

## Green Gold Label Program

Version 2013.1 (January 2013)

### Introduction & scope

GGLS5 is derived from existing and internationally recognised forest management standards (see Appendix A) and the sustainability criteria from the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC). GGLS5 has not been developed to replace the existing standards, rather to enable participating parties and stakeholders to perform a quick-scan assessment on sound forest management practices. GGLS5 also contains criteria for sound management of woody vegetation other than natural forest and plantations, e.g. parks, lanes and other woody landscape elements < 5 ha. An audit based on these principles with a positive result will lead to a “testimony of approval” as a GGL approved source. The approval under these criteria is valid for a maximum of 4 years<sup>1</sup>. After this 4 year period a GGL approval can only be given if a pre-scope route towards certification is initiated under one of the independent approved forest management certification systems. Within one year after initiating the pre-scope route the forest must be certified by one of the independent approved forest management certification systems to be able to deliver under GGL.

### Glossary

See GGL Glossary

### Principles

Principle 1 Long term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources.

Criteria 1.1 Owner /forest manager demonstrates clear evidence of legal land use by having legal land title, customer right or lease agreement.

Principle 2 Management plan

Criteria 2.1 The forest management shall be supported by a documented plan. The long term objectives of the management and the means of achieving them shall be clearly stated.

2.2 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:

2.2a Management objectives in the form of a policy dealing with:

- I. Sustainability of the forest and all its functions,
- II. Sustainability of the environment,
- III. Sustainability of economic viability.

2.2b A description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands.

2.2c Information gathered through resource inventories and a description of silvicultural and/or other management system based on the ecology of the forest.

2.2d Rational rate of annual harvest and species selection.

2.2e Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics.

2.2f Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments.

2.2g Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and/or endangered species.

2.2h Maps describing the forest resource base including protected area/sites planned management and land ownership.

2.2i Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.

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<sup>1</sup> Not applicable for materials falling under the scope of GGLS2 (Agricultural Sources). For these materials, each year an audit with a positive result will have to be carried out.

## **GGLS5 - Forest Management Criteria**

Principle 3	Environmental impact
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.1 The forest management is aimed at conservation of biological diversity and forest integrity, water resources, soils, unique ecosystems and landscapes</li><li>3.2 The following issues are included in the management plan:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.2a Environment in general:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Description of current biodiversity (species, count, etc. from flora and fauna).</li><li>II. Current or future protection measures for flora and fauna.</li><li>III. Flora and fauna management, the object of which must be to create an ecological balance.</li><li>IV. Protective forest varieties, plants and animals (overviews, areas).</li><li>V. Climate, topography, soil types, rainfall catchment areas, etc.</li><li>VI. Measures taken to prevent erosion, improve soil conditions, etc.</li><li>VII. General maps indicating those areas that should be labeled as 'protected'.</li><li>VIII. Disease and pest management.</li><li>IX. Use of synthetic or chemical pesticides.</li><li>X. Observational data of re-forestation.</li></ul></li><li>3.2b Roads, waterways and air routes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. General maps of present, projected and past routes.</li><li>II. Waterways.</li><li>III. Mountains, slopes, gradients.</li><li>IV. Areas susceptible to erosion.</li><li>V. Procedures for planning, design and maintenance.</li></ul></li><li>3.2c Harvests:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Evidence of tree felling permits.</li><li>II. Statement of sustainable forest management.</li><li>III. Procedures for tree felling and transport of timber (clearance plan).</li><li>IV. Overview of machines and tools.</li><li>V. Selection procedures and calculations of AAC (annual allowable cut).</li><li>VI. Rotation of tree felling locations.</li><li>VII. A long-term harvest scheme and a strategic (short-term) timber harvesting plan (selection, felling and timber clearance plan).</li><li>VIII. Products, species, areas, lot numbers of trees that have been or are due for felling (stump and tree), potential end products, national and international export or local use.</li><li>IX. Overview of timber harvesting plans (expected dates) and potential influencing factors.</li></ul></li><li>3.2d Re-forestation:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Re-forestation method (machines, etc.).</li><li>II. Re-forestation policy.</li><li>III. Natural regeneration (selection of tree species, genetic characteristics, plants, etc.).</li><li>IV. Re-forestation (own work or contracting out).</li><li>V. General maps of re-forestation areas.</li></ul></li><li>3.3 Pollution control:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. Policy on the use of chemicals, soil improvers, lubrication oil, etc.</li><li>II. Overview of machines used.</li><li>III. Fuels and lubricants used.</li><li>IV. Maintenance plan</li><li>V. Safety aspects and procedures.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>

