

GFA Interim FSC Standard

for

**Christmas trees and other non-timber forest
products (NTFP)**

in

Germany



**GFA Interim FSC Standard for Christmas trees,
decorative twig materials and other non-timber
forest products in Germany
Version 1.2**



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A Intended purpose

The production of Non-Timber Forest Products (hereinafter referred to as NTFP), including also Christmas trees and decorative twig materials (hereinafter referred to as CT), according to the definition by FSC International, constitutes an important source of income for many forest owners. The production of NTFP can be more resource-efficient than other types of utilization if it is carried out in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, and it can have various positive social and economic effects.

The FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) allows for certification of Non-Timber Forest Products, provided that the forest management enterprises are in the possession of a valid FSC certificate for the management of their forests. Furthermore, the certification of NTFP is grounded on standards that have been developed specifically for the certification of NTFP, and which must contain special indicators referring to selected aspects of the FSC Principles and Criteria.

With the present standard, GFA Certification provides a basis for forest management enterprises in Germany, too, to include – for the first time – Non-Timber Forest Products in the scope of their FSC certification.

The development of this standard was substantially supported and initiated by the ministry of the environment, agriculture, nutrition, wine-growing and forestry of the German Federal State of Rheinland-Pfalz (German: Ministerium für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft, Ernährung, Weinbau und Forsten des Landes Rheinland-Pfalz).

B Scope of application

The application range of this Standard comprises the production of all types of non-timber forest products in Germany. This standard refers exclusively to sustainable management of forests (wooded as well as open areas). The standard can only be applied by organizations holding a valid FSC FM/COC certificate in Germany. Simultaneous certification according to the most recent, updated and valid version of the German Forest Management Standard is mandatory.

The present Standard is based upon the approved German FSC-Standard, V.2.3 and thus referring to the FSC Principles & Criteria, V.4.0. It is valid until a new FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard conforming to V5 of the FSC P&C is approved. However, the standard developers of this NTFP standard fully considered the revised FSC Principles & Criteria (FSC P&C) in the new Version 5.2. as well as related documents such as the International Generic Indicators and the latest version (Draft 3) of the new FSC Standard for Germany. This will allow an easy restructuring and adaptation of the NTFP standard once the new NFSS for Germany becomes effective.

Non-timber forest products as defined in this Standard comprise, inter alia,

Christmas trees (CT), including

- Christmas trees
- decorative twig materials

Other Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP), including

- mushrooms
- venison (wild game meat)

- honey
- cones and seeds
- Lichens, mosses and ferns.

In case of doubt, GFA Certification (info@gfa-cert.com), being the standard owner, or FSC International, being the owner of the system, shall be consulted.

C References

In the compilation of this standard the normative FSC documents that are listed below have been taken account of:

- German FSC Forest Standard, Version 2.3
- Draft of the German FSC Forest Standard 3.0, Version 2.0
- FSC-STD-60-004 V1-0 EN International Generic Indicators
- FSC-ADV-20-007-05: Non-Timber Forest Products
- FSC-STD-20-002 (V3-0) EN - Structure, content and local adaptation of Generic Forest Stewardship Standards
- FSC-PRO-60-007 V1-0, draft 0.12 – Structure Content and Development of Interim National Standards

D Development process of this standard

First draft, building on the German FSC Forest Standard V.2.3	By June 2015
Adaptation to Draft 2 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management 3.0, as well as to the International Generic Indicators (IGI) (major re-structuring according to FSC P&C, V.5.2 and incorporation of new indicators, incorporation of changes, taking into account expert recommendations)	By September 2015
Final version, employing a structure based on FSC P&C, V.5.2 and cross-references to previous standard versions, particularly on the version valid at October 2015 (German FSC Standard for Forest Management, V.2.3, building up on FSC P&C, V.4.0).	By October 2015
First consultations of stakeholders according to FSC-STD-20-002	October 29, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Field test of 1 st draft standard (Kaiserlautern, Rheinland-Pfalz)	December 14, 2015
Second consultations of stakeholders according to FSC-STD-20-002	January 27, 2016 – February 27, 2016
Third draft and fourth draft, for presentation at the Accreditation Board	March 24, 2016, and April 14, 2016
Fifth draft and consideration of comments received from FSC Policy and Standards Unit. Restructuring of V.5.0 to the structure of FSC P&C, V.4.0 to allow immediate approval.	April 27 th , 2016
Approval by FSC PSC	August 22 nd 2016
Final version and publication	August 31 st 2016
Standard effective date	September 1 st 2016

