

**THE FINNISH FOREST  
CERTIFICATION COUNCIL**

**FINNISH FOREST CERTIFICATION  
SCHEME APPLICATION  
FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT  
WITH THE REQUIREMENTS  
OF THE PAN-EUROPEAN FOREST  
CERTIFICATION FRAMEWORK**

**Prague,  
5 November, 1999**

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## **BASIS AND STRUCTURE OF THE FFCS APPLICATION**

The Finnish Forest Certification Scheme (FFCS) application has been prepared by the Finnish Forest Certification Council based on “Guidelines on PEFC Standard Setting and Procedures for Endorsement of PEFC Certification Schemes” (Annex 5 of the Pan-European Forest Council’s Technical Document) and the PEFC Council Check List for Certification Scheme Applications.

The FFCS application consists of four separate, but interrelated parts.

- **Part I** explains (i) the FFCS development process and basic elements in a concise way and discusses (ii) the factors which have influenced the FFCS development process: fragmented forest ownership structure and the key international requirements set for any certification system to make it credible (i.e. participatory process and independent third-party auditing).
- **Part II** deals with development process for the FFCS standard setting on regional and forest-holding level (PEFCC Technical Document Annex 5, paragraph 1.1).
- **Part III** explains how the Pan-European criteria and indicators (C&I), and operational level guidelines have been used as a reference basis for the definition of the 37 forest management criteria under the FFCS (i.e. PEFCC Technical Document Annex 3: Pan-European Criteria and Indicators and PEFCC *Technical Document* Annex 4: Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines).
- In **Part IV** a list of general reminders is checked to ensure that the National Forest Certification Council has indicated in this official application how each of the criteria, indicators and operational level guidelines have been fulfilled.

The application has been built up in such a way that under each item all the related documents and other material are listed and attached to the application in digital and/or written form (see List of Annexed documents to the Application and their file names).

### **PART I 1. THE FFCS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND BASIC ELEMENTS**

It has taken about three and a half years to develop the standards and basic elements for the FFCS and to make the system operational. The major objectives of the FFCS have been to introduce a voluntary forest certification, which combined with internationally recognised labelling schemes will promote both sustainable forest management in Finland and marketing of Finnish forest-based products, respectively. Fragmented small-scale forestry ownership in Finland, a broad participatory process and auditing by an independent third party has guided the FFCS development process. The development of the FFCS and its basic elements are comprehensively described in Box 1 and Annexes 1-13 and 45-46.

## Box 1 The Major Six Phases in the FFCS Development During 1996-1999

1. National Committee on Forest Certification 4/1996-3/1997
  - analysis of certification options in small-scale family-owned forestry
2. National Working Group on the Forest Certification Standards 6/1996-4/1997;
  - proposal for a standard *feasible* in small-scale family-owned forestry
3. Testing of the Certification Standard in three pilot regions 8/1997-12/1997
4. Design of the FFCS/Forest Certification Project 1998
5. Capacity Building Project in seven pilot regions 1999
6. First forest management certificates likely to be issued (November 1999)

*At the first phase*, the Committee on Forest Certification concluded in its report in March 1997 that Finland should develop a national application for certification which would be compatible with the existing international forest certification (FSC) and environmental management systems (the ISO's EMS and the EU's EMAS), as well as those being developed later (e.g. such as the PEFC)<sup>1</sup>. *At the second phase*, or rather concurrently, with Phase one in April 1997 a national standard proposal and its application in small-scale family-owned forestry were prepared by the voluntary based, non-governmental National Working Group on the Forest Certification Standards (See Annexes 2-4 and 8). The standards are referred as SMS 1001 (implementation levels) and SMS 1002-1 (criteria).

*At the third phase*, the certification scheme, the criteria and their implementation (SMS 1001 and SMS 1002-1 standards) were tested at different regional and forest-holding implementation levels. Testing involved extensive data collection, auditing and analysis of cost implications (See Annex 6). *At the fourth phase*, the design of the FFCS and the rest of the standards (SMS 1000, SMS 1002-2, SMS 1002-3, and SMS 1003-1, SMS 1003-2, and SMS 1004) were completed during 1998 under the Forest Certification Project (See Annexes 7-8, 10-13).

