4 there is objective evidence that affected parties maintain influence over forest operations to the extent necessary to protect their rights and resources, or that free and informed consent for forest management activities affecting overlapping legal, customary or traditional use rights has been given where appropriate, and that the interests of affected parties have been reasonably accommodated		
2.3 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.		
2.3.1 there are records of the nature of all previous and on-going disputes over, land use, tenure claims aboriginal title and resource use rights pertaining to the forest area.		

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2.3.2 appropriate mechanisms are employed at the appropriate level to resolve disputes. (eg. may include legal and administrative processes, internal procedures, mediation, negotiation, the Treaty process, and land use planning and zoning processes.)		
2.3.3 there is commitment (and action) by the affected parties to resolve disputes in a timely and equitable manner.		
3. <i>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS - The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognised and respected.</i>		
3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.		
3.1.1 <i>Within the forest area being assessed, the nature and extent of First Nations' legal and/or traditional territories including any lands and/or resources under claim have been identified and documented. (see the foot note to 3.1a in the May 99 draft BC regional standards for an FSC definition of indigenous land and territories.)</i>		

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<p>3.1.2 <i>There is evidence that First Nations are directly involved in forest management and/or have been meaningfully consulted and consent to forest management activities occurring within their lands, traditional territories and/or areas of interest, pending the resolution of the ownership issues. This requirement will be verified through the existence of documented consent, agreements, interim measures, joint initiatives, active participation in forest management activities and/or a lack of clear, ongoing objection, dispute, litigation or confrontation between the First Nation and the forest manager. The existence of ongoing objection or dispute of a substantial magnitude, litigation or active confrontation by a First Nation to forest management activities will normally preclude certification until the issues have been addressed.</i></p>		
<p>3.1.3 <i>Where there is a claim or dispute over title to land and resources, appropriate mechanisms are being employed at the appropriate level to resolve these issues and affected parties are committed to their resolution</i></p>		
<p>3.1.4 Where a Treaty or Interim Measures Agreement or Court decision sets forth a structure and process for participation of a First Nation in forest management; those provisions are respected and are being implemented.</p>		

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3.1.5 <i>First Nation's have been given adequate opportunity to participate in forest management planning and activities. The forest manager actively consults with the affected First Nation, providing support for capacity building where appropriate, and recognises, respects, and incorporates their cultural interests, issues and concerns into management and development planning.</i>		
3.1.6 <i>Forest management occurring on traditional lands provides opportunities to local First Nations to build capacity according to their individual interests and needs.</i>		
3.1.7 <i>Where affected First Nations choose not to participate in forest management planning and operations, they are kept informed of forest management activities and encouraged to become more involved should they wish to be so.</i>		
3.2 Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.		
3.2.1 <i>Forest management activities have been planned through meaningful consultation in order to 'avoid unjustifiable infringement of aboriginal rights and potential title'.</i>		
3.2.2 First Nations interests and perspectives regarding forestland management have been sought, documented, and reasonably accommodated during management planning and implementation of forestry activities.		

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3.2.3 Direct and indirect impacts of forest management on First Nations' traditional resources or tenure rights are identified.		
3.2.4 <i>Actions to avoid or address adverse impacts are planned, documented and implemented, to the satisfaction of the affected First Nation.</i>		
3.3 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples [and other sections of the community] shall be clearly identified in co-operation with such peoples, and recognised and protected by forest managers.		
3.3.1 The forest manager has a defined process for the identification of aboriginal sites and features and for the registration of claims relating to such areas including a process for conflict resolution.		
3.3.2 Sites or features of special cultural, historical, ecological, economic or religious significance are identified and documented. (Refer to draft regional standard 3.3b for a summary list of culturally important areas). Oral as well as physical evidence should be considered. It is noted that in some cases it may be inappropriate to identify or demarcate certain sites ie: burial sites, traditional medicinal plant and food gathering areas, yet these must still be recognized and managed to protect expressed cultural values)		

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3.3.3 The identification of these sites and their values is done in consultation with and with the participation of First Nations communities. Where interested, local First Nations are involved or encouraged to participate in the identification and inventory of cultural sites and features.		
3.3.4 Management objectives and prescriptions for these sites reflect First Nations values, are developed in consultation with and with the participation of First Nations communities, and are described at an appropriate level of detail in management plans.		
3.3.5 During operations, operators and contractors are able to recognize identified sites and features in the field and do not disturb them or cause them to be disturbed.		
3.3.6 Access rights to these sites by First Nations people are maintained.		
3.4 Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.		
3.4.1 First Nations communities are consulted regarding traditional knowledge and practices relating to forest management		
3.4.2 Traditional knowledge or practices related to the forest area that has or may have potential commercial value are documented		