E Explanatory notes

In the GFA Interim FSC Standard for Non-Timber Forest Products additional NTFP-specific indicators for certain criteria have been included. The Standard distinguishes between the production of Christmas trees and decorative twig materials on the one hand and the production of other non-timber forest products on the other hand. Individual requirements or exceptions (adjusted indicators) are thus valid only for the production of Christmas trees and decorative twig material. Each indicator number is followed by an abbreviation, indicating its applicability to either Christmas trees and decorative twigs (CT), other non-timber forest products (NTFP) or both (NTFP/CT). The following examples are given below to illustrate this:

1.1.1 (NTFP/CT)	Federal and State laws (German: Bundes- und Landesgesetze), regulations as well as communal regulations regarding cultivation, utilization and commercialization of non-timber forest products (NTFP) shall be available and complied with.	Applicable for Christmas trees <u>AND</u> all other NTFPs
1.1.2 (NTFP)	The requirements of the packaging regulation and of the requirements that are applicable to food shall be fulfilled. See Annex G.	Applicable for other NTFPs only
1.6.1 (CT)	In a freely and publicly available declaration the organization commits to having all Christmas tree plantations on forested areas that he manages certified according to this Standard. This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!	Applicable for Christmas trees only

1. In individual cases, this Standard invalidates requirements of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management, or, respectively, their wording has been changed if these indicators are not applicable to NTFP or CT. Such changes are explicitly marked by notes printed in bold type. The example given below may illustrate this.

10.11.3 (NTFP/CT)	The removal of unused biomass is to be minimized. Note: For the production of NTFP / CT, Indicator 10.11.7 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.
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2. Those table rows highlighted in orange and in blue contain the original wording of the FSC Principles and Criteria and are not changeable. The indicators to be fulfilled, in other words, the actual requirements to be examined by the auditor, are allocated to these FSC Principles and Criteria.

F Specific requirements for the production of NTFP

Reference	Requirement
	Principle 1: 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.
	Criterion 1.1 Forest management shall respect all national and regional laws and administrative requirements
1.1.1 (NTFP/CT)	Federal and State laws (German: Bundes- und Landesgesetze), regulations as well as communal regulations regarding cultivation, utilization and commercialization of non-timber forest products (NTFP) shall be available and complied with.
1.1.2 (NTFP)	The requirements of the packaging regulation and of the requirements that are applicable to food shall be fulfilled. See Annex G.
	Criterion 1.6 Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.
1.6.1 (CT)	In a freely and publicly available declaration the organization commits to having all Christmas tree plantations on forested areas that he manages certified according to this Standard. This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!
1.6.2 (CT)	A permission for the exclusion of individual areas from the scope of certification in compliance with FSC-POL-20-003 may be requested from the certifying organization and can be granted, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the plantations are less than five years old; and • if they are spatially separated; and • if the exclusion has been justified; and • if effective mechanisms are employed to avoid any confusion of certified areas with non-certified areas.

	This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!
Ref. FSC P&C 4.0	Principle 4: Community Relations and Worker's Rights Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.
	Criterion 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 (NTFP/CT)	For the production of NTFP/CT, work assignments and hazard assessments according to the provisions of the labour protection law are available and documented accordingly.
4.2.2 (NTFP/CT)	In the production of NTFP and Christmas trees (CT), namely management operations, harvesting and, if applicable, during the processing measures carried out in the forest two-stroke-engines shall be used with environmentally friendly fuel exclusively. (NOTE 1): This applies also to the employment of hired contractors. If non-commercial self-employed contractors are assigned to carry out work in the forest, the Organisation shall work towards the use of environmentally friendly fuel.
4.2.3 (NTFP/CT)	The Organization and employed contractors shall comply with the regulations of social legislation. On request, the following pieces of evidence shall be presented to the auditor during the audit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of membership from the responsible occupational accident insurance provider • Liability insurance • Evidence showing that the regulations of the statutory social insurance have been observed • Work permits for employees from non-EU countries • Keeping of a personnel file that contains all employees working for the forest management enterprise. <p>As regards employed contractor enterprises, evidence shall be requested in the course of the placement of the work order.</p>