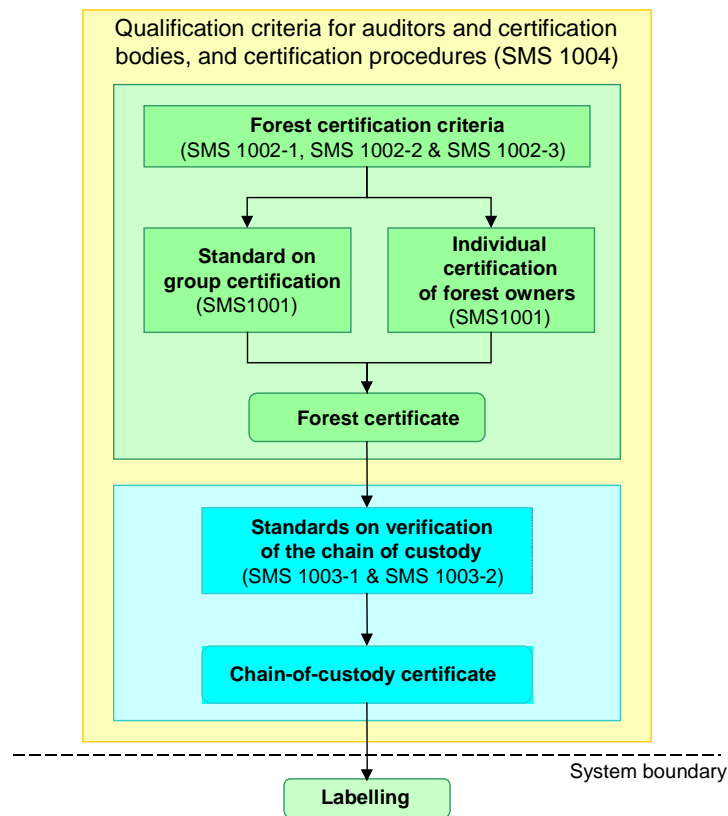
In 1999, *at the fifth phase* the work continued under a Capacity-Building Project, under which organisations and forest owners in the areas of seven regional Forestry Centres made the necessary preparations and applied for a forest certificate. Also awareness-raising concerning forest certification and sustainable forest management among forest owners and forestry professionals, but also at a general level has been an important task under this project (See Annexes 9, 14-44). *At the sixth phase*, the independent third party auditing has been under progress and the first forest areas will be certified by the end of 1999 (See Part I - 4 for more details).

Besides the certification of forest management the FFCS covers the chain-of-custody verification, but actual product labelling is beyond the FFCS boundary. Both certifications are based on third party independent auditing. The FFCS is built to be compatible with such labelling schemes as the PEFC.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and forestry. Development of Forest Certification in Finland 6a /1997

**Figure 1 Standards and Elements of the FFCS**

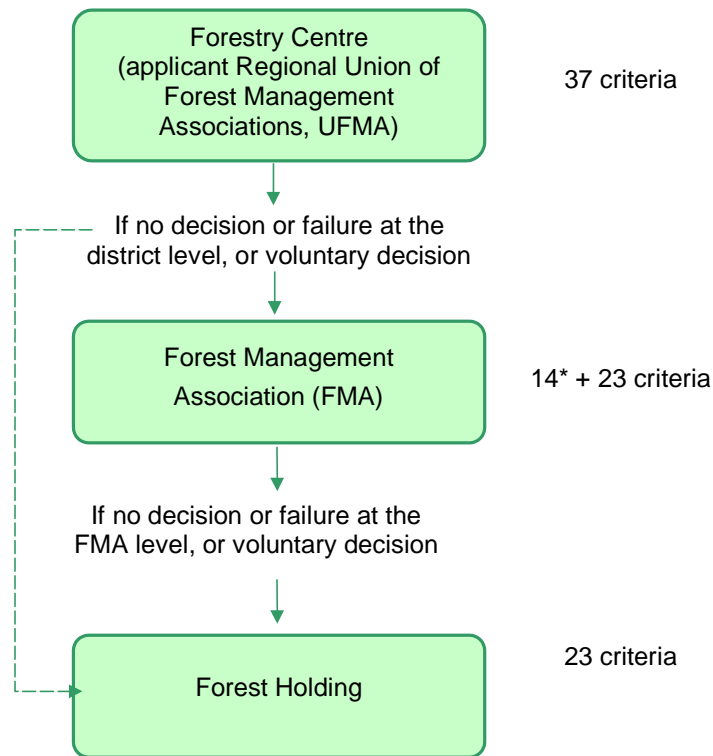


## **PART I 2. MAJOR REASONS FOR SELECTING REGIONAL GROUP CERTIFICATION**

The core of the Finnish system is voluntary regional group certification (SMS 1001). In practise, regional group certification means that the forests of various forest owners including private, industrial, communal, state forests etc, are certified as one unit. Thus the majority of the forests in the Forest Centre area are certified at the same time which helps in achieving effectiveness and cost-efficiency in certification. Because forest certification is voluntary, any forest owner can also choose not to participate. There are 13 Forest Centres in the country and the regional Union of Forest Owners' Association applies for the forest certificate for the area of a Forest Centre. The certificate is already applied for the areas of seven Forest Centres. The remaining six Forest Centre areas are likely to apply for a certificate in year 2000.