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3.4.3 First Nations receive fair compensation for their contribution of traditional knowledge, practices or intellectual property rights related to forest management. Compensation is formally agreed to before forest operations commence.		
4. <u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS</u> - Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well being of forest workers and local communities.		
4.1 The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services..		
4.1.1 qualified people in local communities are given equal or preferential opportunities in employment and contracting		
4.1.2 training initiatives for local people to build local capacity and meet the organisation's long-term staffing requirements are developed and supported where appropriate		
4.1.3 support is provided for local infrastructure, facilities and social programmes at a level appropriate to the scale and intensity of local forest management and industry		
4.1.4 local communities have an active role in the identification of training and services that the organisation provides		
4.1.5 staff members are identified with responsibility for liaison and consultation with local communities, resolution of grievances and compensation		
4.2 Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.		
4.2.1 up-to-date information on all relevant laws and regulations covering health and safety is maintained		
4.2.2 operational procedures covering all workplace health and safety requirements are written and implemented		

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4.2.3 identified staff members have responsibility for implementing health and safety policies including maintenance of a proactive accident prevention and audit system		
4.2.4 hazardous areas and hazardous substances are demarcated		
4.2.5 all equipment is subject to periodic inspection, testing and maintenance with regard to safety, as appropriate, and only equipment which has passed such tests is used		
4.2.6 appropriate safety equipment is available and in use at the job-site		
4.3 The rights of the workers to organise and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).		
4.3.1 workers are free to organise and negotiate		
4.3.2 staff members with responsibility for liaison with workers' organisations are identified		
4.3.3 issues raised by workers' organisations are treated constructively and objectively		
4.3.4 conflict resolution procedures are documented		
4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups directly affected by management operations.		
4.4.1 the social & economic impacts of forest operations are evaluated and described in consultation with local communities, regional bodies and affected stakeholders. Local community goals and community stability issues are specifically considered.		
4.4.2 the results of such evaluations are incorporated into the planning process, and areas of potential conflict are addressed		
4.4.3 stakeholders are identified and a current contact list is maintained.		

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4.4.4 there is ongoing consultation and liaison with communities & people affected by forest operations.		
4.4.5 communications with stakeholders and issues that require action and follow-up are documented		
4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage		
4.5.1 adequate procedures are employed for resolving grievances and providing fair compensation involving claimed loss or damage to property, resources, health & livelihoods and/or legal or customary use rights, caused by forest operations		
4.5.2 measures are employed appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest operations to prevent losses or damage from occurring		
5. <i>BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST - Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.</i>		
5.1 Forest management should strive towards economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.		
5.1.1 the forest enterprise has adequate financial and human resources to implement the management plan(s)		
5.1.2 the costs of forest management including environmental and social activities, are identified, estimated and included in current budgets and future plans.		
5.1.3 the forest management enterprise demonstrates long term viability, competitiveness, and stability and provides for reinvestment to maintain economic (company), social (community and workforce), and biological (forest & ecological) productivity		

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5.1.4 investments are made to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest		
5.2 Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.		
5.2.1 optimal use of raw forest products (by species, grade and value), local processing (including value added), and markets for local forest products are promoted and supported where possible and feasible		
5.2.2 local processors are not excluded from access to reasonable quantities of locally produced forest products at fair market prices		
5.3 Forest management should minimise waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.		
5.3.1 harvesting operations, log specifications, transport and processing operations are designed to optimise value and avoid log damage, deterioration, breakage & waste and to avoid damage to residual forest stands & other forest resources		
5.3.2 unavoidable waste including tops, branches, and coarse woody debris are left on site consistent with utilisation standards and as required to maintain site productivity and biodiversity values. Conflicts between utilisation standards and site productivity requirements are described and addressed.		
5.3.3 the disposal of wood waste by open burning or beehive burning [except to achieve specific silvicultural or forest health objectives] is avoided or minimised in favour of alternatives (ie salvage & utilisation, piling, burying, redistribution, co-generation). Alternatives involving removal from a site must consider 5.3.2.		

