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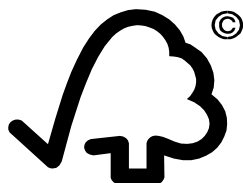
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Rainforest Alliance

SmartWood Program

Public Summary Report for Forest Management **2011 Annual audit** Report for:

Gérard Crête et fils Inc.
in
Proulxville, Mauricie, Québec

Report Finalized: August 23, 2011
Audit Dates: 15-16-17 June 2011
Audit Team: Jamal Kazi
Patrick Crocker, F. Eng.
Nicolas Lecomte

Certificate code(s): SW-FM/COC-004572
Certificate issued: 5 February 2010
Certificate expiration: 4 February 2015

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**The only official version of this report is the French version.
The report below is a translation of the French.**

**NOTE: More detailed public summary available in French
at <http://info.fsc.org/>**

1. AUDIT PROCESS

1.1. Auditors and qualifications:

Auditor's name	Qualification	Position
Jamal Kazi	M. Sc.	Socio-economic issues specialist, team leader
Patrick Crocker	F. Eng.	Forester
Nicolas Lecomte	Ph. D.	Ecologist

1.2. Overview of sites visited:

	Type of site	#
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head office	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Forest districts	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Forest sites	27
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other sites:	identify type as well as #

2. AUDIT FINDINGS AND RESULTS

2.1. Changes in the forest management of the FMO and/or standard and stakeholder issues

√	Issue	Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Changes in the forest management of the FMO have occurred since the last audit	<p>The changes on the part of the applicants consist primarily of changes in the authorized management agent personnel. Many staff departures have led to the transfer of internal responsibilities which required the appropriation of various issues by the new persons in charge.</p> <p>In accordance with a transition towards a new forest regime which comes into force in 2013, the MRNF was involved in the presentation of evidence of Conformance with certain CARs issued during the audit. This transition plan involves an increasing involvement from the MRNF in demonstrating Conformance with the FSC standard.</p> <p>The co-applicants to this certificate have changed. Here is the updated list of co-applicants:</p> <p>ABIBOW CANADA INC. ADÉLARD GOYETTE ET FILS LTÉE BARRETTE-CHAPAIS LTÉE. BOISERIES SAVCO INC. DOMTAR INC. EMBALLAGES ROCKTENN CANADA S.E.C. INDUSTRIES JOHN LEWIS LTÉE INDUSTRIES PARENT INC. KRUGER WAYAGAMACK INC. PAPIERS DE PUBLICATION KRUGER INC. POTEAUX SÉLECT INC. PRODUITS FORESTIERS ARBEC S.E.N.C. PRODUITS FORESTIERS MAURICIE S.E.C. RBF SCIERIE ST-TITE INC. SERVICES FORESTIERS ATIKAMEKW ASKI S.E.N.C.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes in the forest management standard used for audit have occurred since the last audit	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholder comments on the forest management of the FMO were received	<p>Comment summary and SW response:</p> <p>A group of citizens from Clova has raised concerns in relation to the integrated resources and territory</p>

