

Forest management pre-assessment / certification / surveillance /re-certification audit report

Title of the forest management organization:	MTÜ Eesti Erametsaliit
Address of company	Toompuiestee 24, Tallinn,10149
Location of certified territory:	Estonia
Contact person:	Mari Tuvikene
Audit report date:	16.03.2022
Report approval date:	04.04.2022
Certificate issue date:	17.02.2020
Certificate expiry date:	18.02.2025
Certificate number:	TT-PEFC-FM006
Audit type:	Surveillance No. 2
Used standards:	PEFC Eesti Rahvuslik Metsamajandamise Standard Version 10.08.15; PEFC Checklist - Group Forest Management Certification PEFC ST 1002:2018

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1. Audit team description

Lead auditor (Name, Surname):	Ülo Roop
Brief description of experience, compliance with the status	FSC and PEFC CoC Lead Auditor, FSC and PEFC trainee. MSc diploma on Forest Ecology from SLU Sweden.

2. Description of the certification candidate's activity

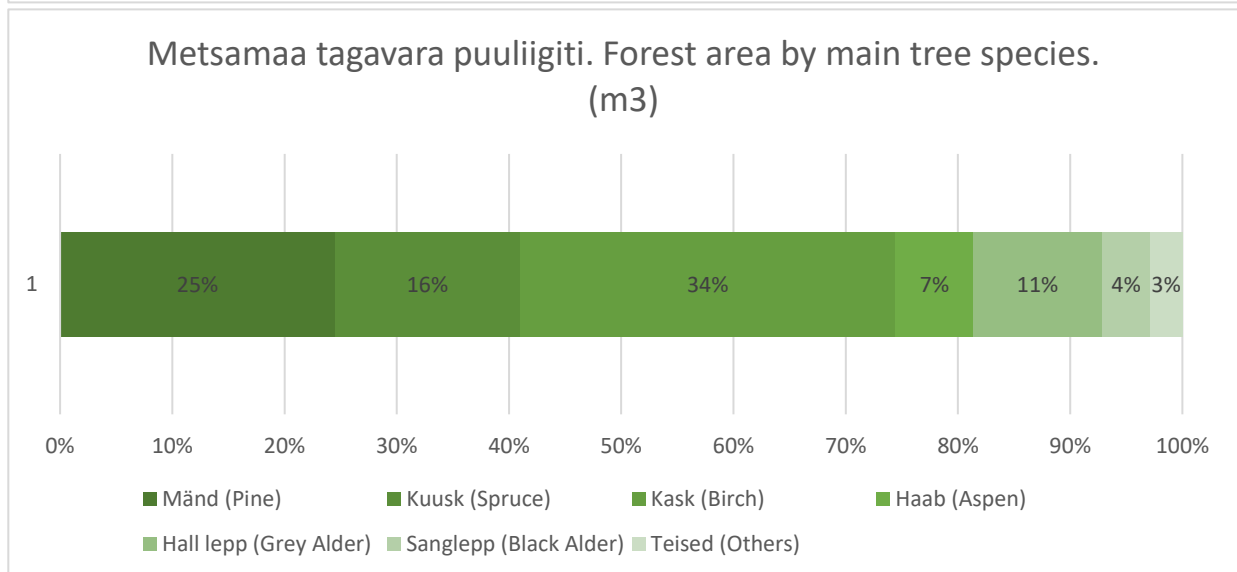
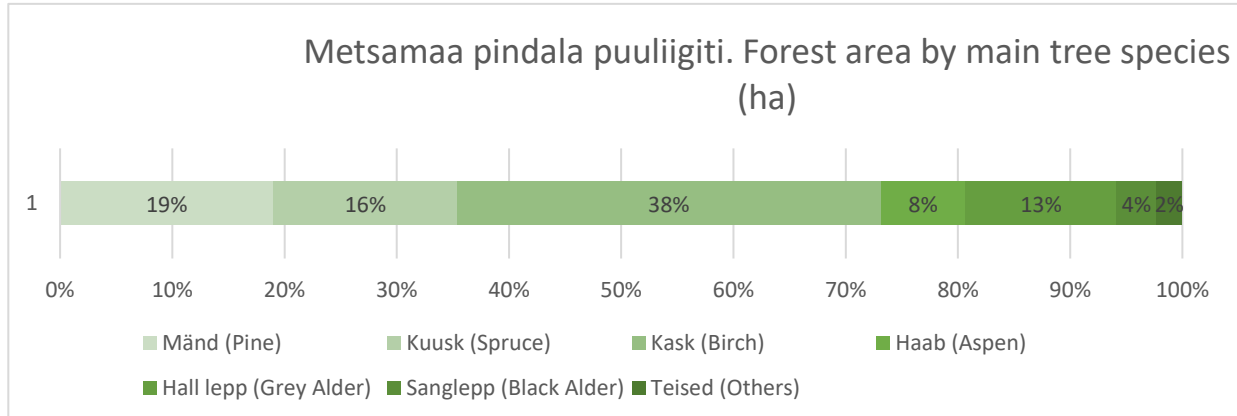
Title of the forest management organization, legal status, contact person information
Eesti Erametsaliit MTÜ Toompuiestee 24, Tallinn, 10149
Number of employees and contractors
5 staff employees working at the FME responsible for group certificate, 115 group members (private persons and companies, exact number of employees unknown). Approximately 230 subcontractors registered which make different works for group members.
Management objectives defined in Forest managements plan
The Eesti Erametsaliit MTÜ (EEML or FME from now on) has group certificate under PEFC Forest management Group certificate. The management objectives are defined by the group members individually. The group members aim to have sustainable yield and income from their properties as a long-term objective. The forest management is planned and implemented considering the PEFC Estonian National Standard and National Forest Act. Each property has 10-year compulsory management plan based on the forest inventory which includes recommendations for forest management. FME as group certificate holder has defined its own objectives which are available on the web page.
Description of the organisational structure of forest management implementation
Group certificate, with certificate holder MTÜ Eesti Erametsaliit (EEML). EEML performs the reception of the members, management of the membership and related information, annual reporting, assessment of the members and suspension of the membership. Inspection and monitoring of the following of certificate scope and requirements are managed according to the established procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agreement between the members of the group and EEML - instructions for completing the checklist. - work arrangements of the EEML`s PEFC group-certificate control group and control unit - internal control and work arrangements of EEML`s PEFC group-certificate members - evaluation of non-compliances and weaknesses of EEML`s PEFC group-certificate members - corrective actions for the non-conformities and weaknesses found at internal audit. - internal audit plan - conduction of first internal control of EEML`s PEFC group-certificate members - relevant documentation list for internal control of EEML`s PEFC group-certificate members <p>EEML group-certificate members at January 2021 – 115 members (252530 ha at the 31.12.2021).</p>