Certification at a Forest Management Association (FMA) and forest holding level is also possible (See SMS 1001, Annex 8).

**Figure 2 The Different Levels of Forest Certification Given**



\*) These 14 criteria are always evaluated at the Forestry Centre level

Regional group certification was dictated by the scattered forest ownership structure. There are over 440,000 private forest owners in Finland, whose small forest holdings, with an average size of 26 hectares, cover 62% of forest area. The individual forest holdings supply, however, more than 80% of the total domestic industrial roundwood production resulting in about 100 000 to 150 000 individual wood contracts yearly. Consequently, the individual forest owners have already a long tradition in co-operative actions in the roundwood market and forest management to achieve cost-savings and to increase efficiency.

The quality and quantity of silvicultural and planning activities are assessed and recorded at a regional level on which the results have major significance. In addition, improvement and assessment of biodiversity conservation is not feasible within the boundaries of the small-scale, individual forest holdings. Species and habitat conservation, age-structure of forests, as well as water and soil protection, should be treated in landscape level. Environmental data on forests is also partly based on regional inventories and assessments.

Another strength of group certification is that it is based on the advisory, planning and implementing organisations already in place in Finnish forestry. On the public side, the Regional Forestry Centres are important data collectors, planners and monitoring units. Their duty is to keep track of the many SFM aspects that have to be achieved at the regional level, and also to advise and train private owners, forest workers and entrepreneurs. The corresponding environmental records and their follow-up are under the Regional Environmental Centres.

The strength of the FFCS also is that the regional group certification procedure involves all the key actors in Finnish forestry, i.e., the major forest owner groups: private owners, the governmental Forest and Park Service, the forest industry companies, and other owners. Among the other actors involved in the process are forestry entrepreneurs, forest workers and forest industry companies as wood buyers and their contractors.

During testing of the forest certification standards in three pilot regions it was found out that regional group certification will cost only some Finnish marks per hectare, whereas the certification of an individual forest holding would have cost more than 100 marks per hectare (See Annex 6).

On the private side, the Regional Unions of the Forest Management Associations (UFMAs, 14 in number) and the Forest Management Associations (FMAs, altogether 257) under them have a direct link to the forest owners at the field level. They have the responsibility for implementing, together with the forest owners, such forestry and environmental management practises that are in line with the forest certification criteria. They also have the important task of advising and training forest owners and entrepreneurs in SFM issues and in keeping records. The UFMAs are the actual holders of the group certificates.

### **PART I 3. PARTICIPATORY ELEMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE FINNISH FOREST CERTIFICATION SYSTEM**

During the development process, a large number of participants have been involved in various phases of the work in working groups, workshops, seminars and other work (See Box 2). The environmental NGOs resigned from the FFCS development process in 1998 and committed themselves to promote only the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in Finland. (See Annex 5 for the resignation letter of 27.5.1998. and also Part II). The initial FFCS standard setting, however, took place in a consultative process and the standard (Annex 1) was agreed upon on a consensus basis including environmental NGOs.

#### **Box 2 Participatory Elements in the Finnish Forest Certification Process**

##### **Preparatory Phase 4/96**

- Establishment of Committee of Forest Certification and WG: 28 participants

##### **Development of Forest Certification Criteria 6/96-4/97**

- Establishment of National Working Group on the Forest Certification Standard: 29 members

##### **Testing of the Certification Criteria 1997**

- 3 regional working groups: 24 members
- 2 national seminars: 170 participants
- 3 regional workshops: 60 participants
- 2 international seminars: 271 participants

##### **Design of the FFCS /Forest Certification Project 1998**

- 4 working groups: 50 members
- 1 national seminar: 101 participants
- 1 decision-makers' seminar: 43 participants
- 4 training courses: ~ 300 participants
- 1 training course on external auditing: ~ 20 participants
- 1 international seminar: ~ 150 participants

### Capacity Building Project and Launching of Forest Certification 1999

- Establishment of a National Forest Certification Council: 13 members
- Establishment of Regional Forest Certification Committees: 5-12 members/region (7)
- Regional seminars to all the interested parties: 50 to 60 participants/meeting/region
- Training of forestry professionals, workers, and entrepreneurs: app. 200/region
- Training of forest owners on a continuous basis
- Actual forest certification in October-November