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5.3.4 post-harvest monitoring assesses avoidable and unavoidable waste including CWD and results are fed back into management planning		
5.4 Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.		
5.4.1 forest management identifies and provides for a range of direct and indirect economic values including timber and non-timber forest resources, products, and services. Management strategies are clearly defined. Local community economic development strategies are considered and supported where possible.		
5.4.2 complementary forest uses are supported and promoted while conflicting uses are addressed through consultation, management planning, and conflict resolution consistent with 2.2 & 2.3.		
5.4.3 rational and sustainable use of non-timber forest products is encouraged while potential over-exploitation is addressed		
5.5 Forest management operations shall recognise, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.		
5.5.1 the broad range of forest services (<i>including but not limited to: range, recreation, tourism, visual quality, watersheds, fisheries, wildlife, non-timber forest products, and biodiversity</i>), are identified, quantified where possible, described through inventories, assessments, <i>consultation with affected stakeholders</i> and mapping		
5.5.2 the potential impacts of forest management activities on these services are assessed and described		

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5.5.3 forest management strategies to maintain and enhance these values are defined. Operations are planned and <i>implemented so as to complement and/or avoid negative impacts on identified forest services and non-timber forest products</i>		
5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.		
5.6.1 <i>harvest levels have been calculated for the forest management area based on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>compliance with the requirements of this standard;</i> • <i>management plan objectives and strategies, current resource inventories, up to date growth & yield data, ecological factors, operability information and long term forecasting;</i> • <i>adequate provision for the maintenance of a broad range of forest resource values.</i> 		

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<p>5.6.2 <i>planned harvest rates do not exceed long term 'sustainable' harvest levels (expressed as LTHL) as calculated to make provision for current and future multiple uses of the forest area. Where current harvest rates are in excess of long term harvest levels:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>there is a plan to reduce harvest levels to long term levels within a specified timeframe;</i> • <i>there is investment in schemes to mitigate the social impacts of a reduction in harvest levels, particularly for rural communities;</i> • <i>it can be demonstrated that the current harvest rate will not degrade the productive capacity of the forest or result in a rate of cut below long term harvest levels at any time in the future and that social, economic and environmental sustainability are not being prejudiced.</i> 		
<p>5.6.3 <i>modelling employed for harvest level determinations provides long term, multiple rotation projections showing changes in forest structure and the availability of resource values & products over time.</i></p>		
<p>5.6.4 <i>volumes harvested are reported regularly and accurately and compared against predicted volumes and growth data.</i></p>		
<p>5.6.5 <i>harvest level information is publicly available</i></p>		

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<p>6. <i>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</i> - Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p>		
<p>6.1 Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed - appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources - and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site disturbing operations.</p>		
<p>6.1.1 Assessments of environmental impacts are carried out at forest landscape and site levels prior to commencement of site disturbing operations</p>		
<p>6.1.2 As background for environmental impact assessment, the regional, sub-regional, and landscape context for the forest management area is established consistent with the scale and intensity of the operation. Attributes to consider include but are not limited to the list of attributes described under 6.1a of the May 1999 draft BC FSC regional standard.</p>		
<p>6.1.3 In areas proposed for management activities there are inventories (based on the availability and current feasibility of data) of site characteristics, resources, and environmental values. Attributes to consider include but are not limited to the list of attributes described under 6.1b of the May 1999 draft BC FSC regional standard. Where information is unavailable or incomplete, there is a demonstrated commitment to improving inventories (e.g. support for research, training, pilot projects, inventory plans)</p>		

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<p>6.1.4 <i>Management objectives specify the desired future condition of forest ecosystems relative to a benchmark defined in relation to natural forest conditions. The inventories and other ecological baseline information are used as a basis to measure and monitor changes and impacts associated with management activities (refer to P8.2)</i></p>		
<p>6.1.5 environmental impacts identified during assessments are used to assess risk, and set management objectives to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to identified values</p>		
<p>6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g. nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.</p>		
<p>6.2.1 red and blue-listed species, their habitats, and sites with unusually high species and/or ecosystem diversity are identified through field surveys or other sources and protected or managed at a level sufficient to ensure that viable populations are maintained, and where there not viable populations, that recovery efforts designed to achieve viable populations are undertaken. This may include the designation of protected habitat reserves, habitat conservation management zones, and access controls where appropriate. For large-scale forest operations, management and protection strategies, plans and activities are developed with the input of professional biologists.</p>		