The forest area covered with the scope of the certificate is located across Estonia (distributed according to the areas managed by the members). EEML has an overview of the managed forest lands, member-based register (property, county, municipality, number of the cadastral, ha). Minimum once a year each member must update the information. Last update made: 31.12.2020

Managed area distribution by species and age groups

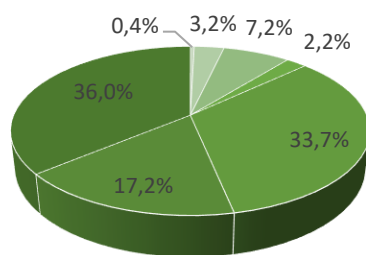
In relation to the group-certificate the distribution of managed land by the group members might vary of species and age groups for every group member. Exact information of the group member is gathered and recorded into tables of which summarized tables are created and hold up to date.

Group members forest land proportion by tree species is following:



Proportion by species by age group are following:

Arenguklassid. Age groups



- Lage ala (Clear area)
- Selgusetala ala (non-specified)
- Noorendik (young stands)
- Latimets (Pole stands)
- Keskealine mets (Middle age stands)
- Valmiv mets (Premature stands)
- Küps mets (Mature stands)

Final felling performance

The main felling type is clearcutting as regeneration cutting. It forms 85 % of the total cuttings. The rest of the cutting types are improvement cuttings. The harvesters are mainly used for regeneration cuttings and also for some thinnings. In case of large diameters and dense undergrowth chainsaw operators are used prior to harvester activities.

Regeneration cuttings				Maintenance cutting						Other cuttings			
Clearcut		Selective cutting		PCT		Thinning		Sanitary cutting		Corrective cutting		Other	
ha	m3	ha	m3	ha	m3	ha	m3	ha	m3	ha	m3	ha	m3
583	91364	41	3315	392	423	317	13476	116	2667		26	11	523
4	0	1	7	0	2	7	5	3	0	6	2	9	2

Forest non-timber products and services

Typically, non-timber products are not harvested for commercial purposes. Mushrooms, berries, lichen etc. could be obtained from forest and access for local communities is not restricted. The property owners have cooperation with local hunting clubs for game management.

