

Green Gold Label Program

version 2010.1

Introduction

This standard is applicable to operators and/or administrators that want to convert, restore and maintain an agricultural or forestry area to a non-agricultural or to a non-forestry area with higher conservation values, and to trade the crop removed, as Green Gold Label biomass. High conservation value areas are defined as areas of outstanding and critical importance due to their environmental, socio-economic, biodiversity or landscape values (WWF). This standard also includes biomass material that is removed from a high conservation value area as a result of maintenance that is performed in order to keep the area in the desired state of higher conservation.

This Standard forms part of the Green Gold Label certification system .The GGLS7 certificate has a term of four years, and is revalidated by annual audits.

Glossary

See GGL Glossary

Scope of standard

The biomass removed during the conversion and restoration of an agricultural or forestry area to a non-agricultural or to a non-forestry area having enhanced conservation value over the original land, as well as the biomass extracted as a result of maintenance of this non-agricultural or non-forestry land having enhanced conservation value.

Principles

Principle 1 The area to be converted must not contain high conservation value forest or areas of high conservation value.

Principle 2 Conversion and maintenance must achieve clear, additional and long term conservation benefits.

Criteria 1 There is a long term commitment to adhere to the principles and criteria for sustainable conservation, expressed in a written and up to date management plan or in other management documents.

 2 The relative conservation value of the area before and after conversion must be clearly demonstrated.

 3 The positive effect of maintenance on the conservation value of the area must be clearly demonstrated.

 4 The extent to which the converted area provides enhanced conservation benefits in terms of the landscape must be taken into account.

 5 Maintenance of and conversion to high(er) conservation value areas must be supported by relevant and recognised national and local stakeholders.

 6 The system and techniques to be used for conversion, restoration and maintenance have been proven successful on that management unit or on comparable areas.

 7 Conversion and maintenance does not affect the availability of food to local inhabitants.

 8 Conversion recognises traditional uses of the land by local communities and compensation is negotiated in a fair and transparent way.

GGLS7 – Conservation Stewardship Criteria.

- 9 The management plan details the methodology for identifying local communities and individuals who may be adversely affected by the conversion.
- 10 The management plan details the process to be used for negotiating and making compensation in a fair and transparent way. (This may be by financial compensation or by the planting of similar crops in a suitable location accepted by all parties).
- 11 All work is carried out in accordance with industry best practice and takes into account a risk assessment of the site.

Parks, public gardens and green spaces:

Principle 3 Parks, public gardens and green spaces in built-up areas are of importance due to their environmental, socio-economic, biodiversity or landscape values. They can however not be considered to be of outstanding or critical value in the same sense as the above mentioned high conservation value areas. Except for local citizens, these areas are normally not subject to stakeholder consultations. Biomass material coming from these areas can be treated as Green Gold Label if the following requirements are met:

- Criteria
- 3.1 Maintenance must achieve clear, additional and long term conservation benefits.
 - 3.2 There is a long term commitment to adhere to the principles and criteria for sustainable conservation, expressed in a written and up to date public green maintenance and management plan or in other management documents.
 - 3.3 The positive effect of maintenance on the conservation value of the area must be clearly demonstrated.
 - 3.4 Conversion may only take place where the manager can clearly demonstrate that none of the areas to be converted can be considered to contain high conservation values.
 - 3.5 The system and techniques to be used for conversion and maintenance have been proven successful on comparable areas.
 - 3.6 All work is carried out in accordance with industry best practice and takes into account a risk assessment of the site.

GGL compliance decision.

If conversion and maintenance meet the requirements above, then the product removed as part of conversion or maintenance may be traded under the Green Gold Label certificates.