

Notes for completion of Forest Management Template

The Forest Management Template is based on recommendations for COFORD FMP Template as outlined in COFORD Management Planning Group Summary Report (March 2015).

The Template was amended to include Certification requirements following gap analysis of COFORD FMP Template.

Note: The Forest Management Template contains instructions/guidance [including certification indicator references] for the person preparing the management plan, which are marked in Grey and Yellow highlight. Please delete all these instructions before submitting as a final draft to the Group Manager.

Notes for completing Part 1: Ownership

FMU name: The name of the FMU or Forest Management Unit. This is generally the Forest Name.

Ownership: Copies of Folio and Map to be appended to FMP. Folio/Title deeds and Maps have to be made available at time of inspection. (See also *Doc.18 Documentary Requirements for Certification in Ireland*)

Ownership Constraints: Where applicable document and map all third party rights and complete *Tem.2.1 Legal Ownership/Third Party Rights*

Notes for completing Part2: Description of forest

Landscape Design Statement:

Management plans shall include a landscape design plan in accordance with Forest Service Guidelines – Text in plan should include reference to any landscape designations, potential impact of forest operations on the landscape, mitigations such as phased felling, CCF, LTR, and a general description of the surrounding lands.

Consider proportionate to scale and intensity.

In cases where detailed landscape appraisal is considered necessary this should include photographs and diagrams and possibly include as an appendix to the plan.

High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF):



The HCVF screening process has to be described here even if no HCVF identified.

See attached Screening Decision Diagram for guidance at the end of this guidance note. (Fig 2.1: A decision tree for identifying each type of HCVF using existing information and approaches)

Forest certification recognises that only HCVF1 and HCVF3 apply for Ireland.

Doc.07 Forest Data has to be completed for all FMUs regardless whether HCVF are present.

Reference:

- **High Conservation Value Screening** - 4 page information note (HCV Network)
https://global-uploads.webflow.com/624493bb51507d22cf218d50/62868acb5d977339696e55b2_210903-HCV-Screening-Brief.pdf

For additional information on HCVF see <https://www.groupcertification.ie/resources/resource-library>

Features:

Describes any particular feature of the forest that will impact on future management or which will be the subject of particular attention e.g. badger set, recorded monument, watercourse. Include features which are specifically mentioned in forest certification standard.

Only those features present need to be described.

Where applicable supporting documentation should be appended to the FMP (e.g where Deer Management is a feature/objective, a detailed Deer Management Plan, should be appended to the FMP).

Notes for completing Part 3: Long Term Vision and Management Objectives

Long Term Vision: A general description of what the forest owner plans to do/achieve with regards to his/her FMU over the 20 year period. A short statement which reflects the owner's expectation of what the forest will be like in the long term.

⇒ **Example:** *Long term management objective for the conifer crop is to produce high quality timber in a sustainably manner on a commercial basis.*

Management Objectives: Management Objectives should be S.M.A.R.T (Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely). Preparation of a monitoring plan should include monitoring of achievement of management objectives. Some examples are given in the template.

⇒ **Note:** The Examples given in this Section *should be adjusted / rephrased to uniquely meet owner's objectives for each forest.*

Notes for completing Part 4: Monitoring Plan Summary

[The purpose of a monitoring plan is to quantify the topics which shall be monitored to demonstrate compliance with specific requirements of the endorsed certification standard and Certification Group requirements.

Monitoring shall be based on best practice and determined by the scale and intensity of forest management and the relative complexity as well as the fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring shall be **documented** in a consistent and replicable way over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change].

The example monitoring targets included in the monitoring plan template reflect the monitoring topics which appear in the certification standard.

⇒ If there is a topic which is not relevant in the forest subject of this management plan, the monitoring reference should be removed.

For example, if there is a policy of no chemical use in the forest then remove this topic as there will be no need to monitor chemical use. If there is no use of biological control agents, remove this topic from the monitoring plan.

The Management Plan shall at each 5 year review, incorporate the **results** of any monitoring within or relevant to the FMU. The summary of monitoring **results** has to be made available to the stakeholders at the 5 year review of the FMP. [This shall include experience gained or observations made by the forest owner/manager], and incorporate any new scientific or technical knowledge that has been adopted as good practice by relevant authorities since the previous review.

Notes for completing Part 5: Biodiversity

Biodiversity plan should show area of biodiversity at Start of Plan (SoP) and projected area of biodiversity at End of Plan (EoP).

Biodiversity at Start of Plan (SoP) can be supplied as one figure for the entire property. Where an entire sub-compartment is bio-diversity, this can be indicated in the description. A description to indicate how the increase in biodiversity is achieved has to be included.

Where there are statutory Designations this should be indicated. It is assumed that the statutory area does not change over the duration of the plan.

The percentage of biodiversity at End of Plan for the property should be $\geq 15\%$

Guidelines:

- Any areas of native broadleaves (e.g. Oak and Ash) can be included in the Biodiversity percentage of the property. (Non native broadleaves, such as Sycamore cannot be included in any biodiversity calculations)
- All areas within a statutory designation (NHA, SAC, SPA, etc) are automatically regarded as biodiversity areas, as well as the non-statutory proposed areas (pNHA, etc)

Areas that can be counted for their biodiversity value include:

- Areas where there has been crop failure which has resulted in scattered open ground
- Development of bog and heath vegetation
- Suppressed conifer growth which can be treated as long term retention (LTR) due to crop being retained beyond 'normal' rotation lengths.

Notes for completing Appendices:

Appendix 1: Forest Inventory and Work Plan [Tem.7.1b]

The Forest Inventory data, Work Plan and Harvesting Prescription are to be appended to this FMP template. The spreadsheet **Tem.7.1b Forest Inventory and Work Plan** forms part of the Forest Management Plan template and forms Appendix 1 of the FMP. Explanatory Notes are included in a separate Tab in *Tem.7.1.b*.

Appendix II: Maps – where possible, maps can be combined.

E.g. Map showing both compartments and species, or map showing fire plan and hazards. Where maps are combined, please list them as a combined map. Where a map is not supplied, do not list them in Appendix II, or list as 'N/A for this property'.

Appendix III Legal Ownership/Third Party Rights [Tem.2.1]

Where there are third party rights, Tem.2.1 has to be completed and included with the FMP. Folio/Title deeds and Maps have to be made available at time of inspection.(See also *Doc.18 Documentary Requirements for Certification in Ireland*)

Appendix IV: Integrated Pest Management Strategy [Tem.6.6a]

An 8-page Integrated Pest Management Strategy [Tem.6.6a] has been developed as part of the Forest Management Manual. This IPMS can be referred to at the end of Part 2 of the FMP and should be available at time of inspection/audit.

Appendix V: Management Plan Summary

The certification standard covers all forest sizes. Management plans for large forests are extensive and need a summary. In case of small woods this has to be considered in proportion. A summary for a small woodland plan should include the owner's objectives, a note of any designations and HCV features and a summary of all operations planned for the first five years of the plan.

Figure 2.1: A decision tree for identifying each type of HCVF using existing information and approaches.