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6.2.2 where appropriate, there is co-operation with conservation organizations and regulatory authorities in defining habitat reserves and management and protection strategies.		
6.2.3 relevant employees and contractors (i.e. inventory, layout and falling crews) are trained in recognizing rare, threatened or endangered species of fauna and flora and their habitat, and in the implementation of defined management plan activities to protect them.		
6.2.4 rare, threatened and endangered species are protected during operations; the effectiveness of protection and management activities is monitored.		
6.2.5 hunting, fishing and collecting activities are controlled in the forest management area by the relevant authority		
6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species and ecosystem diversity. c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.		
6.3.1 Known ecological functions and values are described for the forest area (e.g.: silvics and ecology of plants and plant communities, seral stages and successional models, natural disturbance types, habitat functions, genetic, species and ecosystem diversity, carbon, nutrient & hydrological cycles).		

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6.3.2 gaps in information and knowledge relating to ecological functions and values are identified. There is commitment to the expansion of the knowledge base (e.g. through ongoing inventory assessment, support for research, operational trials, adaptive management)		
6.3.3 forest development planning and management incorporate principles of landscape and ecosystem based planning and include measures to maintain ecologically important stand structure and processes		
6.3.4 forest management maintains a variety of patch sizes and seral stages, consistent with ranges of natural variation at the landscape level, and maintains connectivity of ecosystems in such a manner as to ensure the continued dispersal and movement of forest and range dwelling organisms across the landscape, and it provides forested areas of sufficient size to maintain forest interior habitat conditions and to prevent the formation of excessive edge habitat.		
6.3.5 silvicultural systems and other management systems are designed and implemented with consideration for ecological functions, natural disturbance types, and for the maintenance of ecologically important stand attributes and structures.		

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6.3.6 <i>harvesting systems are consistent with the type, size and frequency of natural ecological disturbance processes. Where natural processes are dominated by small-scale disturbance, a plan must be defined to trial and implement alternatives to clear cut regimes within a reasonable timeframe..</i>		
6.3.7 timely and successful forest regeneration is occurring on harvested and disturbed forestlands. It is ecologically appropriate, derived from ecologically appropriate seed sources and maintains, enhances or restores natural species and genetic diversity including deciduous and non-commercial species.		
6.3.8 transitional and non-forested habitats (such as rock outcrops, alpine, snow avalanche tracks), wetlands and riparian areas along with forested margins surrounding these areas, are being managed to ensure that the ecosystem functions of these habitats are maintained		
6.3.9 where past forest management practices have resulted in forest conditions that prevent biodiversity objectives from being achieved, these forest areas are being managed to create or recover identified ecosystem elements. Where appropriate, there is a program for restoration of degraded sites.		
6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within landscapes shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale of operations and the uniqueness of the resource.		

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<p>6.4.1 the importance and uniqueness (e.g. rarity, richness, vulnerability) of the ecosystems within the forest area relative to the local, national and global context are identified and described</p>		
<p>6.4.2 <i>there is a network of protected reserves representing the range of BEC variants and site series present and appropriate to the size of the forest area being assessed and the regional, sub-regional, and landscape context within which it is located. Reserves are designed to maintain or restore (where under-represented) the natural state and biodiversity of existing ecosystems.</i></p>		
<p>6.4.3 <i>Protected reserves are delineated on maps, and include key ecosystem features such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>rare or under-represented ecosystems (at the landscape and regional level),</i> • <i>critical habitat for red and blue listed species,</i> • <i>riparian ecosystems, late successional forest with forest interior conditions.</i> 		

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<p>6.4.4 <i>The extent of protected areas within the management unit should be based on a gap analysis appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations that considers: the landscape and regional context, the representation of ecosystems within existing protected areas, the uniqueness of affected features and resources, and identified high conservation value attributes. The level of protection should be related to the relative rarity, sensitivity, or uniqueness of existing ecosystems. As an interim requirement, until regional standards have been developed, it will need to be demonstrated that development planned over the next two to three year planning horizon does not threaten rare or under represented ecosystems.</i></p> <p><i>Protected areas outside of management units may contribute to requirements for ecosystem representation within the landscape. Protected reserves within the management unit should complement external representation, and contribute, where appropriate, to habitat corridors and connectivity requirements recognized at the landscape and regional levels.</i></p> <p><i>Reserves may include areas reserved to fulfil other objectives such as the protection of streams, designated wildlife habitat, unstable slopes and sensitive soils, important cultural values and areas with high value scenic and recreational resources.</i></p>		