### Dissemination of FFCS-information in Finland and Abroad

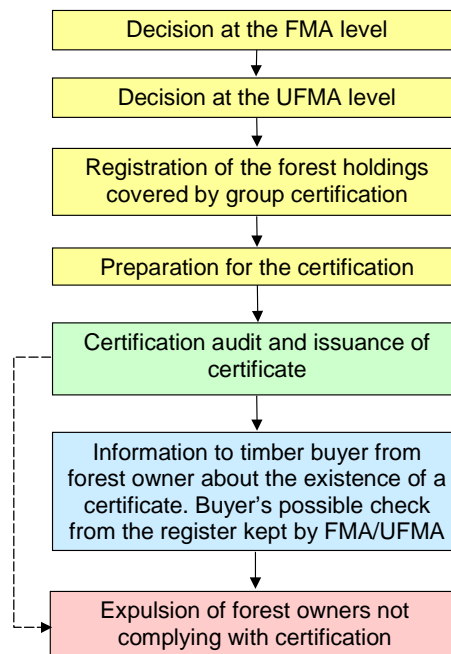
- Two brochures mailed for all private forest owners
- Number of articles in national and regional papers
- Several Newsletters in English, German and French
- English brochure (in print)

## PART I 4. CERTIFICATION PROCESS, PROCEDURES AND INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY AUDITING IN REGIONAL GROUP CERTIFICATION

Besides broad participation in standard setting well-established general certification procedures, including independent third party auditing, are required to make the FFCS credible in the international market.

The regional group certification process follows the common internationally recognised practises. The decision making process is presented in the Figure 3.

**Figure 3 The Decision-making Process in Regional Group Certification According to FFCS**



As the number of members in regional group certification is many, the applying Union of Forest Management Association (UFMA) calls up a Regional Certification Committee that has the responsibility to organise forest certification in the region. Representatives from all the Forest owners groups participate in the Committee's work. Trade unions, entrepreneurs



and other organisations, such as Regional Environment Centre that provide expertise and data, may also be represented in the Committee.

The target of the comprehensive commitment is to ensure that practically all forestry operations are carried out by professionals who are acquainted with certification requirements and their implementation at their work.

*Tasks of the Regional Certification Committee are:*

1. Arrange internal data collection on the state of forestry in the region (statistics, work guidelines, protection of key biotopes, etc.)
2. Assess the compatibility of forestry practises with regard to the certification criteria (SMS 1002-1) and their audit guidelines (SMS 1002-2 and SMS 1002-3)
3. Invite Tenders from certification bodies and propose a certification body
4. Define procedures and conditions in which a member of the certification group should be *expelled* from the group
5. Inform and promote forest certification in the region
6. Be in contact with the Finnish Forest Certification Council

The Regional Certification Committee agrees on the audit programme with the selected qualified certification body. The Finnish Forest Research Institute, Regional Forestry Centre, regional Environment Centre, FMAs, UFMAs, forest industry, The governmental Forest and Park Service, entrepreneurs, trade unions and other related parties provide data for both internal and external auditing.

During the audit, any forestry organisation operating in the region is a possible target for assessment. This includes verification of management guidelines and practises. In the field auditors visit on a random basis sites where logging and forestry operations have been done.

### **Qualification Criteria for Auditors and Certification Bodies**

Guidelines for external auditing (SMS 1004) determine the qualification criteria for external auditors and certification bodies. The guidelines cover both certification of forest management and chain-of-custody.

*The qualification criteria for auditors* used in forest certification audits are based on the qualification criteria of environmental management system auditors complemented with expertise in forestry sector. The auditors must:

- fulfil the general criteria, as appropriate, for environmental auditors defined in SFS-EN ISO 14012
- have a good knowledge on the FFCS with regard to forest management
- have general knowledge on forest management and its environmental impacts

Respectively, the qualification criteria for the auditors in certification audits of chain-of-custody are based on the qualification criteria for quality management auditors complemented with expertise in forestry sector. The auditors must:

- fulfil the criteria, as appropriate, defined in SFS-ISO 10011-2 and EN 30011-2.

- have a good knowledge on the FFCS with regard to verification of the chain-of-custody of wood
- have general knowledge on wood procurement and material flows in forest industries

*The qualification criteria of independent certification bodies* carrying out certifications to the FFCS, are based on the general criteria for quality system certification bodies complemented with expertise in forestry sector, and applied to forest management. The certification body carrying out forest management certification must:

- fulfil the general criteria, as appropriate, for certification bodies defined in SFS-EN 45012
- use a documented method, according to which forest management may be audited and certified
- have general knowledge on forest management

The qualifications of certification bodies carrying out certification of chain-of-custody are based on the general requirements for quality system certification bodies, which are complemented with, and applied to, the wood procurement and material flows in forest industries. The certification body must:

- fulfil the general requirements, as appropriate, for certification bodies defined in SFS-EN 45011
- use a documented method, according to which the chain-of-custody of wood may be verified and certified
- have general knowledge on wood procurement and material flows in forest industries

### **Accreditation**

The recognition of competence of certification bodies, i.e., accreditation is currently in the preparation according to the international rules. The aim is to make the accreditation procedure compatible with ISO 14001 accreditation or EMAS accreditation. The common international practise is that the recognition of the qualifications of certification bodies is started only after practical experience has been accumulated.