<p>Principle 5: 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.</p>	
<p>Criterion 5.2 Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.</p>	
<p>5.2.1 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>A range of products as wide as possible, as well as achievement of marketable NTFP/CT, shall be aimed at.</p>
<p>Criterion 5.3 Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.</p>	
<p>5.3.1 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>Removal of unused biomass is minimized.</p> <p>Note: For the production of NTFP/CT, Indicator 5.3.1.3 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p>
<p>Criterion 5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</p>	
<p>5.6.1 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>The planned utilization volumes of NTFP shall not exceed levels of sustainable utilization.</p>
<p>5.6.2 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>The annual utilization of NTFP/CT shall be documented.</p>
<p>Criterion 5.5 Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p>	
<p>5.5.1 (CT)</p>	<p>In the course of the new establishment or generation change of Christmas tree plantations, measures aiming at the design of forest fringes shall be carried out.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>

<p>5.5.2 (CT)</p>	<p>The individual cultivation areas shall be sub-divided by „interior border strips“. In areas larger than one hectare, these “interior border strips” shall comprise 5 % of the total area size. They shall be composed of endemic broad-leaved tree and woody shrub species.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>5.5.3 (CT)</p>	<p>Alongside designated hiking trails, cultivation areas shall be separated from the trails by belts of wood, or respectively of succession, which shall be composed of endemic deciduous tree or shrub species.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>Principle 6: Environmental Impact 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>Criterion 6.1 Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management 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 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>The Organization shall provide evidence for the implementation of preventive measures, to minimize potential and/or expected negative impacts caused by the production of NTFP/CT.</p>
<p>6.1.2 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>The production of NTFP/CT shall not be carried out in areas that have been identified as valuable (see 6.2.1 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management), unless significant negative impacts can be excluded.</p>
<p>Criterion 6.3 Ecological functions and values of the forest are maintained intact, enhanced, or restored including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (NTFP/CT)	When forest areas are newly designated for the production of NTFP, professionally trained staff shall assess and take into account the biological condition of the soil.
6.3.2 (CT)	In areas intended for primary afforestation which show a lack of mykorrhiza, the Organization shall consider measures to promote the mykorrhiza equipment. The use of mineral fertilizers, however, is not permitted.
6.3.3 (NTFP/CT)	Forest stands with stocks that are not site-adapted shall be developed towards site-adapted forest stands. Note: Indicator 6.3.11 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable to the production of NTFP/CT and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.
6.3.4 (CT)	Indicator 6.3.2 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management, as quoted below, is <u>not</u> applicable to the production of CT: <i>The choice of tree species is guided by the composition of the natural forest plant association.</i> Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!
6.3.5 (CT)	Indicator 6.3.3 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management, as quoted below, is <u>not</u> applicable to the production of CT: <i>Natural regeneration is given priority. If it is expected that even-aged, pure stands detrimental to the site will develop due to natural dynamics; appropriate measures will be taken to ensure a viable proportion of tree species from native forest plant association.</i> Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!
6.3.6 (CT)	Indicator 6.3.4 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management, as quoted below, is <u>not</u> applicable to the production of CT : <i>Natural succession and differentiation processes are used in forest development. Natural succession is incorporated into afforestation and reforestation.</i> Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!

<p>6.3.7 (CT)</p>	<p>Where required, artificial regeneration is accepted in the cases that are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in the course of forest conversion b) in advance planting and in sub-planting c) in the processes of primary afforestation and reforestation, provided that natural succession is taken into account d) in the course of enhancing the variety / the composition of species e) <u>in forest areas that are designated primarily for the production of Christmas trees and decorative twig materials.</u> <p>Note: For the production of CT, Indicator 6.3.5 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p> <p>Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>6.3.8 (CT)</p>	<p>The Organization refrains from using peat and from adding any synthetic mineral aggregates (e.g. Styromull, Hygromull) and from using mineral wool.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>6.3.9 (CT)</p>	<p>Additionally purchased compost soils, types of peat, peat substitutes, or similar additives, shall be labeled as being free of harmful substances or they shall be analyzed in regard of potentially harmful substances, prior to their application.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>6.3.10 (CT)</p>	<p>The Organization shall preferably use planting vessels made of bio-degradable materials (e.g. waste paper fibers, wood fibers, flax, jute, hemp fibers) or of clay.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>6.3.11 (CT)</p>	<p>Synthetic planting pots and trays shall be made of strong, robust plastics that allow for their repeated use, and they shall be recyclable.</p>