General description of the forest management system

The system and control of the forest management according to PEFC Estonia National Forest Standard is performed through EEML (procedures - see above the description of organizational structure for execution of forest management).

For each group-certificate member the access is given to the relevant documents (PEFC Estonia National Forest Standard, the Forest Act, Nature Conservation act etc.), which is the basis for performing forest management and related operations (forest regeneration, cutting, maintenance and protection etc).

EEML collects and maintains summary information on executed cuttings, re-forestation, forest area, protected species etc. by each member. Every year the internal control (internal audits) of the randomly selected members is conducted by EEML, it includes the evaluation of the management system, documentation and field audits. The purpose of the internal audits is to evaluate member`s compliance to the currently valid legislation and documents (including subcontractors` control by the members). EEML has developed and documented relevant procedures for execution of the internal audit, recording the results and further improvements. All members are checked at least once within the 5-year validity period of the certificate.

EEML informs, trains (if necessary & possible) and provides additional information (seminars, brochures) regarding the various aspects of forest management. Environmental and cultural protection is organized by Environmental Agency (EA) via legislation and protection acts submitted for protection areas. WKH protection by private forest owners is voluntary, in case it is preferred, special compensation agreement for each WKH is signed with EA and forest owners. Special restrictions on the cutting sites are noted where relevant in the cutting permit. When the site does not allow any activities, the cutting permit is not issued. In case forest owner discovers environmental or culturally important area, EA conducts inventory on this area and determines the presence of the value. In case it is needed, protection measures are implemented by EA. In case stakeholders discover such values, notification is sent to EA for further investigation, in case of identified protection value, forest owner is notified via forestry portal. Usually, neighbours are communicated about upcoming forestry works, especially in cases, where land or road usage agreement has to be signed. EA notifies the neighbours on cutting permit issuance and expects any feedback in case there are any by SH.

Total forest area (ha)

252530,34

Area and description of forests with restricted forest use

Restriction zone	ha
Landscape protection area	473
Environmental protection area	232
Species protection area	1761
Watercourse protection area	1125
Buffer zones	319
WKH	90
Other restrictions	1073,22
Cultural heritage area	60,985
Naturepark	1939
Nationalpark	635
Restriction not specified in database	5689,12

Abovementioned restriction zones have different restriction measures which are stated in their own protection act or in state legislation. The application of such restrictive measures lies mostly on EA, which controls also the follow up of such restrictions. Each forest owner has direct obligation to follow any restrictions set by such documents. In case of any violations, it will be registered in the EA and appropriate measures implemented.

Annual allowable cutting rate.

1117958 m³ (2020), NA in Estonian PEFC FM standard.
1558590 m³ (2021) (without deforestation – 3882)

Is there any significant changes since last audit (changes in company, certification requirements; legal requirements, accreditation requirements)?

- Yes
 No

Description of changes:

Area has changed for approximately 15000 ha. This increase occurred due to the fact that larger forestry companies have acquired more forestland into their portfolio.

Another change in EEML management, new PEFC FM responsible person employed.
Significant increase in the cutting rate has occurred in 2021 related to 2020.

3. Management structure description and audit program

- Single Certificate
- Multiple FMU Certificate
- Group Certificate

Size class	Time needed per sample in working days (surveillance audit)	Count of forest management units / group members
>100 000 ha	5 (4.5)	0
10 000 – 100 000 ha	2.5 (2.0)	3
1.000 - 10.000 ha	1.5 (1.0)	5
101 - 1.000 ha	1 (0.7)	3
<100 ha	0.5 (0.5)	0

Audit program

Parameter	St1 / pre assesment	St2 / Initial audit	S1	S2	S3	S4
FM Standard	x	x	x	x	x	X
Group standard	x	x	x	x	x	x
Number of Group members / FMUs planned to audit per size class: (Group / multiple FMUs certificate only)						
Size class	St1 / pre assesment	St2 / Initial audit	S1	S2	S3	S4
>100 000 ha						
10 000 – 100 000 ha			1	3		
1.000 - 10.000 ha			6	5		
101 - 1.000 ha			6	3		
<100 ha			6	0		

GROUP member / FMU sampling is carried out according to LFM_03B PEFC Forest Management Group and Multiple FMU Certification procedure.

