Public Summary Report for Forest Management
2018 Annual audit
Report for:

Syndicat des Producteurs Forestiers du Sud du Quëbec
in
Sherbrooke, Quëbec, Canada

Report Finalized: December 22, 2017
Audit Dates: October 23-27, 2017
Audit Team: Nicolas Blanchette

Certificate code(s): RA-FM/COC-004614
Certificate issued: January 15, 2015
Certificate expiration: January 14, 2020

Organization Contact: Olivier Côté
Address: 4300, boul. Bourque
Sherbrooke, Quëbec J1N 2A6

The only official version of this report is the French version.
The report below is a translation of the required portions of the French report.
NOTE: More detailed public summary available in French at http://info.fsc.org/
1. AUDIT PROCESS

1.1. Auditors and qualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auditor Name</th>
<th>Qualifications:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicolas Blanchette</td>
<td>Forest engineer since 1996, Nicolas was introduced to forest certification as part of his undergraduate training in Canada and Central America. He acquired a thorough knowledge of the FSC certification program through his involvement in this organization in New Brunswick, at the office of FSC International in Mexico, as coordinator of the Quebec Development Initiative of the FSC standard and as consultant for FSC Canada in Toronto. He actively participated in the development of the Boreal and Great Lakes St-Lawrence standards. He is a certified Lead Auditor according to the ISO 14001 standard as well as for FSC by the Rainforest Alliance Registrar. His many years of experience with the FSC certification program make Nicolas a versatile auditor. He also supports companies to move toward or to maintain certification of forest management and chain of custody through his INCOS Stratégies business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Eng., M.Sc., MBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Auditor role       | Team Leader and responsible for forestry, environmental and socio-economic aspects                      |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of site</th>
<th># of Sites Visited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☒ Head office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Forest districts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Forest sites</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Other sites:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. AUDIT FINDINGS AND RESULTS

2.1. Changes in the forest management of the Forest Management Enterprise (FME) and/or standard and stakeholder issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☒ Changes in the forest management of the FME have occurred since the last audit</td>
<td>The list of lots included in the scope has increased by approximately 7% in the last year with 178 new lots with areas of less than 1,000 ha (see details in Section 3.2). Some lots of the same area category have also been removed from the scope of the certificate mainly due to property transfer or expired management plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Updates to group member list (if yes, see section 2.5 below)</td>
<td>See section 2.5 below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Changes in the forest management standard used for audit have occurred since the last audit</td>
<td>In January 2017, FSC has published a new guideline on the interim protection of intact forest landscapes. The audit team verified this and it does not apply since there are no Intact Forest Landscapes overlapping this territory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Stakeholder comments on the forest management of the FME were received</td>
<td>Comment summary and RA response: See below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P</th>
<th>Stakeholder Comment:</th>
<th>RA Response:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>An owner specified having difficulties understanding how to conserve stumps while ensuring the safety of the manual fellers.</td>
<td>After discussions with the owner, the SPFSQ certification manager, the auditor found that the procedures in place and the monitoring carried out by the SPFSQ with the owners to explain the compliance with laws and regulations and FSC requirements, such as the ones on residual structures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3</td>
<td>An indigenous representative specified appreciating the collaboration of an owner and was looking forward to continuing this collaboration during the next year.</td>
<td>The auditor found that the owner and this community representative maintain good working relationship.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pesticide Use**

- ☒ FME does not use pesticides. (delete rows below)

2.2. Excision of areas from the scope of certificate

- ☒ Not applicable. Check this box if the FME has not excised areas from the FMU(s) included in the certificate scope as defined by FSC-POL-20-003. (delete the rows below if not applicable)
2.3. Conformance with applicable nonconformity reports

The section below describes the activities of the certificate holder to address each applicable non-conformity report (NCR) issued during previous evaluations. For each NCR a finding is presented along with a description of its current status using the following categories. Failure to meet NCRs will result in non-conformances being upgraded from minor to major status with conformance required within 3 months with risk of suspension or termination of the Rainforest Alliance certificate if Major NCRs are not met. The following classification is used to indicate the status of the NCR:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status Categories</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Operation has successfully met the NCR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Operation has either not met or has partially met the NCR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Check if N/A (there are no open NCRs to review)

2.4. New nonconformity reports issued as a result of this audit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCR #</th>
<th>Classification of NC</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Minor X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard &amp; indicator:</td>
<td>Rainforest Alliance Locally adapted Standards for Assessing Forest Management in the Great Lakes/Saint-Lawrence region with modifications to accommodate the Small and Low Intensity Forests (SLIMF) – April 2014, indicator 4.2.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report section:</td>
<td>Appendix IV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description of Nonconformance and Related Evidence:**

**Standard Requirement:**
All forest workers comply with all relevant provincial occupational health and safety requirements.