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	<p>The use of planting vessels made of PVC is not permitted. Already existing vessels which do not meet these requirements may be used up.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
6.3.12 (CT)	<p>Extensive utilization for harvesting of entire areas designated primarily for the production of Christmas trees and decorative twigs is permitted up to a maximum size of one hectare.</p> <p>Note: For the production of CT, Indicator 6.3.11 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
6.3.13 (CT)	<p>If no biotope-trees are designated in Christmas tree plantations according to 6.3.13 of the German FSC-Standard, this shall be compensated for in other areas (Christmas tree areas are to be considered when the number of biotope-trees that are altogether required is calculated).</p>
6.3.14 (CT)	<p>In the production of Christmas trees, Indicator 6.3.14 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management, as quoted below, is <u>not</u> applicable:</p> <p><i>Full-tree harvesting methods shall not be employed.</i></p> <p>Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
	<p>Criterion 6.5 Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.</p>
6.5.1 (CT)	<p>A permanent system of extraction lines adapted to the site conditions and to the forest stand for harvesting and forwarding of wood, avoiding damage to the remaining stand and to the soil, shall be established.</p> <p>The following points shall be observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The systematic distance between extraction lines shall be 40 meters. The Organization shall justify necessary deviations from this rule as exceptions and give professionally verifiable reasons for them.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Already existing systems of extraction lines shall be taken into account.• Skidding trails shall be unambiguously designated and marked in a recognizable manner prior to management activities.• In areas that are primarily intended for the production of Christmas trees and decorative twig materials, the minimum distance of 20 meters between transportation lines shall be adhered to (the distances may, however, fall below the systematic distance of 40 meters between skid trails). <p>Note: For the production of CT, Indicator 6.5.4 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p>
6.5.2 (CT)	<p>Careful driving on the working tracks, avoiding damage to the soil or to the remaining stand, shall be made possible by the provision of suitable work tools, working procedures, equipment and by the appropriate timing / scheduling of management activities.</p> <p>Note: For the production of CT, Indicator 6.5.1 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p>
6.5.3 (CT)	<p>Driving apart from the skid trail system on the forested ground shall be avoided.</p> <p>Driving between rows with suitable vehicles (such as light narrow-track or portal tractors or special light tractors designed specifically for the treatment of Christmas trees growing in rows) apart from the system of infrastructure, in the course of mowing, mulching, application of fertilizers (according to 6.6.1) or the trimming of tree stumps, is permitted on the following binding conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternative practices, such as the use of horses, of non-self-propelled machines (e.g. bar cutters) cannot be employed for technical reasons or are financially not reasonable. A professional justification is presented to the auditor at the audit.• Driving on forested ground is kept to an absolute minimum.• Damage to the soil is minimized by using state-of-the-art technology and by choosing the most appropriate point of time for driving in the forest.• Management activities shall be carried out on the basis of an operational concept and shall be documented according to their type and scale. A professional rationale for the choice of technology and methods, considering possible alternative procedures, shall be presented to the certifier at the audit.

	<p>Note: For the production of CT, Indicator 6.5.6 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable and have therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p> <p>Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>6.5.4 (CT)</p>	<p>Soil tillage activities shall not affect the mineral soil layer.</p> <p>Soil tillage in small patches or, at the maximum, soil tillage activities consolidating strips of ground are accepted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in order to work green manure into the soil or • for the purpose of controlling populations of mice. <p>Note: For the production of CT, Indicator 6.5.6 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p> <p>Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>6.5.5 (CT)</p>	<p>Within a distance of 20 meters alongside natural watercourses and open water bodies, no new Christmas tree plantations shall be established.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>6.5.6 (CT)</p>	<p>In Christmas tree plantations that already existed prior to the entry into force of this Standard, all tree species that do not belong to the natural forest communities shall be stepwise removed within a distance of 20 meters alongside natural watercourses and open water bodies within a period of time not longer than the rotation period of the Christmas tree plantation..</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
	<p>Criterion 6.6 Forest management promotes the research, development and use of environmentally friendly, non chemical methods of pest management. On principle, forest management uses neither fertilizers nor chemical pesticides in forests. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain; as well</p>