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6.4.5 appropriate mechanisms are prescribed and implemented to restrict incompatible activities and protect the function and integrity of the protected areas.		
6.5 Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimise forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.		
6.5.1 there are written guidelines that define acceptable practices prepared and implemented for road development and harvesting in and around environmentally sensitive terrain and areas (as described in terrain inventories and site assessments)		

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<p>6.5.2 there are written guidelines, site level plans & prescriptions prepared and implemented for all mechanical site disturbing forest operations (e.g. road & trail construction, use and maintenance, harvesting & salvage activities, site preparation, silvicultural treatments, forest protection, and road & trail deactivation). The guidelines define best practices designed to: avoid and control soil erosion, soil compaction, soil displacement, forest floor displacement and mass wasting relative to assessed hazard ratings; define shutdown criteria for operations during periods of high hazard conditions; maintain and protect natural surface and sub-surface drainage patterns and water resources avoiding diversion thereof; maintain soil productivity; protect down slope and adjacent resource values; minimize and control damage to residual and adjacent forest stands and resources; and restore degraded sites.</p>		
<p>6.5.3 soil disturbance, % permanent access, residual forest damage and negative site impacts are minimized and meet or exceed existing provincial standards. Forest management, operations, and permanent access structures shall be within the recommended allowable soil disturbance (within the net area to be reforested) and recommended allowable site occupancy by permanent access structures as described in the soil conservation guidebook.</p>		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
<p>6.5.4 all watershed, riparian, and aquatic features are identified, classified, and mapped according to provincial FPC standards. Watershed assessments are conducted and updated for all community and designated watersheds and operations are consistent with the results of these assessments.</p>		
<p>6.5.5 written guidelines and site level plans & prescriptions are prepared and implemented for all site disturbing forest operations (see list above) occurring within riparian management areas. The guidelines and prescriptions describe specific objectives and best management practices that: minimize stream crossings; minimize, control or avoid machine traffic in riparian management areas, minimize risk of sediment delivery from roads and trails; protect the integrity of designated riparian reserves; maintain structural and vegetation features important to riparian biodiversity, function, and water quality; protect channel and stream bank stability on streams without riparian reserves; protect temperature sensitive streams; protect marine-sensitive zones and fisheries sensitive zones; and minimize or avoid impacts on quality, quantity and timing of water flows.</p>		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
<p>6.5.6 <i>the impacts of forest practices on riparian features, fish habitat and water resources have been mitigated through the application of riparian reserve zones, management zones, and riparian best management practices as described in the Riparian Management Area Guidebook. Supplementary protection that goes beyond Guidebook requirements will be expected around riparian systems with sensitive fisheries values, particularly S3 and S4 streams and their direct tributaries. Field assessments are required to determine the actual size of protected riparian reserve zones. Detailed prescriptions (as described in 6.5.5) must demonstrate that riparian and fisheries values remain protected. The field assessment will verify that prescriptions have been implemented and that identified values have been protected.</i></p>		
<p>6.5.7 <i>adequate measures are taken to protect the forest from accidental or wild fire.</i></p>		
<p>6.6 Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally-friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organisation Type 1A and 1B chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimise health and environmental risks.</p>		
<p>6.6.1 <i>there is a list of all pesticides used in the organisation and prohibited chemicals (according to FSC lists, guidances (eg 991217 discussion draft) and definitions, and to Provincial, Federal, and international lists (ie WHO) are not used.</i></p>		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
6.6.2 operators comply with written prescriptions for pesticide application on all sites including nursery operations.		
6.6.3 where chemical pesticides are used, efforts are being made to reduce their use and/or develop alternative management practices.		
6.6.4 appropriate application equipment, protective clothing and training on its use are provided that as a minimum comply with legal requirements.		
6.6.5 there are procedures for storage, mixing and application of chemicals that, as a minimum, comply with legal requirements.		
6.6.6 there are emergency plans and procedures for prevention and cleanup following chemical spills or other accidents with pesticides.		
6.6.7 records of chemical usage and of all incidents involving chemicals are kept.		
6.7 Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.		
6.7.1 all types of non-organic wastes are identified and categorised		
6.7.2 there are emergency plans and procedures for prevention and cleanup following spills or other accidents with oils and fuels		
6.7.3 non-organic wastes (e.g. oil, tires, containers, scrap etc.) are recycled where possible		
6.7.4 waste that cannot be re-cycled is disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner and according to applicable regulations		
6.7.5 on-site facilities for secure collection of waste are provided		
6.7.6 waste disposal facilities and practices are monitored		
6.8 Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimised, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
6.8.1 <i>if biological control agents are used, there is compliance with all relevant provincial laws, national laws and internationally accepted protocols</i>		
6.8.2 all activities where biological control agents are used are documented and monitored		