	<p>management tables (clarity of information, difficult to understand language), to cuts in the candidate protected area and to certain specific wishes with respect to the periphery of the municipality. Other issues have been mentioned but pre-date the issue of the certificate.</p> <p>SmartWood has contacted the representative of the Clova citizens' group regarding the integrated resources and territory management tables. The panel members have received training by the CERFO to acquire knowledge and a common language to participants.</p> <p>The candidate protected area issues are addressed by CAR 32/10, and HCVFs and consultation opportunities by CARs 48/10 and 51/10.</p> <p>The 2011 audit examines elements post-dating the assessment audit. No new non-Conformance has been identified.</p> <p>Comment summary and SW response:</p> <p>Third parties of various categories have expressed many concerns, which boil down to the difficulty to agree on harmonization agreements when the distribution of forest operations and management strategies in the long term are unknown.</p> <p>SW notes that the concerns of stakeholders on this issue are justified. These concerns are partly responsible for a Corrective Action Request (CAR 20/10) for which the MRNF has committed to provide the necessary tools and to participate to its resolution (output the possibility calculations being prepared by the BFEC for the 2013+ period). CAR 20/10 ("The FME shall have a visual representation of the forest condition of FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51 and of operations in the long term and in space") expires at the second annual audit and the question of the assessment of socio-economic impacts, sites of economic importance and development of alternative strategies is also postponed to the second audit.</p> <p>Comment summary and SW response:</p> <p>Third parties of various categories have criticized the manager saying that the basic objectives of the agreements were not always respected and were lost in details of their implementation (e.g. road at a good distance of a cottage but the subsequent jetty breaking the visual screen; construction of a circumvention road subsequently shunned by truckers).</p>
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		<p>SmartWood noted that although these criticisms do not constitute a non-Conformance, they are justified. Observation 1/11 is issued.</p> <p>Comment summary and SW response:</p> <p>Some stakeholders expressed concerns over silvicultural practices associated with plantations of hybrid poplars. Other stakeholders expressed concern over the lack of documentation regarding conservation/biodiversity objectives and goals associated with plantations of hybrid poplars and monitoring of impacts of plantations of hybrid poplars on fauna and flora.</p> <p>The applicants and the <i>Direction de la recherche forestière</i> perform several types of monitoring of growth, mortality (monitoring exercises 1 and 2 of the Forest Management manual) and effectiveness of silvicultural interventions (Rébec monitoring, thinning monitoring, reforestation monitoring). However, the applicants do not monitor the potential for invasion of species planted and other. The applicant has presented a monitoring protocol aiming to evaluate the invasion potential of exotic species from plantations. This protocol foresees to add an inventory method to the monitoring (Manual forest management monitoring) of plantations of Hybrid Poplar and Hybrid Larch.</p> <p>This protocol of monitoring of plantations of Hybrid poplar (10 years after the first plantation) and Hybrid Larch (30 years after the first plantation) will be done at the same time as the monitoring required by the forest management manual and will allow validation of adjacent areas not systematically submitted to an inventory (cut separator, riparian zones and residual forest, etc.). The exotic species will be added to the species list during monitoring inventories of manual (1 and 2) in all groups of priority plantations in order to detect their eventual presence on the harvesting site.</p> <p>The protocol presents the modalities of the survey plan and sampling method. In addition, the management plan does not introduce the goals, objectives and explicit time constraints regarding the space for conservation or the rehabilitation of natural forests linked to the management and harvesting of plantations. Several non-Conformance reports (NCR) were issued for various indicators of Principle 10.</p> <p>Comment summary and SW response:</p>
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		<p>One party said it was not consulted on hybrid poplar plantations.</p> <p>SmartWood has read a notice sent to stakeholders, which specified the location and types of work and invited stakeholders to harmonize the harvest schedule. The more general questions on hybrid poplars and harmonization are addressed in other CARs (see 06/10) and by new NCRs at Principle 10.</p> <p>Comment summary and SW response:</p> <p>Some stakeholders would like to participate in the development of interventions in HCVFs and continuous identification of new HCVFs but have not yet had the opportunity.</p> <p>For now the applicants have provided an opportunity for some stakeholders to participate in the development of interventions in HCVFs. However, at the next annual audit, CAR 48/10 at indicator 9.2.1, which has a 2-year deadline, will allow to ensure that stakeholders who wish it have the opportunity to participate in the final development of measures of interventions in identified HCVFs.</p>
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2.2. Conformance with applicable corrective actions

The section below describes the activities of the certificate holder to address each applicable corrective action issued during previous evaluations.

CAR 04/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 3.1.2
Non-Conformance		SmartWood notes that the channels of communication and participation interests between the FME and Wendake are recent. SmartWood was able to ascertain that the FME is initiating the necessary steps to implement a process of harmonization with this community. Thus the first step is initiated. However, Wendake is currently at a disadvantage in its relations with the FME in comparison with other Indigenous communities. More specifically, although there have been meetings, no agreement or projects for economic benefits (that would indicate attention is being paid to this community) are being developed. A non-Conformance is present in regards to this community on several indicators. CAR 04/10 is issued.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall make efforts to ensure the participation of all affected Indigenous communities, both in the harmonization process and in the consultative process (agreements, cooperation, economic opportunities, and development of capabilities).		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit

Audit findings:	<p>SmartWood is aware of the efforts of the applicant with affected Aboriginal communities, both for harmonization and community-wide agreements.</p> <p>SmartWood notes that harmonization is going well and the applicants take the necessary measures to reduce the cumulative impacts of operations across family territories.</p> <p>Mutual understanding agreements have been signed or are being developed for signature. Among other things, these agreements address the issues of economic benefits, capacity-building and protection of values and sites of particular interest for First Nations.</p>
Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 06/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 4.4.6
Non-Conformance		<p>The perception remains that the FME often falls back on legal requirements or MRNF decisions, while the standard requires a more proactive approach so that all users, including FMA beneficiaries, find satisfaction. In spite of considerable efforts already made in this sense, work remains to be done on how to reach agreement on issues beyond those addressed by harmonization.</p> <p>Mechanisms are in place to carry out a socio-economic impact study (during harmonization), but it is still necessary to derive a global vision from these processes in order to adapt targets and strategies.</p>
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request:		
<p>The FME shall: (1) allow consultation on the development and drafting of forest management plans as well as the development and evaluation of alternative strategies as necessary; (2) improve the planning, implementation and monitoring of forest management activities to better protect sites of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance; and (3) identify and take into account socio-economic impacts of its management options to strengthen and diversify the contribution of forests to the local economy.</p>		
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit	
Audit findings:	<p>The applicant has made substantial efforts to meet or agree to agreements while the FME has experienced significant changes among the staff responsible for agreements, which could have compromised these procedures. Efforts to reach agreements with various third parties are also evident.</p> <p>Planning and consideration of other resources for 2013 and beyond is derived from the integrated resources and territory management tables where interested parties have the opportunity to present their issues and concerns. However, to agree immediately on agreements with the forest managers concerning the work to be completed by 2013, managers of various types of wildlife areas have no access to long term management scenarios nor the</p>	

portrait of the stand development in their territory, and therefore, cannot make informed decisions about these strategies and scenarios. The applicants themselves and several stakeholders noted that harmonization covers only specific and limited actions which must be part of the management permit, without necessarily providing the overall territorial vision, which is of interest to this third party.

It is not enough that the applicants rely on the harmonization process for achieving the three CAR requirements, that "allow [...] the development and evaluation of alternative strategies as necessary," "improve the planning, implementation and monitoring of forest management activities to better protect sites of [...] ecological [or] economic significance" and "identify and take into account socio-economic impacts of its management options".

Auditors, however, recognize that considerable work was carried out by the applicants:

- Habitat quality indices for marten and moose before and after implementation of the management plan allows to see the evolution of these indicators on cells of 25 km² and the size of the FMUs. These results were presented to the FSC Board in mid-May. The maps show boundaries of wildlife (ZEC, outfitters and reserves) but not trapping territories.
- The map used to inform trappers of future work in trapping territories shows the work in its entirety and identifies harvesting since 2008, plantations for nearly 30 years and pre-commercial thinning for almost 20 years; trappers are therefore informed of future work and invited to share their concerns;
- During harmonization the applicant presents more and more of the recent portrait of adjacent cuts to cuts that need to be harmonized. This approach is not, however, systematic.

However, despite the significant efforts at communication with third parties, this work has not yet reached the point where other users know or understand the objectives, strategies and long-term impacts as they materialize at the territory level.

Spatialization required by CAR 20/10 ("The FME shall have a visual representation of the forest condition of FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51 and of operations in the long term and in space") will contribute greatly to better inform third parties as part of the harmonization of the work. The CAR is subject to a one year extension and is due to expire in the next (second) annual audit.

Actions carried out by the applicants are sufficient for now to close this CAR. However, a note is issued to ensure that auditors will review the issue in 2012. If there is then non-Conformance on the issue of assessing socio-economic impacts, and the development of alternative strategies, it would be an automatic major non-Conformance with a three-month deadline, since it would be a recurring non-Conformance under the certificate.

This CAR is closed.

Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	Note 1/11

CAR 07/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 5.3.1
Non-Conformance		The FME's various harvesting methods, the machinery used, delivery delays and silvicultural prescriptions do not seem to optimise the use and value of harvested wood.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall implement a system for optimising fibre use and quality as to extract maximum value from harvested wood and minimise loss of fibre, while taking into account the requirements of customers.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		<p>The corrective actions put in place by the applicants to comply with this CAR are excellent and fulfill its requirements very well:</p> <p>Using the whole tree harvest method, the applicant avoids losing logs by systematic sawing.</p> <p>Improved instructions for shaping logs prohibiting the use of rollers from multifunctional harvesters reduces damage to potential sawing logs.</p> <p>Interviews with hardwood lumber beneficiaries confirm better efficiency on delivery times and quality of the delivered stems.</p> <p>Potential sawing stems are left standing early in the season to avoid losing quality until transport is initiated on sites.</p> <p>The recovery of bottoms of piles in the spring allows retrieving logs for lumber before they lose quality.</p> <p>The applicants have implemented everything to retrieve quality fiber before it loses value.</p>
Status:		CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 08/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 5.3.2
Non-Conformance		Requirements and work instructions do not target retention of residual stems in total harvests and do not appear to promote their protection.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request:		

<p>The FME shall improve its prescriptions and work instructions related to retention and the protection of residual stems in order to:</p> <p>A: Define the retention of snags and merchantable stems targeted by harvest prescriptions in final harvests. (5.3.1, 6.3.7)</p> <p>B: Ensure an adequate level of protection residual stems. (5.3.2)</p>	
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:	<p>Operational control procedure MOP-0786 specifies retention elements by providing the option to retain individual trees or groups of trees.</p> <p>Field visits allowed observing the implementation of the retention instructions at the harvest area level.</p> <p>Field visits allowed observing a good protection of the residual marketable stems in total cuts and partial cuts.</p>
Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 09/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 5.5.1
Non-Conformance		The FME does not evaluate the impacts of its practices on FMU 041-51's watersheds.
Major	Minor ✓	
Corrective Action Request:		
The FME shall implement a procedure for assessing the impacts of its practices across FMU 041-51's watersheds.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		<p>To meet the requirements of this CAR, the applicants have delineated watersheds within FMUs 041-51 and 043-51. The applicants then selected fragile watersheds using criteria related to the presence or absence of certain environmental characteristics.</p> <p>The applicants then assessed the level of disturbance (equivalent harvest area) for all watersheds in both FMUs in question. However, for watersheds that overlap two FMUs, the applicants do not take into account the activities of the neighbouring land with respect to the calculation of equivalent harvest area. The applicants have produced a document showing that the risk level associated with watersheds that overlap two FMUs was low. To produce this document, the applicants have not redefined the limits of the watersheds to represent real topographic borders.</p> <p>There are seven watersheds which overlap another FMU, and where applicants will carry out operations by 2013. Applicants are relying on the fact that by harvesting no more than 50% of</p>

	<p>the equivalent harvest area on their portion of the watershed, managers of neighboring FMUs will do the same. However, after verification, the auditors found that the practices of Quebec managers vary widely with respect to the calculation of the equivalent harvest area. None of the managers consulted, FSC-certified or not, always limit the level of disruption to 50% on their part of a watershed that overlaps another FMU. In contrast, managers confirmed that they could, if they wanted to and if conditions would allow, operate an equivalent harvest area greater than 50% of their portion of the watershed if it was of little or no disruption on the neighboring FMU.</p> <p>The auditors note, however, that the risk of exceeding 50% of the equivalent harvest area is low in the watersheds that overlap with other FMUs, and the CAR can be closed. A note for future audits, however, is issued so that auditors verify that the applicants are able to consider the impacts of their practices on all watersheds overlapping two FMUs.</p>
Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	Note 3/11: During a future audit, auditors shall verify that applicants are able to consider the impacts of their practices on all watersheds overlapping two FMUs.