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	<p>as any pesticides banned by international agreement, are prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training is provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</p>
<p>6.6.1 (CT)</p>	<p>The Organization shall refrain from fertilization with mineral fertilizers.</p> <p>Soil improvement by application of organic fertilizers such as cover crops and organic composts is permitted.</p> <p>The following pre-conditions for the use of organic fertilizers shall be verified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The necessity of the application is justified with reference to different types of locations. b) Nitrogen outputs can largely be excluded. c) Damage to flora and fauna is minimized and compensated by appropriate application procedures. d) The quantities applied, as well as the methods and frequency of the application, shall be documented. <p>Note: For the production of CT, Indicator 6.6.1 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p> <p>Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>6.6.2 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>Neither synthetic organic plant protection products nor biological pesticides shall be applied.</p> <p>Exceptions are application measures ordered or prescribed by official authorities. Neem preparations and the biological spray agent 'Natural Ppyrethrum' are excluded from this regulation.</p> <p>The following points shall be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application of the plant protection product has been ordered by an institution that is independent from the Forest Management Organization. • In this case, the application of the plant protection product shall be reported to GFA within 10 days after the application and it shall be justified and documented for the purpose of subsequent examinations. • In the case of an officially prescribed application of a plant protection product that has been classified as „especially dangerous“, an additional exemption from the regulation, justified by a case of emergency, shall be requested subsequently from FSC International (according to the valid FSC regulations), via the certifying organization. • The Organization shall commit to promoting the prioritization of biological substances for pest control (e.g. Bt preparations).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each case of application, evidence shall be available containing the trade name of the substance, its active ingredients, the amount of the substance that has been applied, the area treated and the dates of application and of the sale(s) of NTFP/CT. • Felled wood and other forest products that have been treated with plant protection products / biocides, or biological pest control products, shall not be commercialized as FSC-certified until twelve months after the last application. • If synthetic organic plant protection products and biological pesticides were applied, evidence shall be provided for the compliance with legal prescriptions. <p>Note: For the production of CT, Indicator 6.6.2 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p> <p>Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>6.6.3 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>In the course of the production of NTFP/CT, environmentally friendly methods for the regulation of secondary forest growth shall be employed, e.g. mowing, mulching or the utilization of sheep. Herbicides shall not be applied.</p>
<p>6.6.4 (CT)</p>	<p>The Organization shall commercialize Christmas trees and decorative twig material with an FSC statement (FSC claim) only after the expiry of a period of 36 months after inclusion in the scope of certification.</p> <p>This regulation shall be suspended if, on the basis of samples collected by the certifying organization, an independent laboratory engaged by the certifying organization confirms that during the last three years no synthetic organic plant protection products, biocides or herbicides were applied. (See Annex G, Substances relevant for residue analysis)</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>Criterion 6.9 The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p>	
<p>6.9.1 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>The use of alien tree species shall be monitored, in order to prevent any negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>Alien species shall only be used if the risks for adjacent forest stands and for native populations ecologically well adapted to the sites have been classified as being insignificant and controllable, on the basis of documented experience or scientific studies.</p> <p>Note: For the production of NTFP/CT, (the original) Indicator 6.9.1 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management V.2.3 in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p>



6.9.2 (CT)	<p>Indicator 6.9.3 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management, as quoted below, is <u>not</u> applicable to the production of CT:</p> <p><i>In primary afforestation, the introduction of non-native tree species shall be limited to the temporary intermixture of species with a maximum stock density of 20 %.</i></p> <p>Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
	<p>Principle 7: 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.</p>
	<p>Criterion 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) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments. g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership. i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.
7.1.1 (NTFP/CT)	<p>For the production of NTFP and CT, clear, achievable and measurable management objectives and actions for mid-term and long-term planning shall be specified according to the economic, environmental and social aspects of this guideline. (See Annex I, for a definition of the word: “long-term”)</p>

7.1.2 (NTFP/CT)	The introduction of species shall be justified according to site parameters for each treatment unit. Note: Indicator 7.1.6 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management V.2.3 in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.
	Criterion 7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.
7.3.1 (NTFP/CT)	The personnel employed in the production of NTFP/CT shall receive training and instruction considering the “Checklist for training” as indicated in Annex G of this standard, so that professional implementation of the management plan is ensured.
	Principle 8: 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.
	Criterion 8.2 Forest management collects all necessary data for monitoring. At a minimum, data will be collected on: 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 (NTFP/CT)	The volumes of utilized NTFP/CT shall be specified and documented according to product types.
	Criterion 8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."
8.3.1 (NTFP/CT)	Accounts shall document sales volumes, forest locations, harvesting periods, data on the purchaser(s) and other parties involved, in the area of responsibility of the Organization, for each NTFP and CT.