6.8.3 no genetically modified organisms are used		
6.9 The use of exotic species shall be controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts		
6.9.1 any exotic species used do not have adverse ecological impacts		
6.9.2 unwanted exotic regeneration is monitored, and controlled if necessary		
6.9.3 information is available on seed sources		
6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.		
6.10.1 Forest conversion if any is limited to less than 5% of the forest management area (this does not include infrastructure- see 6.5.3).		
6.10.2 conversion does not occur on high conservation value forest areas		
6.10.3 the conservation benefits of conversion have been identified, assessed and documented in co-operation with acknowledged experts, and meet the above stated requirements		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
<p>7. <i>MANAGEMENT PLAN - A management plan - appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations - shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.</i></p>		
<p>7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) management objectives; b) description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands; c) rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection; d) provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics; e) environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments; f) plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species; g) maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership; h) description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used. 		
<p>7.1.1 there is a written management plan with supporting documentation covering short, medium and long term planning horizons. Linkages between planning horizons and activities are clearly identified.</p>		
<p>7.1.2 management philosophies, strategies, time frames, objectives, standards and the means for achieving them are described for the broad range of social, economic, and environmental forest values</p>		
<p>7.1.3 the forest resources to be managed (timber and non-timber), conservation values, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands are described. (as per principles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 9)</p>		
<p>7.1.4, the rationale, methodology, management regimes and assumptions used to derive the rate of annual harvest, long term harvest levels, and cut control provisions and to guide species selection are described (see P 5.6)</p>		
<p>7.1.5 provisions for monitoring forest growth & yield, forest dynamics, forest condition, composition and environmental, ecological economic and social impacts are described.</p>		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
7.1.6 management strategies and safeguards designed to protect assessed environmental, habitat, and ecological values (per P6) are described. Conservation strategies for the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem functions are described.		
7.1.7 the management plan and supporting documents describe plans, inventory status, and management strategies for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species.		
7.1.8 there are detailed maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations, describing the forest resource base that show for example: forest cover types, topographical and hydrological features, resource inventories, access, ecological site classification, protected areas, forest management zones, terrain classification, environmentally and visually sensitive areas, habitat, recreation, and cultural features, planned management activities and land ownership		
7.1.9 there is a description and justification of silvicultural systems, harvesting methods, equipment used and their appropriateness for meeting forest stand and landscape level objectives for maintaining timber and non-timber forest values and ecological processes.		
7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic considerations.		
7.2.1 staff members with responsibility for the overall compilation and updating of the management plan are identified		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
7.2.2 procedures are defined and implemented for the incorporation of monitoring data into the management planning process.		
7.2.3 new scientific and technical developments are evaluated and incorporated into revised plans.		
7.2.4 revised plans respond to changing environmental, social and economic considerations.		
7.2.5 a timetable for the periodic revision of the management plan is adhered to.		
7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.		
7.3.1 staff members with responsibility for training are identified		
7.3.2 forest workers at all levels have adequate training (including the health and safety issues and environmental aspects) to implement the management plan.		
7.3.3 there are procedures for assessing the effectiveness of the training.		
7.3.4 supervisory staff have adequate training and resources.		
7.3.5 all activities are supervised and monitored sufficiently to ensure that standards and procedures are adequately implemented		
7.3.6 contractors' personnel receive adequate training in all aspects relevant to their activities		
7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1 above.		
7.4.1 there are publicly-available statements that provide an up-to-date summary of the primary elements of the management plan as listed in 7.1		
7.4.2 public input is solicited on the management plan and at each revision. All input and the rationale and actions taken in accommodating or rejecting it are documented.		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
8. <i>MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT - Monitoring shall be conducted - appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management - to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.</i>		
8.1 The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessments of change.		
8.1.1 <i>all activities and indicators that require monitoring are identified and described. Baseline indicators have been developed and described consistent with FSC criteria, relevant national and international criteria for sustainable forest management, and consistent with the scale and intensity of forest management operations.</i>		