CAR 10/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 5.6.1	
Non-Conformance	Harvest simulation is done on a 150-year time horizon, but does not take into account the spatial distribution of the strata to be harvested. The evolution of habitats in time is ignored in allowable cut calculations	
Major	Minor	√
Corrective Action Request:		
The FME shall demonstrate that the precautionary approach guides allowable cut calculations and that its operational implementation takes into account aspects relating to the maintenance of habitats in time.		
Timeline for Conformance:	<p>Before the second annual audit</p> <p>The FME is granted a two-year timeline to fulfill the requirements of this CAR due to exceptional circumstances beyond its control: the work to be carried out to satisfy this CAR requires the involvement of other stakeholders in the evaluation process such as the Office of the Chief Forester (update of allowable cut calculations). This involvement should be in accordance with the respective schedule of those parties, which cannot be held to a specific deadline.</p>	
Audit findings:	Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.	
Status:	OPEN	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 11/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 5.6.4
Non-Conformance		Harvest rates, if averaged over the last five years, exceed the average quantities provided for a group of species (white pine - red pine).
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall ensure that calculations of harvest rates, if averaged over the last five years, do not exceed forecasted average quantities.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		<p>Balance sheet 2006-2010 has been provided by the applicants as proof of Conformance and auditors found that the forest potential is respected for all species except Western Red Cedar in 043-51. However, excess volumes of these species come from gleaning; these stems were probably not harvested as there were no takers for certain diameter classes. SW was unable to verify if gleaned material consists of stems left standing or residue (crowns, branches, stumps, sections).</p> <p>The MRNF grants additional pine volumes to beneficiaries when this volume is present in cutting areas. This decision is based on the fact that annual cut calculations for pine are imprecise and that cyclical volumes are released during simulation. In the case of an imprecise calculation, granting a supplementary volume does not respect the precautionary principle.</p> <p>However, the applicants were able to demonstrate that the volumes of harvested wood did not exceed the average amounts planned over 3 years. This is acceptable and sufficient to close the CAR given that the potential of several species has been revised downward 3 years ago and that therefore the 5 year average loses its meaning.</p>
Status:		CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 12/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.1.2
Non-Conformance		Many core forests identified by the FME are found at the border of the FMUs in question. However the FME does not evaluate the impact of management activities in neighbouring lands on the maintenance of core forests.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall include in its environmental assessment the effects of management activities in		

neighbouring lands on the maintenance of core forests.	
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:	<p>The applicants have obtained some data on the neighbouring lands, but have partly incorporated the effects of management activities within the neighbouring lands to their environmental impact study. Although, indicator 6.1.2 requires that environmental impact studies try to take into account the effects of management activities on neighbouring lands</p> <p>As for core forests, the applicant does not interfere in the HCVF core forests for now. Some core forests identified by applicants exceed the boundaries of the FMUs in this certificate, and overlap two FMUs. The applicants did not provide evidence that they take into account operations within parts of core forests which are found in neighbouring FMUs.</p> <p>The applicants have not demonstrated that the planning on neighbouring FUMs would not have an impact on core forests overlapping those FMUs. The applicants therefore do not incorporate in the environmental impact study the effects of management activities within the neighbouring lands on the maintenance of core forests. Information about these activities is readily available and can be used to measure the impact of the neighbouring FMU beneficiaries on the core forests identified by the applicants. The level of watershed disturbance on neighbouring FMUs, for example, is an element that can be used to assess the environmental impacts on the core forests overlapping two neighboring FMUs.</p> <p>The applicants have tried unsuccessfully to obtain the necessary data to take into account the effects of neighbouring lands by requesting such information to be shared by the MRNF. This request to the MRNF went unanswered.</p> <p>Since the standard and the CAR require trying considering the effects of management activities within the neighbouring lands, and that this activity is only partially carried out by the applicants, they do not meet the requirements of this CAR.</p> <p>The CAR remains open and becomes a Major CAR with a three-month deadline.</p>
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	
New SW findings following presentation of new Conformance evidence by the applicants.	
Findings:	The applicant has obtained information on planned activities on neighbouring FMUs. The applicant has considered the impact its activities may have on core forests on their FMUs. Few interventions are planned on neighbouring FMUs and the impact on core forests is insignificant.