<p>8.3.2 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>Invoices and delivery documents for NTFP / CT that are sold as FSC-certified contain at least the following data for outgoing invoices, as defined in the currently valid FSC-COC-Standard (FSC-STD-40-004):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product description • Category of material (FSC 100%) • Certification Code (e.g. GFA-FM/COC-XXXXXX). <p>Excluded from this regulation are individual sales to final customers; in these cases, invoices with the FSC claim do not have to be issued.</p>
<p>8.3.3 (NTFP/CT)</p>	<p>If the protected FSC trademarks are used, the relevant standards of the FSC Standard (FSC-STD-50-001) in its currently valid version shall be observed, and FSC-certified NTFP shall be explicitly mentioned.</p>
<p>Principle 10: 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.</p>	
<p>Criterion 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 found within the natural landscape.</p>	
<p>10.2.1 (CT)</p>	<p>Plantations of Christmas trees and decorative twig material shall not cover more than 5 % of the total area size of the forested ground. Individual areas shall have a maximum size of 5 hectares</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>10.2.2 (CT)</p>	<p>Not more than 0,5 % of the total forested ground may be converted to such plantations per year.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>

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	<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>10.4.1 (CT)</p>	<p>If tree species that are not endemic to the location are introduced, the Organization shall give an explanation for their introduction. The reasons shall be integrated into the management plan.</p> <p>Note: For the production of CT, (the original) Indicator 10.4.1 of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management V.2.3 in its original wording is not applicable and has therefore been replaced by this indicator.</p> <p>Exemption clause, valid only for the production of Christmas trees!</p>
<p>10.4.2 (CT)</p>	<p>Plantations of Christmas trees and decorative twig materials shall not be allowed to grow into mature wood.</p>
	<p>Criterion 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>
<p>10.9.1 (CT)</p>	<p>The Organization shall not manage any plantations of Christmas trees and/or decorative twig materials that were established after 1994 by the conversion of forest stands with natural forest communities. This regulation shall not apply if no evidence is available showing that the Organization is directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion. This shall be confirmed by stakeholders representing social, economic and environmental interests.</p> <p>This indicator is only valid for the production of Christmas trees!</p>

G Notes on the glossary and other annexes

Since the present Standard can only be applied as complementary standard to the German FSC Standard for Forest Management, all annexes of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management are equally valid for this Standard.

- **Glossary of Terms:**
 - See the German FSC Standard for Forest Management: “Annex I: Definitions” (the most recently approved standard version shall be the binding reference).
- **List of currently valid laws, provisions and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements:**
 - See the German FSC Standard for Forest Management: “Annex II: Supplementary Notes on Criteria and Indicators”, in particular:

German FSC Standard for Forest Management, V2.3 (old)	German FSC Standard for Forest Management, V3.0 (new)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “on 1.1 Federal and State Laws, Provisions”; ▪ “on 1.2: Fees, Royalties and Taxes”; ▪ “on 1.3: International Agreements”; ▪ “on 4.2: Legal Safety Provisions” and ▪ “on 4.3: Freedom of Organization”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “on 1.3: Fees, Royalties and Taxes”; ▪ “on 1.3.1: Federal and State Laws, Provisions and Agreements”, and ▪ “on 1.5.2: International Agreements”.

- **Additional laws and provisions that are valid for the production of food:**
 1. Lebensmittel-und Futtermittelgesetzbuch (LFGB)
 2. EU-Verordnung Nr. 178/2002 (EU-Basis-Verordnung)
 3. Europäisches Hygienerecht mit der Verordnung zur allgemeinen Lebensmittelhygiene (Verordnung (EG) Nr. 852/2004) und der Verordnung mit spezifischen Hygienevorschriften für Lebensmittel tierischen Ursprungs (Verordnung (EG) Nr. 853/2004)
 4. Nationale Lebensmittelhygiene-Verordnung (LMHV)
 5. Infektionsschutzgesetz (IfSG)
 6. Lebensmittelkennzeichnungs-Verordnung (LMKV)
 7. Verpackungsverordnung (VerpackV)
 8. Honigverordnung (HonigV)
- **List of endangered species**, or, respectively, of those species that are threatened with respect to their population in large parts of their dissemination area in the Federal Republic of Germany (here, the species of the Red Lists classified in Hazard Category 3 or higher (from 1 to 3) are included):
 - See https://www.bfn.de/0322_rote_liste.html
- **Definition of HCV** (Areas that are worth of special protection / High conservation value forests) for Germany:

- see the German FSC Standard for Forest Management: “Annex I: Definitions”, here: “Areas that are worth of special protection / High conservation value forests (HCV)”

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• **Checklist for training:**

For the production of Christmas trees and other NTFP, training shall be provided on the subjects or topics given below. If necessary, these subjects or topics shall be considered in the conceptualization of training programs.

	Venison (wild game meat) and honey	Christmas trees and decorative twig materials	Other NTFP
Legal foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal and State Laws on hunting • Federal and State Laws • If applicable: Laws and provisions that apply to the production of food, as already mentioned above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal and State Forest Acts • Legislation relevant for Nature Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Protection Law • Federal and State Forest Acts • Legislation relevant for Nature Conservation • If applicable: Laws and provisions that apply to the production of food, as already mentioned above
Workers' rights and labour protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Protection Law • Special safety and hygiene regulations, according to Nationale Lebensmittelhygiene-Verordnung (LMHV) [act on hygiene in food production], and Infektionsschutzgesetz (IfSG) [infection protection law] • HACCP concept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Protection Law • Specific risk assessments and risk analyses shall be regarded, in particular if management activities including the use of brush-cutters, motor-chain saws, mulchers, shredders, special tractors for Christmas tree plantations, stump grinders, etc. are carried out. The same applies to the utilization of sheep in the regulation of secondary growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Protection Law • If applicable: Special safety and hygiene regulations, according to Nationale Lebensmittelhygiene-Verordnung (LMHV) [act on hygiene in food production], and Infektionsschutzgesetz (IfSG) [infection protection law]
Sustainable utilization and prevention of negative impacts on the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venison: Covered by a valid hunting license. • If necessary: Special instruction on the use of lead-free ammunition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in regard of the specific regulations in this Standard with respect to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The handling of mineral aggregates, peat, etc. ▪ Protection of water-bodies / water protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise in pest control • Forest Protection and Forest Ecology • Measures aiming at the protection and maintenance of habitats • Production of seeds and planting material

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Control of secondary forest growth ▪ Choice of tree species ▪ Fertilization (with green manure) • Expertise in pest control • Forest Protection and Forest Ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in regard of the specific regulations in this Standard with respect to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the protection of water-bodies / water protection ▪ control of secondary forest growth ▪ choice of tree species
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• **Checklist for management and monitoring**

Contents of the Management Plan to be regarded specifically in the production of Christmas trees and other NTFP (supplementing the Checklist for Management and Monitoring of the German FSC Standard for Forest Management)

Subject matter / scope covered by the regulation	Management tools Examples (in written form only)	Monitoring (Examples for sources of knowledge, or data, respectively)	Revision
Occupational safety; Healthcare; Personnel concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk analyses • Training program, Training on occupational safety (e.g. statutory accident insurance and prevention association, chamber of agriculture, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accident and illness statistics for persons employed in the field of NTFP production • Training certificates for specific training courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required
Food hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition and implementation of efficient monitoring measures and safety regulations in the field of food hygiene, according to the HACCP concept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the HACCP concept: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Critical control points ▪ Critical limits ▪ Sampling and analyses (e.g. Trichinella examination) • Documentation of honey production (German: Honigbuch) and/or results of the analyses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least once a year
Qualification of staff working in the forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel concept • Contracts of employment and/or General Terms and Conditions, e. g. for hired agricultural service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender documents, or contractor agreements, respectively • Appointed dates of (vocational) training courses / motor-chain saw courses, etc. • Acceptance certificates / inspection reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least once a year