Accreditation is foreseen in co-operation with the National Accreditation Body FINAS. As regards accreditation to quality and environmental management system standard, the competence of FINAS is recognised within the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA).

The FFCS also includes a possibility for any other accreditation, which may be required by international or other certification and labelling schemes. Certification bodies may wish to seek for such accreditation, provided that the qualification criteria of the Finnish standards are maintained.

### **Dispute Settlement**

An independent Appeals Panel will settle possible disputes within certification groups. In case of dispute between the group and a certification body, the normal procedures defined in the operational rules of each accredited certification body will be applied.

## **Practical Experience in Auditing and Certification of the FFCS**

The preparation phase and internal auditing has included the following activities:

- 1) Organisation of the Regional Certification Committee that has the responsibility to organise the certification process in the region and ensure of adequate information dissemination and training. The chair of the committee is UFMA that also applies for the regional group certificate. All remarkable forest owner groups and most forestry organisations participated actively in the committee's work.

The committee organised regional seminars for all interested parties to inform and discuss on the progress of forest certification in the region.

- 2) Each forestry organisation in the region updated working guidelines and reference material to meet the requirements of the certification criteria. Comprehensive training programs for forestry professionals and forest owners were planned and set to implementation to ensure the awareness of forest certification requirements.
- 3) In the internal auditing regional data was collected according to the standard SMS 1002-2 (see Annex 8) to assess the compliance of forest management with each certification criteria. The internal data collection covered practically the works of all forestry organisations in the region either through direct questionnaires or general follow up surveys. Both quantitative and qualitative information was gathered.

Based on the result of internal auditing the Regional Certification Committee recommended the UFMA to send the application for a forest certificate.

- 4) Each region asked tenders from 4 to 5 internationally recognised certification bodies and the Regional Certification Committees recommended the UFMA to choose a specific certification body based on these tenders. All candidate certification bodies fulfilled the requirements of standard SMS 1004 (See Annex 8). So far two companies have carried out forest certification in Finland according to FFCS. SFS-Sertifointi Oy has audited 3 Forest Centre areas and DNV-Certification Oy/Ab 4 areas respectively. The audits are finalised in all seven regions by the end of November this year.

## **PART II CHECK LIST ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR FFCS STANDARD SETTING ON REGIONAL AND FOREST HOLDING LEVEL**

- 1) *Has a Forum been created to which relevant interested parties in the process have been invited to participate?* Yes  No

If the answer to number 1) is Yes, please list all the parties that have been invited to participate and indicate which of these have participated in the process.

The 29 interested parties listed below participated in the forest management standard setting process. The Forum was called the National Working Group on the Forest Certification Standards, which was established in June 1996 and finished its consultations in April 1997. Only one interested party, i.e. Nature League resigned from the process (16.4.1997). The

Working Group on a consensus basis approved the 37 forest management criteria in 16.4. 1997. The 37 criteria form the SMS 1002-1 standard of the FFCS.

The dates of the National Working Group's meetings are given in Annex 3. Also the corresponding Minutes of the Meetings are available (in Finnish only). The National Working Group had altogether 12 meetings and the participation in the meetings was high, on an average 80 to 90%. Under the National Working Group worked a special Working Sub-Group, which held 37 meetings.