8.1.2 the frequency and intensity of monitoring for different indicators is defined and is consistent with the nature of the indicator, the management activity, the environmental sensitivity of the site, assessed risks, stakeholder concerns, performance history, and changing environmental conditions. Monitoring programs should include both long term and short term monitoring activities.		
8.1.3 documented monitoring procedures for each indicator and activity are consistent and replicable over time		
8.1.4 staff members with responsibility for implementing monitoring programmes are identified		
8.2 Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) yield of all forest products harvested; b) growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest; c) composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna; d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations; e) costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.		
8.2.1 yields of all forest products harvested are recorded (species, grade, quantity)		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
8.2.2 data are collected on growth rates, regeneration and stocking, forest health, stand structure, site productivity, and condition of the forest		
8.2.3 data are collected (to the extent feasible) on the composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna (including red, blue and yellow listed species), forest cover, age classes, species composition, seral stages, fragmentation, stand structural attributes, wildlife habitat and coarse woody debris, and the effectiveness of conservation activities.		
8.2.4 data are collected on designated watershed condition (CWAP/IWAP), water quality, road condition and drainage structures		
8.2.5 the environmental and social impacts of forest operations are monitored		
8.2.6 post harvest monitoring is carried out to assess waste and site impacts (<i>e.g. soil disturbance, streams and riparian features, other identified resource features</i>)		
8.2.7 data are collected on the costs, productivity and efficiency of forest management		
8.2.8 contractors' performance is monitored, including compliance with contract specifications		
8.2.9 waste disposal sites and fuel and chemical storage installations within the management area are monitored regularly		
8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organisations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."		
8.3.1 there is a documented procedure for identifying all products leaving the forest so that the recipient can easily determine the forest of origin		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
8.3.2 documentation is maintained on the date, origin, quantity, and grade of all products leaving the forest.		
8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.		
8.4.1 <i>Records of monitoring activities are kept and are available for input into management planning</i>		
8.4.2 the results of research and monitoring programmes are analysed and summarised at regular intervals		
8.4.3. the results of monitoring are incorporated into periodic revisions of the management plan, policy and procedures, and are also used to revise or improve the monitoring program as required		
8.5 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.		
8.5.1 summary reports are compiled of the results of monitoring activities from available data on the indicators listed in 8.2 and are made publicly available.		
9. <i>MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS - Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.</i>		
9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management.		
9.1.1 attributes of HCVF's for the region have been defined and are described according to the international FSC definition. Consideration of the list of examples described in the May 1999 draft BC FSC regional standards must be demonstrated.		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
9.1.2 a conservation assessment to ascertain the presence or absence of HCV attributes has been completed for the forest area. The assessment is comprehensive, rigorous and must demonstrably include the results of consultation with appropriate experts, local stakeholders, conservation organisations and government agencies.		
Where the presence of attributes of HCVF's have been identified, the location and extent of the HCVF area is described		
<i>In the absence of further guidance from an FSC Technical Committee, forest operations seeking certification must demonstrate broad support among specialists and the range of interested parties for the approach they have taken to the identification and management of High Conservation Forest attributes. This will be verified through the certification body consultation process.</i>		
9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.		
9.2.1 a list of the conservation attributes of identified HCVF's and management options for the maintenance thereof has been prepared and is publicly available for use during the management planning process for the HCVF and the consultative portion of the certification process.		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
9.2.2 the forest manger has consulted with appropriate experts, local stakeholders, conservation organisations and government agencies and approved land use plans to determine options for the maintenance of HCVF's occurring in the forest management area.		
9.3 The management plan shall include specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.		
9.3.1 each attribute of HCVF areas is identified and described in the management plan		
9.3.2 specific measures to maintain and/or enhance the identified conservation attributes are described in the management plan and implemented. These shall form the basis for a scientifically based conservation strategy for the HCVF area that defines objectives and measurable criteria and is an integral part of the management plan.		
9.3.3 the strategy and all relevant measures are described in the public summary of the management plan		
9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.		
9.4.1 indicators are defined to monitor effectiveness of each measure described in the plan		
9.4.2 the frequency of monitoring of these indicators is defined appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management. Annual monitoring will be expected for all site-disturbing operations.		
9.4.3 records of monitoring are available and are used to adapt future management		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
10 <i>PLANTATIONS - Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 - 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.</i>		