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific NTFP training programs or programs for vocational training • Training opportunities for non-commercial self-employed contractors (e. g. motor-chain saw training courses) 		
Local population; Information exchange; where possible: Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ known customary rights ▪ known main collection sites of private gatherers ▪ sites of cultural interest ▪ local recreational facilities, rest areas excluded from hunting • List of stakeholders / interest groups 	Procedures and incidents that are documented in-house, e. g. by means of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - entries in schedules / appointment calendars - written correspondence and E-Mails - notes, agreements, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required
Impacts of forest management on the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term operational planning • Other operational regulations regarding implementation of nature conservation requirements (e. g. of the Natura2000 Management Plans) • Hunting lease agreements and guidelines for guest hunters (lead-free ammunition, hygiene regarding the processing of wild game meat) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory data • Various data bases of the individual environmental administrations • Monitoring carried out by the official and in some cases non-official nature conservation authorities, or other technical authorities (e.g. for water) • Natura2000 Management Plans and landscape-planning documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically, mid-term operational planning
Protection of water-bodies, shore zones and the soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for the provision of infrastructure • Regulations regarding the establishment and utilization of Christmas tree plantations • Regulations concerning fertilization and application of pesticides • Work assignments / Contractor agreements / General Terms and Conditions [German: AGBs] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance reports of forest management activities • Monitoring carried out by water protection authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically, mid-term operational planning

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Sustainably utilizable quantities of NTFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term and annual operational planning • Silvicultural concepts and concepts for forest development • Regulations regarding sustainably utilizable quantities of NTFP • Concept for the management of wild game populations and hunting plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory data • Comparisons of target volumes with actual volumes during operation (sustainability control lists, German: "Nachhaltskontrolllisten") • Inventory, mid-term operational planning • Success of regeneration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically, mid-term operational planning
Calamity prevention, or concepts for procedures in case of calamities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts for forest protection, in particular regarding calamities caused by rodents and by insects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory, mid-term operational planning • If necessary, the forwarding of the inventory date, due to a calamity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required
Fertilization with green manure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilization concept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of implemented management activities • Inventory data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As required

• **Substances relevant for residue analysis according to 10.7 CT 3:**

Acetamiprid	Diafenthiuron	Ioxynil	Promecarb	Trifloxstrobil
Alachlor	Dicamba	Isoprothiolan	Propamocarb	Triflumuron
Aldicarb	Dichlorprop	Isoproturon	Propargit	Triflusulfuron
Amidosulfuron	Diethofencarb	Isoxaben	Propiconazol	
Atrazin	Difenoconazole	Isoxaflutol	Prosulfocarb	
Azoxystrobin	Diflubenzuron	Kresoxim- methyl	Prosulfuron	
Bendiocarb	Dinoseb	Linuron	Pymetrozin	
Benfuracarb	Dinoterb	Lufenuron	Pyridaben	
Benomyl	Diuron	MCPA	Pyridaphenthion	Glyphosat
Bensulfuron- methyl	Ethoprophos	MCPB	Propyzamid	AMPA
Bentazon	Fenamirol	Mecarbam	Pyrimethanil	
Boscalid	Fenazaquin	Mecoprop	Pyriproxyfen	
Bromoxynil	Fenhexamid	Mepanipyrim	Quinmerac	
Bupirimat	Fenoxycarb	Metalaxyl-M	Quizalofop	
Buprofezin	Fenpropimorph	Methiocarb	Rimsulfuron	
Butocarboxim	Fenpyroximat	Methomyl	Simazin	
Carbaryl	Fenuron	Methoxyfenozid	Spiroxamin	
Carbendazim	Fipronil	Metobromuron	2,4,5-T	
Carbofuran	Florasulam	Metolachlor	Tebuconazol	
Carboxin	Fluazifop-P	Metribuzin	Tebufenozid	
Chloridazon	Fluazifop-P- butyl	Myclobutanil	Tebufenpyrad	
Chlorotoluron	Flufenoxuron	Monolinuron	Teflubenzuron	
Chloroxuron	Fluometuron	Monuron	Tepraloxym	
Chlorsulfuron	Flufenacet	Nicosulfuron	Thiabendazol	
Clethodim	Furathiocarb	Oxadixyl	Thiacloprid	
Clofentezine	Hexaflumuron	Oxamyl	Thiamethoxam	
Clomazone	Hexythiazox	Oxydemeton- methyl	Terbutylazin	
Clothianidin	Hexazinon	Paclobutrazol	Triadimefon	
Cyclan ilid	Imazalil	Penconazol	Triadimenol	
Cyproconazol	Imidacloprid	Pendimethalin	Thiometon	
2,4-D	Indoxacarb	Pirimicarb	Triclopyr	
2,4-DB			Tridemorph	
			Triflumizol	