## **GGLS5 - Forest Management Criteria**

- Principle 4      Monitoring and assessment.
- Criteria          4.1      Monitoring shall be conducted to assess the condition of the forest, yields of the forest products, and management activities. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.
- 4.2      The following indicators should be included in the monitoring system.
- 4.2a     Yield of all forest products harvested.
- 4.2b     Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest.
- 4.2c     Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna.
- 4.2d     Environmental impacts of harvesting and other operations.
- 4.2e     Costs, productivity and efficiency of forest management.
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- Principle 5      Plantations
- Criteria          5.1      Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with the principles 1-4, and principle 5. They should complement the management of, reduce pressures on and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.
- 5.2      For existing plantations the management has to demonstrate, that the plantation was not established by converting a forest.
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- Principle 6      Other sources than natural forests and plantations (woods <5 ha, lanes and parks).
- Criteria          6.1      The management of sources other than natural forests and plantations has to meet Principle 1 of the GGL SFC.
- 6.2      Management of sources other than natural forest and plantations shall conserve the ecological, social and cultural functions and integrity.
- 6.3      The management shall be supported by a documented plan. The long term objectives of the management and the means of achieving them shall be clearly stated
- 6.4      The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:
- 6.4a     Management objectives in form of a policy dealing with; Sustainability of the woods, lanes and parks and all its functions, sustainability of the environment.
- 6.4b     Description of the woods, lanes and parks to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status.
- 6.4c     Description of silvicultural and/or other management system based on the ecology of the woods, lanes and parks in question and information gathered through resource inventories.
- 6.4d     Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.
- 6.3      The environmental impact of the management on woods; lanes and parks shall be managed.
- 6.4      The following issues shall be part of the management plan:
- 6.4a     Environment in general:
- I.      Flora and fauna management, the object of which must be to create an ecological balance.
- II.     Measures taken to prevent erosion, improve soil conditions, etc.
- III.    General maps indicating those areas that should be labeled as 'protected'.
- IV.    Disease and pest management.
- V.    Use of synthetic or chemical pesticides.
- VI.    Observational data of re-planting.
- 6.4b     Harvests/maintenance:
- I.      Evidence of tree felling permits and agreements with the local community or other parties involved in forest operations.
- II.     Procedures for tree felling and transport of timber (clearance plan).
- III.    Overview of machines and tools.
- IV.    A long-term maintenance scheme and a strategic (short-term) maintenance
- V.    Overview of maintenance plans (expected dates) and potential influencing factors.

## **GGLS5 - Forest Management Criteria**

- 6.4c **Re-forestation:**
  - I. Re-planting method (machines, etc.).
  - II. Re-planting policy:
  - III. Natural **regeneration** (selection of tree species, genetic characteristics, plants, etc.).
  - IV. Re-planting (own work or contracting out).
  - V. General maps of re-planting areas.
- 6.4d Pollution control:
  - I. Policy on the use of chemicals, soil improvers, lubrication oil, etc.
  - II. Overview of machines used.
  - III. Fuels and lubricants used.
  - IV. Maintenance plan
  - V. Safety aspects and procedures.

Principle 7      Raw materials shall not be obtained from land with high biodiversity value.

- Criteria:      7.1      The raw material is not produced on land that had one of the following statuses in or after January 2008, whether or not the land still have that status:
- Primary forest and other wooded land, namely forest and other wooded land containing native tree species without clearly visible indication of human activity and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed;
  - Areas with the purposes of nature conservation which are designated by law or by the relevant competent authority. In addition, also areas that has been recognized by international agreements or included in lists drawn up by intergovernmental organizations or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, subject to their recognition in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 18(4) **[Directive 2009/28/EC]** for the protection of rare threatened or endangered ecosystems or species. Cultivation of biomass on above mentioned area's is permitted under the condition that evidence is provided that the production of did not interfere with those nature protection purposes;
  - Areas with highly bio diverse grasslands which divided in Natural grasslands and Non-Natural grasslands<sup>2</sup>:
    - o Natural grassland is grassland that would remain grassland in the absence of human intervention and which maintains the natural species composition and ecological characteristics and processes.
    - o Non-natural grassland is grassland that would cease to be grassland in the absence of human intervention and which is species-rich and not degraded, unless evidence is provided that the harvesting of the raw materials is necessary to preserve its grassland status.

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<sup>2</sup> All further EC Communications regarding the definition of highly bio diverse grasslands will be binding for this scheme and will be communicated to all participants.

## **GGLS5 - Forest Management Criteria**

Principle 8      Raw materials shall not be obtained from land with high carbon stock.

- Criteria:      8.1      The raw material is not produced on land that had one of the following statuses in or after January 2008 and no longer has this status<sup>3</sup>:
- Wetlands, namely land that is covered with or saturated by water permanently or for a significant part of the year;
  - Continuously forested areas, namely land spanning more than one hectare with trees higher than five meters and a canopy cover of more than 30%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ;
  - Land spanning more than one hectare with trees higher than five meters and a canopy cover of between 10% and 30%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, unless evidence is provided that the carbon stock of the area before and after conversion is such that, when the methodology laid down in part C of Annex V of the RED is applied, the conditions laid down in subsection 2 of Article 17 of the RED would be fulfilled.

Principle 9      Raw materials shall not be obtained from peatland<sup>3</sup>.

- Criteria:      9.1      The raw material is not produced on land that was peatland in January 2008, an exception is possible if evidence is provided that<sup>4</sup>:
- The soil was completely drained in 2008, or
  - There has not been draining of the soil since January 2008.

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<sup>3</sup> The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply if, at the time the raw material was obtained, the land had the same status as it had in January 2008.

<sup>4</sup> This means that for peatland that was partially drained in January 2008 a subsequent deeper drainage, affecting soil that was not already fully drained, would constitute a breach of the criterion.

## **GGLS5 - Forest Management Criteria**

### Appendix A. Overview of approved forest management certification systems

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#### **Approved Forest Management Certification Systems:**

- **FSC** (Forest Stewardship Council) **Forest Management**, including “FSC controlled wood”
- **PEFC** (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) International
- **CSA** (Canadian Standards Association) **Sustainable Forest Management**
- **SFI** (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) **Forest Certification**
- **SFI Certified Sourcing** (only with individual chain of custody data)
- **ATFS** (American Tree Farm System) certification
- Approved **pre-scope** certificate of one of the endorsed forest management certification systems, with the intention of full certification