**Table 1 Members of the National Working Group on the forest Certification Standards**

Contact person	Organisation	Invited	Participated
Harri Karjalainen	WWF Finland	Yes	Yes
Esko Joutsamo	Finnish Association for Nature Conservation	Yes	Yes
Ulrica Cronström	Natur och Miljö rf <sup>1)</sup>	Yes	Yes
Juho Pennanen	Nature League	Yes	Yes*
Kimmo Tiilikainen	Organic Farming Association	Yes	Yes
Marcus Walsh	Birdlife Finland	Yes	Yes
Liisa Holmberg	Sami Parliament	Yes	Yes
Pekka Harvia	Finnish 4H Federation	Yes	Yes
Helena Merisaari	Guides and Scouts of Finland	Yes	Yes
Tuomo Jantunen	Finnish Ski Track Association	Yes	Yes
Simo Jaakkola	Association of Forest Machine Entrepreneurs	Yes	Yes
Kalevi Väisänen	Wood and Allied Workers' Union	Yes	Yes
Erkki Nieminen	Enso Oy, Forest division	Yes	Yes
Hannu Virranniemi	Pölkky Oy <sup>2)</sup>	Yes	Yes
Markus Lassheikki	Central Union of Swedish Speaking Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, SLC	Yes	Yes
Olavi Isomäki	Isku Oy <sup>3)</sup>	Yes	Yes
Kaj Karlsson	Metsäliitto Group	Yes	Yes
Kirsi-Marja Korhonen	Forest and Park Service	Yes	Yes
Timo Kivimaa	UPM-Kymmene Oy, Forest	Yes	Yes
Inkeri Juurikkala	Forest Owners in the Helsinki Region	Yes	Yes
Timo Nyrhinen	Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, MTK	Yes	Yes
Juhani Viitala	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Yes	Yes
Hannu Niemelä	Forest Development Centre Tapio	Yes	Yes
Jukka-Pekka Jäppinen	Finnish Environment Agency	Yes	Yes
Jukka Sippola	Union of Academic Foresters in Finland	Yes	Yes
Kimmo Kumpulainen	Union of Environmental Professionals in Finland	Yes	Yes
Raimo Hakila	Satakunta District Association for Nature Conservation	Yes	Yes
Arto Mela	Hunters' Central Organisation	Yes	Yes
Leena Simonen	The Finnish Consumers Association	Yes	Yes
Håkan Nystrand	Union of Finnish Foresters	Yes	Yes

\* resigned 16.4.1997

<sup>1)</sup> Natur och Miljö rf represents Swedish speaking nature conservation association in Finland

<sup>2)</sup> Pölkky Oy represents independent sawmills

<sup>3)</sup> Isku Oy represents second-hand wood processors

- 2) *Has there been an assessment of the relevance of sustainable forest management elements?* Yes  No

The National Working Group based its work, *inter alia*, on the forest principles approved at the United Nation's Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, Rio de Janeiro 1992) and the resolutions agreed upon at the European Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests (Helsinki 1993). The Pan-European criteria and indicators (C & I) and their national application, the general principles and criteria of the FSC and the ISO's environmental management systems (EMS and EMAS) were used as a reference basis when setting up the FFCS standard. For a comparison of the FFCS standard and the six Pan-European criteria see Appendix 1 and question 4 below).

The Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines (OLG) were not yet available when the FFCS standard setting was underway, because they were officially approved on a political level as late as in June 1998. However, as shown in Part IV is presented the compliance of the FFCS with the OLG.

The Finnish criteria are also compatible with the national legislation and many of them exceed the present legal requirements. The new Forest Act and Nature Conservation Act complying with the UNCED forest principles and Biodiversity Convention came both simultaneously into force in January 1997.

- 3) *Have the sustainable forest management elements been interpreted and incorporated in the national situations?* Yes  No

The national indicators for Pan-European criteria for SFM were defined in a large stakeholder group-process 1995. The quality of each indicator was assessed at a national level and reported in a special report<sup>2</sup>. This work on Criteria and Indicators for SFM was a basis for the National Working Group in order to take the country-specific features into account.

- 4) *Have the sustainable forest management elements been defined?* Yes  No

A total of 37 criteria (SMS 1002-1) represent equally the three crucial elements of sustainable forestry: ecological, economic and social. An Audit Guideline has been prepared for each criterion. These SMS 1002-2 and SMS standards guide practical forestry in putting the certification criteria in practise.

A rearrangement of the actual criteria list (SMS 1002-1) shows that the basic elements of SFM, ecological, economic and social sustainability are represented in the FFCS standard as the 37 certification criteria refer to the six pan-European criteria for SFM as follows (See Annex 1): thirteen criteria improve directly or indirectly the forest resources and their contribution to the carbon cycles (certification criteria 1-8, 12, 14, 16, 22, 30), ten criteria enhance the health and vitality of forests (criteria 1-3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16, 22, 29), 22 criteria improve the productive functions of forests (criteria 1-9, 11-16, 18, 22-24, 29-30, 37), 25

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. 1997. Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.

criteria conserve and increase the biological diversity in forests (criteria 1-3, 9-11, 13-16, 18-29, 31-32, 37), 20 criteria improve the protective functions in forest management (criteria 1-3, 10, 13-14, 16, 17-21, 25-32, 35) and 21 criteria maintain other socio-economic and cultural functions of forests (criteria 1-2, 4-5, 14-17, 23, 25-31, 33-37).