	<p>A core forest surpasses of about 20-25% in FMU 43-52. The applicant has looked in FMU 43-52` annual plans and noticed that some operations were planned in this 20-25% part of the core forest.</p> <p>When finalizing the report, the applicant had determined whether or not this core area was to be conserved in consequence of its activities on the neighbouring FMU. This issue is treated by CAR 26/10 and 51/10 which remain open and shall be dealt within 3 months.</p> <p>By demonstrating that he's trying to consider the impacts of forest management activities on neighbouring FMUs by maintaining core forests, the applicant satisfies the requirements of this CAR and can be closed.</p>
Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	Note 3/10 issued above is relevant to core area issue.

CAR 14/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.1.7	
Non-Conformance	The FME has established an environmental issues monitoring program. However several benchmarks for the current state of the forest on landscape scale (e.g. maintenance of old growth forests) and on a population scale (e.g. soil protection) are not yet defined. Furthermore several aspects that should be monitored to meet the requirements of the standard are not part of this monitoring program: at the landscape scale there is a lack of road-free areas and core forests; and at the population scale, coarse woody debris and stands structure are missing. The FME has therefore not established all necessary benchmarks for the state of the forest on a population and landscape scale to serve as references for comparison during environmental assessments.	
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall establish all the benchmarks for the state of the forest on a population and landscape scale that shall serve as references for comparison during environmental assessments.		
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit	
Audit findings:	<p><u>Population scale:</u></p> <p>The means of verification suggested by the FSC standard for benchmarks on a population scale include these 5 benchmarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • closure of the forest cover • vertical structure • amount of wood debris • density of snags and green trees • size of patches and the species in residual stands 	

	<p>The applicants have identified 3 benchmarks: 1- amount of wood debris; 2- density of snags; 3- characteristics (quantity and composition) of residual forest patches.</p> <p>The applicants meet the requirements for this part of the CAR.</p> <p><u>Landscape scale:</u> The means of verification for indicator 6.1.7 suggest that the benchmarks identified by managers at the landscape level should include among others these 9 benchmarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diversity of forest units or communities • age-class distribution • quantity of old forests (i.e. size) and their spatial distribution • habitat of species representative of the type of natural habitats that can be found in the management unit • disturbance of watersheds • road density (and other linear disturbances) • areas without roads • key forest areas • distribution of size of groups of trees <p>However the applicants have identified only 4 benchmarks at the landscape scale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Quantity of old forests; 2- Connectivity and forests of 7 m and more);; 3- Habitat quality indexes (HQI) for marten and moose; 4- Disturbance of watersheds that do not overlap surrounding FMUs. <p>Although SW does not audit at the level of the means of verification but the level of the indicator, it remains that the difference between the benchmarks suggested by the standard and those adopted by the applicants is considerable. The applicants still meet the acceptable minimum to comply with CAR 14/10. The identification of benchmarks is one thing. Monitoring them and their use in time is another. Among other things indicator 6.1.9 dictates how these benchmarks should be used. The applicant will have a difficulty to meet the requirements of the indicators (including 6.1.9) requiring the benchmarks required by 6.1.7. and 6.1.8 with so few markers at the landscape level. For this reason, a note is issued so that auditors check the usefulness of the benchmarks identified and the need to identify more in future audits.CAR</p>
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	14/10 can be closed.
Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	Note 4/11: In future audits, auditors will verify the usefulness of the identified current forest benchmarks and the need to identify more.

CAR 15/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.1.9
Non-Conformance		The FME has not yet established the link between assessments on a landscape level and benchmarks that should be established in relation to the pre-industrial forest portrait.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall carry out assessments on a landscape level in relation to the benchmarks established according to the pre-industrial forest portrait.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		<p>The applicants evaluate the impact of management on the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - focal species' habitat; - old forests; - equivalent harvest area; - connectivity (7 m and more); - forest structure; - age-class distribution; - distribution of the size of residual groups of trees after harvest; - forest composition. <p>-focal species' habitat; -; -Equivalent harvest area; - Connectivity (7 m and more); -structure of the forest; -the age-class distribution; -distribution of the size of the residual islets after harvest; - forest composition of the.</p> <p>The evaluation of the impact of the implementation of development plans on these various elements allow to close this CAR. Only the evaluation of the impact of management on road density is missing. A new Observation is therefore issued.</p> <p>However, auditors found that the applicants have not shown how the determination of the condition of the forest before and after the plan in effect allows to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan regarding targets defined for selected variables, nor how it allows the applicant to identify possible gaps in its plan and therefore allow to adjust accordingly (i.e. by changing the plan in force). For this reason a note for future audits is</p>