Applied methodology and sample rate is described below

Sufficient sample rate from 115 group members taken according to the previous audit trail, occurred SH consultation and based on the size of the group member. Sample taken from previous audit practice considering that within 5-year cycle each group member shall be audited for compliance. Each group member has various number of managed properties all over the Estonia. Prior to audit, the list of activities of each group member on each property during last 2 years is collected and preliminary random selection is made of such members and their properties (considering the type of activity, scale of

the activities by the company, cutting scale etc). From this selection, each member's sites are visited and verified via databases/interviews the compliance of their activities according to the applicable standard requirements. During current assessment, total of 15 group members activities were evaluated. Onsite visits carried out for 11 group members, rest of the group member's activities evaluated on the documentation basis (considering cutting activities during recent 2 years).

List of group members added as a separate Excel file.

Note: When calculating the number of days to audit group members / FMUs who need to be visited (X) table below is used:

Size class	Time needed per sample in working days	Count of sample who need to be visited	Time needed in working days
>100 000 ha	5 (4.5)	X	5*0
10 000 – 100 000 ha	2.5 (2.0)	3	2.5*1
1.000 - 10.000 ha	1.5 (1.0)	5	1.5*3
101 - 1.000 ha	1 (0.7)	3	1*1
<100 ha	0.5 (0.5)	0	0.5*0

4. Annual audit route and events

Date: 08.03.2022		
Forest management unit / Location / objects	Activities / comments	Participants
	Opening meeting with responsible person, document review, sample verification, documentation review of forest management activities.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene
Date: 09.03.2022		
Forest management unit / Location / objects	Activities / comments	Participants
	Document review, documentation review of forest management activities.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene
Date: 10.03.2022		
Forest management unit / Location / objects	Activities / comments	Participants
79401:002:0043	Sub-compartment 3, 1,86 ha, finished thinning in 2021, 90Birch, left extensive spruce undergrowth. Typical birch/spruce stand with age 25. Thinning carried out respecting local legislation and good will of forest management. Visited with forest owner/manager and discussed the principles of how to conduct thinnings in such stands. Manager has 7 years of forest	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene K. Viliberg (Forest manager)

	management experience and education from Estonian University of Life Sciences. Checked cutting permit nr 50000315604 issued in 30.01.2020. Cut volume estimation 125 m ³ , no special cutting restriction set.	
	Sub-compartment nr 4, 0,63 ha, performed clearcut in 2020, cutting permit nr 50000315602, verified via metsaportaal.ee – no restrictions verified, extensive Willow bushes prior to cutting and 20% birch.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene K. Viliberg (Forest manager)
	Sub-compartment nr 2, checked cutting permit nr 50000315606, clearcut performed in 2020 on 0,34 ha, cut volume 50 m ³ . Sufficient amount of birch retention trees left on the stand. No restrictions on the cutting permit.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene K. Viliberg (Forest manager)
	Sub-compartment nr 1, issued cutting permit nr 50000315608. Not yet cut as area is flooded due to the beaver damage. According to the Forest Manager, local hunting club notified about the beaver damage. Discussed the situation with Forest Manager and possibly this area is left for natural development (0,32 ha) as it is birch stand and majority of the trees have died, thus offering biological diversity to the area.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene K. Viliberg (Forest manager)
77301:001:0103	Sub-compartment nr 7, 0,32 ha, performed clearcut in 2020, cut volume 100 m ³ . Sufficient amount of deadwood and retention trees left. Discussed with forest owner the management of all property Kännu. Cutting permit nr 50000204518 verified, no special restrictions, no violations detected.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest owner U. Saetalu.
	Sub-compartment nr 4, WKH (VEP128131 – existing protection contract).	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest owner U. Saetalu.
	Sub-compartment nr 3, clearcut according to cutting permit nr 50000126642 in 2020 on 0,29 ha, cut volume 43 ha. Discussed with forest owner general principles of the clearcut and how to follow legislation.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest owner U. Saetalu.
52801:007:0117	Interesting scientific area of Poplar and Hybrid aspen plantations. Visited with Forest manager several sub-compartments, where scientific research are being conducted. Sub-compartment nr 28 is divided into plots with various activities. All this sub-compartment is planted in 2000, currently around 21 m height with standing volume more than 300 m ³ /ha. Sub-compartment has several scientific plots with various clearcut and PCR and Thinning sites, where various aspects are measured by EMÜ scientists. Checked also the work contract	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene T. Vahter (Forest manager)

