



SELECTED SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS OF FOREST CERTIFICATION BEYOND THE REGULATORY INSTRUMENT OF THE SR

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INTRODUCITON

- Criteria and indicators for evaluation of sustainable forest management
- Forest certification one of the way to achieve sustainable management
- Requirements in forest management (legality and sustainability)
- Slovak Republic uses national certification system based on PEFC

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Analytical and comparative methods
- Criteria for certification - SFCS TD PEFC 1003:2014
- Selected specific indicators under Principle No. 3 - Preservation and Support of the Productive Function of Forests (wood and non-wood products)
- Analysis of four national criteria –
 - 3.1 Sustainability and fluency of logging
 - 3.2 Raw wood
 - 3.3 Non-timber forest products and services
 - 3.4 The forest road network

RESULTS

3.1.4 Compliance with legislative principles for timber harvesting

The Forest Act, § 23 Principles of felling

- The felling can be carried out only after marking for felling and on the basis of a written consent of a professional forest manager. Marking for felling is not required in the case of forest tending in forest stands of age up to 50 years.
- The forest user is obliged to carry out the felling so as to minimise adverse impacts on soil, water courses, forest stand, adjacent trees, and timber quality.
- The forest user or timber purchaser is obliged, not later than at the hauling place, to mark harvested timber in an approved manner registered by the forestry state administration body.

In the case of protection areas declared by the Nature and Landscape Protection Act, it is prohibited to carry out felling within the areas and during the periods specified by the respective nature protection legal norms.

3.1.5 The total volume of timber harvesting prescribed in FMP shall not be exceeded

The Forest Act, § 23 Principles of felling

- Timber volume from felling carried out in a compartment with the age over 50 years can be exceeded not more than by 15%, as compared to the felling volume recommended in the forest management plan. After that, only accidental or extraordinary felling can be carried out.
- Total timber volume planned for felling in the forest management plan for a forest unit and forest category cannot be exceeded. If a forest unit is managed by several forest users, none of them can exceed total timber volume planned for felling within his particular ownership unit.
- Stocking of forest stand shall not be reduced by intentional felling below 7/10 of full stocking, unless otherwise specified (e.g. in the case of regeneration felling or forest reconstruction).

3.1.6 The annual volume of harvesting during the validity of the FMP under the proper forest management shall be in the range between 70% to 130% of the 1/10 of the FMP prescription (valid for entities over 1000 ha)

- Legal regulation absents (regulated by the legally non-binding forest management guidelines only).

3.1.7 The volume of intentionally harvested timber by species shall equal (+/- 15%) to data on volume obtained from trees marking and recorded in the harvesting permit

- Legal regulation absents at the level of species (legally regulated at the level of forest stands only).

RESULTS

3.2.2. Volume of timber placed on the market, divided into coniferous and non-coniferous, corresponds to the volume of harvested timber (m³)

- The Act on the Placing of Timber and Timber Products on the Market, § 3 General conditions of the placing of timber and timber products on the market.

3.2.3. Evidence of timber origin and movement

The Forest Act, § 24 Obligations and rights in skidding, transportation, and storage of timber

The Decree on the Marking for Felling, Marking of Harvested Timber and Proofs of Timber Origin, § 6 Proofs of Timber Origin and Their Presentation

- It is possible to place timber and timber products on the market only if all conditions imposed by the appropriate forest legislation are met.
- The forest user or timber purchaser is obliged to issue proofs of the timber origin and to exercise the due diligence system for placing timber on the market
- All legal and physical persons who transport, store or process timber as well as all timber purchasers are obliged to prove the origin of transported or stored timber to the prompt of competent authorities (forestry state administration bodies, forest guards, police authorities) by the legally approved evidence and to keep this evidence for the period of at least 10 years.
- The proof of the timber origin shall include information on the timber volume, species, and qualitative class.

3.2.4. Exercising of due diligence system for placing timber on the market

The Act on the Placing of Timber and Timber Products on the Market, § 4 Due diligence system

- The operator, placing timber and timber products on the market, is obliged to exercise the due diligence system (either in the paper or electronic form) before timber and timber products are placed on the market.
- In case such operator is also the forest user within the area of the Slovak Republic, the due diligence system shall include the evidence according to the Forest Act (e.g. information on timber harvesting and transportation).

3.2.5. Trade documentation for timber from certified forests shall include minimally the number of confirmation and the claim on certified timber origin

- Legal regulation absents.

3.2.6. Timber originating from non-forest land or purchased timber shall be separated and sold as uncertified

- Legal regulation absents.

RESULTS

3.3.2 Exploiting the potential supply of non- wood products and services shall be in line with the fulfilment of other functions of the forests in favour of maintaining their rational and long-term use

The Forest Act, § 12 Forest categorisation and The Forest Act, § 15 Commercial Forests

- Forests are categorised from the point of view of using their functions to protective forests, special purpose forests, commercial forests.
- Commercial forests are forests which are not either protective forests or special purpose forests and which are intended for production of timber and other forest products, while simultaneously ensuring non-production functions of forests.

3.3.3 Game management shall be organized in such a way that it does not undermine the stability of forest stands and fulfilment of other functions of the forests

The Game Management Act, § 30 Game management planning

The Game Management Act, § 69 Liability of the hunting area user

- The game management plans have to secure sustainable game management, protection and preservation of the game genetic resources and biodiversity. They shall be elaborated in an accordance with the needs and requirements of nature and landscape protection as well as in an accordance with the protection of agriculture and forest production against damages caused by the game.
- Users of the hunting areas are obliged to compensate forest users for damages caused by the improper use of the hunting areas within the forest stands.

CONCLUSIONS

- Forest certification as voluntary tool is based on international principle of SFM
- Specific differences in indicators of Slovak legislation
 - requirements for annual volume of harvesting during the validity of the FMP
 - volume of intentionally harvested timber
 - terms of trade documentation and separation of non-certified timber

Thank you for your attention!

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