In the FFCS the social criteria are not very much emphasised, because such matters as property and land-use rights, worker safety and other related matters are regulated and stipulated in the respective legislation.

- 5) *Transparency: during the preparation of certification criteria by the Forum, have draft documents been made available to interested parties who requested them?*

Yes  No

Information on the advancement has been available to all interested parties. Formal communication, e.g., in terms of Press Releases was, however, done on the basis of a mutual agreement.

Later on when the process advanced further several seminars were organised at national and local levels. In addition, three international seminars disseminated the results to the international community. See also Q1 above and Q8 below and Part I - 3.

- 6) *A Pilot Study can be a useful mechanism in helping the development of the process. Has a Pilot Study been undertaken?*

Yes  No

The forest certification criteria (SMS 1002-1) and the application of the forest certification scheme (SMS 1001) were tested at the Forest Centre, Forest Management Association and forest holding levels in three pilot regions (Pirkanmaa, North Karelia and Lapland) from August to December in 1997 at the third phase of the FFCS (See Annex 6).

The final design of the FFCS and the rest of standards related to forest management (SMS 1000, SMS 1002-2, SMS 1002-3) were completed from April to December 1998 under the Forest Certification Project. In this connection, also standards for verification of chain of custody (SMS 1003-1 and SMS 1003-2) and a standard for qualification criteria for auditors and certification bodies and certifying procedures were created. All major interested parties, apart from the ENGO's were involved and participated of four different Working Groups.

- 7) *Consensus: consensus shall be the objective, but not a precondition, to decide on the certification criteria. Has a consensus been reached?*

Yes  No

As explained in Part II-3 the criteria for forest certification were set up in a consultative process and was agreed upon on a consensus basis, including environmental NGOs (See also Q1 above).

- 8) *Consultative Process: please indicate how much time has been provided to allow for consultation on the final draft certification criteria, prior to a final decision being made*

As explained under Q1, the criteria setting for forest certification included all the relevant interested parties (29 members). The work was an intense consultative process by nature and it was carried out within the National Working Group and a special Working Sub-Group. The *Working Sub-Group* held 37 separate meetings. In addition, the representatives of the Working Sub-Group met the representatives of the Swedish FSC Working Group together with the representatives of Norway and Denmark (See Annex 4).

Furthermore, there were during the FFCS criteria setting process some consultative meetings on the Nordic level organised by the Nordic Forest Certification Initiative of the Forest Industries' and Forest Owners' Associations, where ENGOs from Finland, Sweden and Norway, were invited and participated.

Altogether, the whole FFCS criteria setting process lasted from 28th August, 1996 to 16th April, 1998 with the final approval of the criteria on 23rd September, 1998.

9) *Certification Criteria: will be periodically reviewed in the light of new scientific knowledge and a continuous improvement is aimed at. Please indicate how this is achieved in your scheme:*

Certification criteria will be reviewed every five years under the original National Working Group on the Forest Certification. See also Q10 below.

10) *Please indicate how you intend to periodically review the certification criteria to adhere with the development process on national, regional or other sub-national level.*

The review of the forest certification criteria will be conducted in the National Working Group on the Forest Certification, which continues its work, in collaboration with the Finnish Forest Certification Council. The Council, with a Secretariat and a Working Group for System Development, is the FFCS governing body. The Council was established in March 1999. (See Annexes 45 and 46 for the establishment and rules for the Council).

### **PART III CHECK LIST FOR THE PAN EUROPEAN OPERATIONAL LEVEL GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

#### ***Criterion 1. Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Forest Resources and Their Contribution to Global Carbon Cycles***

Please indicate which of the following elements have been addressed in your application and state in the space provided the reasons if any of the answers are 'No'. If you require more space please attach a separate sheet.

<b>1.1 Guidelines for Forest Management Planning</b>			
	Yes	No	If answer is 'No' please explain why
1.1 a	x		SMS criteria 3, 8, 2
1.1 b	x		National Forest Inventory (NFI) Methods of Forest management planning SMS criteria 3, 18
1.1 c	x		SMS criterion 3
1.1 d	x		NFI, law enforcement, published summaries SMS criteria 12, 13

<b>1.2 Guidelines for forest management practices</b>			
	Yes	No	If answer is 'No' please explain why
1.2 a	x		SMS criteria 7, 4, 5, 8, 28
1.2 b	x		SMS criteria 4, 5, 7, 8
1.2 c	x		Normative regulations