**Finding:**
A forestry worker’s tree feller did not contain the 9-kg extinguisher required by the procedures and the regulation. Interviews demonstrated a misunderstanding on the extinguishing power requirements for the tree fellers equipped with an automatic extinguishing system.

**Evidence:**
- Interviews
- Field visits
- INS-06-04
- Annexe 7 – Document de connaissance – mesures de protection (p.64)

**Corrective action request:**
Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the nonconformance.

**Timeline for conformance:**
Within 12 months following report finalization

**Evidence provided by organization:**
PENDING

**Finding after reviewing evidence:**
PENDING

**NCR Status:**
OPEN
### Description of Nonconformance and Related Evidence:

#### Standard Requirement:
Special guidelines are applied to protect rare and unusual species.

#### Finding:
Butternut stems observed on GFSTF and AFAS sites were marked as wildlife trees and were maintained in forest stands without being evaluated as provided for in the procedures of Appendix 7 entitled "Annexe 7 Document de connaissance – mesures de protection". Interviews with the technician and forest engineer as well as those of other joint management groups (OGCs) have demonstrated their misconceptions of these procedures to manage this threatened species and respect sound practices. Furthermore, the technicians did not inform the SPFSQ of the presence of this threatened species to update the database on threatened or vulnerable species (EMVS) and the CDPNQ (Centre de données sur le patrimoine naturel du Québec).

#### Evidence:
- Interviews
- Field visits
- Annexe 7 – Document de connaissance – mesures de protection (p.64)
- Canada's Species at Risk Act

#### Corrective action request:
Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the nonconformance.

#### Timeline for conformance:
Within 12 months following report finalization

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### Description of Nonconformance and Related Evidence:

**Standard Requirement:**
In consideration of the assessment results in 6.1, the manager has determined a long-term desired future forest condition that maintains, enhances or restores natural conditions in natural forests relating to elements a to f listed in indicator 6.3.1.

**Finding:**
This NCR concerns Forêt Hereford Inc. (FHI). Objectives for FHI for long-term desired future forest condition were not defined as required by indicator 6.3.1.

**Evidence:**
- Interview
- Field visits
- Hereford forest management plan
- Annexe 9 – Document d’analyse de la mosaïque forestières et des habitats fauniques
- Estrie private forest protection and enhancement plans (PPMV)
- Forestry landscape history assessment factsheet of the Hereford community forest

**Corrective action request:**
Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.

**Timeline for conformance:**
Within 12 months following report finalization

**Evidence provided by organization:**
PENDING

**Finding after reviewing evidence:**
PENDING

**NCR Status:**
OPEN

**Comments (optional):**

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### Description of Nonconformance and Related Evidence:

**Standard Requirement:**
The group entity shall maintain complete and up-to-date records covering all applicable requirements of this standard.

**Finding:**
Document ENR-03-01 does not allow to view and understand the changes in the number of members and woodlots from one year to the next. The number of new members and excluded members does not explain the total number joining the group.

**Evidence:**
- Interviews
- ENR-03-01

**Corrective action request:**
Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.

**Timeline for conformance:**
Within 12 months following report finalization

**Evidence provided by organization:**
PENDING

**Finding after reviewing evidence:**
PENDING

**NCR Status:**
OPEN

**Comments (optional):**

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2.5. Audit decision

The table below gives an overview of the NCRs status after the current audit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCR type</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open before current audit</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgraded to Major</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New NCRs</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Major NCRs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification Recommendation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certification requirement met</td>
<td>Upon acceptance of NCRs issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification requirements not met</td>
<td>major non-conformances identified that need to be addressed during 3 months after the final report date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification Suspension required</td>
<td>major non-conformance not addressed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.6. Updated Group Member list

Member list kept by RA. List “SPFSQ FSC FM audit 18 FRE Liste membres.xlsx”