	for such activities in 27.01.2021 with Eskolar OÜ and planting contract in 18.04.20202 with Eskolar OÜ.	
	Sub-compartment nr 31, planted poplar on narrow strip. Visited the site to observe extensive growth rate and discuss the potential value and opportunities of such activities in Estonian context with Forest Manager.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene T. Vahter (Forest manager)
52801:007:0008	Sub-compartment nr 27, 3,77 ha, checked database for any inventories, last inventory carried out in 2017, EA has conducted inventory on forest regeneration on 30.03.2021, successfully regenerated.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene T. Vahter (Forest manager)
52801:001:0483	Sub-compartment nr 5, 4,1 ha, inventory conducted in 17.11.2019. No activities evident, no violations detected, no cutting permits issued.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene
33101:002:0107	Sub-compartment nr 14, clearcut in 2021, soil scarification and planting done also in 2021. Checked cutting permit nr 50000384266 from 17.08.2020, performed in 2021 on 0,4 ha, clearcut.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene
	Sub-compartment nr 15 and 16, clearcut cutting permit issued in 2016 (nr 3238008301), no special restrictions. Sufficient amount of deadwood and retention trees left.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene
	Sub-compartment nr 17, conducted PCT in 2016, 100% spruce. Visited and good growth and density observed.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene
	Sub-compartment nr 7, clearcut from bushes in 2021, planted birch in 2021.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene
	Sub-compartment nr 10, registered old stone fence. Inventoried in 2010. Thinning conducted adjacent sub-compartment nr 9, cultural heritage site respected and preserved.	
17101:001:1560	Visited Koke property where cutting activities have just finished (including material extraction and chipping). Discussed with two Forest managers the overall process of managing and handling this property.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest managers (2)
	Sub-compartments nr 1 and 4, clearcut conducted. Visited and sufficient amount of retention trees verified. Discussed with Forest Managers setting the borders for cutting and selecting the retention/seed trees on the sites. No violations detected. Checked cutting permit nr 50000580772 – special restrictions for cutting time from 15.03-31.07 (respected) in Common Buzzard (<i>Buteo Buteo</i>) living habitat (III category species).	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest managers (2)

	Sub-compartments 5 and 6 selective cutting performed and finished. Respected limitations set by cutting permit nr 50000580764.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest managers (2)
	Sub-compartments nr 8, sanitary cutting performed, cutting permit issued nr 50000580770.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest managers (2)
	Sub-compartments 2, 3, 7. Not performed due to the area time restrictions.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest managers (2)
Date: 11.03.2022		
Forest management unit / Location / objects	Activities / comments	Participants
87201:001:0526	Sub-compartment nr 9, performed sanitary cutting in 2.2 ha, cut volume 2 m3. Cutting permit nr 50000539414	Ü. Roop
	Sub-compartment nr 10, sanitary cutting permit nr 50000304061, restriction set on the permit to leave retention trees at least 5 m3/ha, respected. Sub-compartment area 1.1 ha.	Ü. Roop
	Sub-compartment nr 11, 0.2 ha, cutting permit nr 50000296493, cut volume 53 m3, restriction to leave retention trees at least 5 m3/ha, respected.	Ü. Roop
	Sub-compartment nr 12, 1.1 ha, 55% Birch, 30% Aspen, 21 years old. Identified Moose damage on the Aspen 30%. In 2017, thinning carried out, cut volume 3 m3.	Ü. Roop
87201:002:0012	Sub-compartment nr 7, exactly nearby main road. Thinning on the cutting permit registered nr 50000167951 on 0,72 ha, cut volume 3 m3. Permit issued in 28.08.2018.	Ü. Roop
	Sub-compartment 8, clearcut on 1.08 ha, cut volume 322 m3. Cutting permit nr 50000167953.	Ü. Roop
	Sub-compartment nr 2, 0,37 ha, clearcut permit nr 50000167941 from 28.08.2018 for 69 m3. No restrictions applied.	Ü. Roop
	Sub-compartment nr 4, clearcut permit nr 50000167945 on 1,67 ha, 384 m3 cut volume. Restriction to leave at least 5 m3/ha retention trees, respected.	Ü. Roop
87201:002:0150	Sub-compartment 1, deforestation, narrow strip next to the ditch, cleaned 0,25 ha, cut 38 m3 according to the cutting permit nr 50000415647. Ditch cleaning confirmed in the cutting permit (Praksi Property melioration renovation project).	Ü. Roop