**Criterion 2. Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem, Health and Vitality**

<b>2.1 Guidelines for Forest Management Planning</b>			
	Yes	No	If answer is 'No' please explain why
2.1 a	x		SMS criteria 3, 18, 6, 30 Forest management planning guidelines
2.1 b	x		NFI SMS criteria 13
2.1 c	x		Enforcement of Forest Act, key-biotope survey SMS criteria 3, 18, 13

<b>2.2 Guidelines for Forest Management Practices</b>			
	Yes	No	If answer is 'No' please explain why
2.2 a	x		SMS criteria 6, 22, 30, (2) Law enforcement
2.2 b	x		SMS criteria 8, 22, 30, 12 Enforcement of Forest Act, Waste Act
2.2 c	x		SMS criterion 31
2.2 d	x		SMS criterion 32

**Criterion 3. Maintenance and Encouragement of Productive Functions of Forests (Wood and Non-Wood)**

<b>3.1 Guidelines for Forest Management Planning</b>			
	Yes	No	If answer is 'No' please explain why
3.1 a	x		SMS criteria 2, (3, 18, 33)
3.1 b	x		SMS criteria 2, 18
3.1 c	x		SMS criteria 2, 18, 33, 35, 37 (35)

<b>3.2 Guidelines for Forest Management Practices</b>			
	Yes	No	If answer is 'No' please explain why
3.2 a	x		SMS criterion 2
3.2 b	x		SMS criteria 5, 6, 8, 30, 12 (2, 4)
3.2 c	x		SMS criteria 7, 11, 2
3.2 d	x		SMS criteria 23, 24



**Criterion 4. Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems**

<b>4.1 Guidelines for Forest Management Planning</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>If answer is 'No' please explain why</b>
4.1 a	x		SMS criteria 1, 2
4.1 b	x		SMS criteria 10, 13, 19, 20 NFI, Enforcement of Forest Act, key-biotope survey

<b>4.2 Guidelines for Forest Management Practices</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>If answer is 'No' please explain why</b>
4.2 a	x		SMS criteria 2, 8, 22
4.2 b	x		SMS criteria 2, 22, related legislation
4.2 c	x		SMS criterion 2
4.2 d	x		SMS criteria 10, 35, 19
4.2 e	x		SMS criteria 10, 19, 20, 21, 28
4.2 f	x		1, 23, 24, 27, 10
4.2 g	x		Hunting regulations
4.2 h	x		SMS criteria 21, 10
4.2 I	x		SMS criteria 10, 19,20, 28

**Criterion 5. Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Protective Functions in Forest Management (notably soil and water)**

<b>5.1 Guidelines for Forest Management Planning</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>If answer is 'No' please explain why</b>
5.1 a	x		SMS criteria 18, 28, 29, 30
5.1 b	x		SMS criteria 18, 10, 19, 35

<b>5.2 Guidelines for Forest Management Practices</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>If answer is 'No' please explain why</b>
5.2 a	x		SMS criteria 28, 29, 13, 12
5.2 b	x		SMS criteria 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32
5.2 c	x		SMS criteria 24, 23

**Criterion 6. Maintenance of Other Socio-economic Functions and Conditions**

<b>6.1 Guidelines for Forest Management Planning</b>			
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>If answer is 'No' please explain why</b>
6.1 a	x		SMS criteria 2, 33, 36, 37
6.1 b	x		Legislation SMS criteria 36, 37
6.1 c	x		SMS criterion 33
6.1 d	x		SMS criterion 34
6.1 e	x		SMS criteria 15, 16, 14

<b>6.2 Guidelines for Forest Management Practices</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>If answer is 'No' please explain why</b>
6.2 a	(x)		SMS criterion 1 (optionally) Environmental policies of forestry organisations
6.2 b	x		SMS criteria 17, 15, 14
6.2 c	x		SMS criteria 1, 2, 10, 21, 34, 35

**PART IV CHECKING OF GENERAL REMINDERS**

1) *For all the operational level guidelines listed in Part III, have you provided a full explanation in your application as to how you have achieved these?*

Yes  No

See Part III.

2) *Level of Application (Technical Document 4.2): has your application document clearly delimited the certification units, which will be available?*

Yes  No

See Part I - 2: Major Reasons for Selecting Regional Group Certification. See also SMS 1001, SMS 1002-2 and SMS 1002-3 as Annexed Documents.

3) *Certification Process (Technical Document 4.3): does your application document highlight how the certification process steps described in Chapters 4.3.1.1 to 4.3.1.5 will be implemented?*

Yes  No

See Part I-4.

*This is to certify that to the best of my knowledge the above information is correct.*

*Date and Place:* .....

*Signature:* .....

*Name:* Dr. Jari Parviainen , Chair of the National Forest Certification Council in Finland

*Name of Organisation:*

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