10.1 The management objectives of the plantation, including natural forest conversion and restoration objectives, shall be explicitly stated in the management plan, and clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the plan.		
10.1.1 plantation management strategies and objectives are clearly stated in the management plan and implemented		
10.1.2 operating procedures reflect the management objectives		
10.2 The design and layout of plantations should promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods, shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands within the natural landscape.		
10.2.1 natural landscape features and natural vegetation areas within and adjacent to the management area are identified and considered at design and establishment phases		
10.2.2 areas of natural vegetation are retained or restored as wildlife habitat and/or corridors		
10.2.3 streamside buffer zones are designated and protected		
10.3 Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.		
10.3.1 a variety species and/or provenances are used		
10.3.2 a range of opening sizes are used that perpetuate the natural pattern of forest patch sizes so that landscape variation is maintained		
10.3.3 plantation planning and re-establishment makes provision for variation through age class, species and rotation periods		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
10.4 The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological impacts.		
10.4.1 Native species are preferred over exotics in the establishment of plantations and restoration of degraded ecosystems.		
10.4.2 Selection of plantation species and provenances is based on documented trials that demonstrated their suitability to the sites and management objectives.		
10.4.3 exotic species are used only where they outperform native species for defined management objectives.		
10.4.4 information is available on seed sources		
10.5 A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation and to be determined in regional standards, shall be managed so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover.		
10.5.1 Planning for plantation establishment and re-establishment includes provision for reserve areas for conservation or restoration of natural vegetation types		
10.5.2 reserve areas are clearly marked on maps and on the ground		
10.5.3 records of reserves areas are maintained		
10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns		
10.6.1 there are data on all soil types in the plantation area that indicate their susceptibility to degradation from forest operations		
10.6.2 forest operations that might degrade soils and the potential types of degradation are identified		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
10.6.3 soil degradation due to forest operations is minimised. Operational prescriptions for each soil type applied as per 6.5		
10.6.4 where soils are degraded from previous activities, there are prescriptions to restore them		
10.6.5 major water bodies within the forest area are identified and their importance for ecology and downstream users is understood		
10.6.6 forest operations that might impact or degrade water bodies through siltation, physical damage, pollution, excess water use, and/or increased water runoff are identified		
10.6.7 degradation of water bodies is minimised. Operational prescriptions are implemented as per 6.5		
10.7 Measures shall be taken to minimise outbreaks of pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions. Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilisers. Plantation management should make every effort to move away from chemical pesticides and fertilisers, including their use in nurseries. The use of chemicals is also covered in Criteria 6.6 and 6.7.		
10.7.1 regular plantation staff are given sufficient training to identify health problems in the plantations and where appropriate specialist inspectors are used		
10.7.2 there are documented procedures to be followed in the case of observation of any occurrence of a health problem		
10.7.3 integrated pest management systems are used where available. The routine use of chemical pesticides (and fertilisers) is minimised and avoided as much as possible. Alternatives are sought and used where appropriate		
10.7.4 there is a documented fire prevention and control system that takes into account the main causes of fire in the locality and the risk of fire outbreak		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
10.7.5 there is a documented fire surveillance system including clear assignment of responsibilities for reporting outbreaks		
10.7.6 there are documented procedures for fire suppression that include definition of responsibilities and chain of command		
10.7.7 all employees and contractors who are required to perform fire control activities, have received adequate training		
10.7.8 there are regular audits of fire readiness that test all procedures		
<p>10.8 Appropriate to the scale and diversity of the operation, monitoring of plantations, shall include regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site impacts, (e.g. natural regeneration, effects on water resources and soil fertility, and impacts on local welfare and social well-being), in addition to those elements addressed in principles 8, 6 and 4. No species should be planted on a large scale until local trials and/or experience have shown that they are ecologically well-adapted to the site, are not invasive, and do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems. Special attention will be paid to social issues of land acquisition for plantations, especially the protection of local rights of ownership, use or access.</p>		
10.8.1 Potential on-site and off-site impacts are identified and monitored including, as appropriate: - unwanted natural regeneration - effects on water resources - effects on soil fertility - effects on local welfare - landscape impacts - wildlife habitat		
10.8.2 prior local rights of ownership, use and access [to land acquired for plantation] are protected, or have been compensated with the full agreement of representatives of all parties that previously enjoyed such rights		
<p>10.9 plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion.</p>		
10.9.1 The plantation does not occupy land converted from natural forest since November 1994		

QUALIFOR REQUIREMENTS	FINDINGS	CARS OR OBSERVATIONS
10.9.2 If the plantation was converted since November 1994, there is adequate evidence that the current manager/owner was not responsible.		