	Sub-compartment nr 1, cutting permit nr 50000380268 issued in 30.07.2020, cut volume 110 m3 on 0,73 ha. Restrictions apply considering the water buffer zone area (Leinasuu oja) VEE1044600. Restrictions include cutting only damaged trees, no storage of wood in the ditch, no trespassing the area with vehicles, cutting done with frozen ground.	Ü. Roop
	Sub-compartment nr 6, issued sanitary cutting permit nr 50000373816, restrictions apply – for damaged trees max 6 m3 cut volume set. Total volume of spruce estimated in 26.05.2020 26 m3.	Ü. Roop
72401:001:0892	Sub-compartment nr 5, 3,66 ha, clearcut performed recently cutting permit nr 50000372896, no restrictions apply. Excavator soil preparation carried out and spruce planted. Successful regeneration with minor damage by deer. Cut volume 695 m3. Discussed with forest manager general principles of cutting organisation, thinning properties, forest damage inventory registration and management.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest manager of Vigrelle OÜ
	Sub-compartment nr 11 and 14, clearcut performed (cutting permits nr 50000205028 and 50000205030). No special restrictions. Left buffer zone between adjacent agriculture land and forest massive for wind damage reduction.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest manager of Vigrelle OÜ
	Sub-compartment nr 9, 71% aspen, 12 grey alder, 8 % birch. 35 years old. No activities recently carried out, last inventory in 11.05.2018. 1,44 ha.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest manager of Vigrelle OÜ
	Sub-compartment nr 12, 0,31 ha, 56% Spruce, identified spruce bark beetle damage at the edge of the stand. Discussed with forest manager general principles of such occasions where small amount of bark beetle damage is identified and possible actions to be taken.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest manager of Vigrelle OÜ
82002:002:0361	Sub-compartment nr 11, clearcut carried out few years ago, beautiful spruce regeneration evident on that site. Adjacent old farmhouse, which is not managed.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest manager of Vigrelle OÜ
	Sub-compartment nr 12, evident small network of ditches for the improvement of the melioration system, this sub-compartment had thinning on one part and clearcut and planted spruce on the other part.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest manager of Vigrelle OÜ
	Sub-compartment 19, carried out thinning in 2018, cutting permit nr 5000081175, 3,9 ha, 120 m3 cut. Spruce and birch stand, no violations detected, left as well earlier retention trees.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene Forest manager of Vigrelle OÜ
Date: 14.03.2022		

Forest management unit / Location / objects	Activities / comments	Participants
	Documentation review of forest management activities and group management handling system, monitoring documentation, stakeholder communication.	Ü. Roop M. Tuvikene

5. Summary of public consultation.

Is there any complaints received by the CB about the client?

Yes (see table below)

No

Stakeholders view, objections raised	Audit team response, audit findings
Economic issues	
Interviewed several forest owners and forest managers during the audit course field visits	Positive response for overall communication of the group certificate management system.
Social issues	
Interviewed several forest owners and managers regarding the social aspects of the forest management activities.	In overall, the SH considered the social cooperation positive regarding the relations with neighbours. Agreements are usually set for land use.
Environmental issues	
Interviewed several forest owners and managers	Environmental issues are mostly respected, whenever there are environmental values discovered, evidence suggest that

regarding the environmental aspects of the forest management activities.	there is notification system in place to protect the environmental values.

6. Certification applicant eligibility of certification requirements description

This chapter shows all inconsistencies and observations made during the audit of this year and time frame for the implementation of corrective actions

6.1 Existing requests for corrective actions and observations

This chapter shows all inconsistencies and observations made during the audit of this year and time frame for the implementation of corrective actions

NA – No Open CARs.

New requests for corrective actions and observations

NA – No CARs issued during the audit.

6.2 Summary table of audit results

Indicator	Observations, stated violations, inconsistencies
1-19	No violations observed

6.3 Compliance with the certification requirements

Recommendation	
To recognize that the forest management company carries out forest management operations according to the PEFC Forest management certification standard	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
The conclusion is based upon information acquired during the certification process, certifying that:	
The forest management organisation has ensured the correction of all the significant inconsistencies established above	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
The forest management organization has demonstrated that the forest management system and normative basis ensures compliance with the requirements of the certification standard within certified forest areas	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
The forest management organization has demonstrated that the forest management system and normative basis is applied in practice in the forest management process of certified forest areas	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Commentary	
-	

LEAD AUDITOR'S CONCLUSIONS:

Clear recommendation on whether the organization complies with the standard requirements:

During the audit course and visited and reviewed sample, it is evident that the PEFC FM group certificate management system is properly implemented suggesting that the EEML activities comply with applicable PEFC FM standard requirements.	
Lead auditor:	Ūlo Roop
Audit pack reviewer:	Jānis Švirksts
Date	04.04.2022