	issued.
Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	<p>Observation 2/11: The applicants should assess the impact of management on the density of roads.</p> <p>Note 5/11: During a future audit, auditors will need to check how the determination of the forest condition before and after the plan in effect allows to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan to achieve the targets defined for selected variables, and how it allows the applicant to identify possible gaps in its plan and therefore allow it to adjust accordingly (i.e. by changing the plan in effect).</p>

CAR 16/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.1.10			
Non-Conformance	Returns on MRNF prescriptions, their delimitation and the forest inventory method of sampling by grouped strata lead us to believe that field evaluations at the stand level are not always carried out before harvest activities.			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Major</td> <td>Minor</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>√</td> </tr> </table>			Major	Minor
Major	Minor			
	√			
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall improve its planning system in order to ensure the validity of the harvest prescriptions at the stand level as well as road layout before the start of operations.				
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit			
Audit findings:	There are work instructions for planning of harvest work. Interviews and field visits confirmed that the planning process is well secured to operations and allows effective feedback.			
Status:	CLOSED			
Follow-up Action (if applicable):				

CAR 17/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.1.11			
Non-Conformance	To meet the requirement of the FSC standard in regards to the integration of environmental assessments results in planning and implementation of forest management, the FME has recently produced a document: ' <i>Tableaux_enjeux_UAF4151_4351_v20090710.pdf</i> ' that includes a series of issues and indicators. However the evaluation method is not described for all indicators. Since this document has just been produced, the assessment of all presented issues is not yet implemented and therefore the results of these assessments are not yet integrated in planning for FMUs 043-51 and 041-51.			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Major</td> <td>Minor</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>√</td> </tr> </table>			Major	Minor
Major	Minor			
	√			
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall demonstrate that results from environmental impact monitoring are included in planning for FMU 043-51 and FMU 041-51.				
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit			

Audit findings:	<p>The applicants have an internal directive in place which indicates that the persons in charge of forest planning must integrate the results of environmental monitoring. That said:</p> <p>1) some variables at the stand and landscape levels, such as composition of the forest and structure and density of roads, are not part of the applicants' EMS;</p> <p>2) for some variables included in the EMS, monitoring of the impact of the management plans in force on these values is not yet carried out, including for example monitoring of residual structures (6.3.10).</p> <p>Results for the majority of the variables identified in criterion 6.1 are not integrated in planning (see findings for CARs 14/10 and 15/10 for details).</p> <p>The applicants do not satisfy the requirements of this CAR. This CAR remains open and becomes a Major CAR with a 3-month deadline.</p>
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 18/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.2.1	
Non-Conformance	<p>The FME has not developed a list of endangered species present (or potentially present) within the territory but has not consulted all the relevant databases at its disposal.</p> <p>The FME has not determined whether management at the landscape level suits the habitat needs of endangered species.</p>	
Major	Minor	
	√	
Corrective Action Request:		
<p>The FME shall complete the list of endangered species present (or potentially present) within the territory by consulting all the relevant databases at its disposal. The FME shall also determine whether management at the landscape level suits the habitat needs of endangered species.</p>		
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit	
Audit findings:	<p>The list of endangered species has been updated this year with the addition of some bird species. To meet CAR 18/10 and 19/10, the applicants produced a document outlining the endangered species habitats, indicated whether the forest management could have an impact on their habitats, whether governmental procedures existed, and were being practiced in the FMUs in question. When there is no procedure, the applicants have described how their approach to management at the landscape level ensures the maintenance of endangered species habitats.</p> <p>The applicants meet the requirements of this CAR.</p>	
Status:	CLOSED	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

applicable):	
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CAR 19/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.2.5
Non-Conformance		The FME has not yet demonstrated how its management of the habitat of endangered species for which there exists no protection plan (e.g. Eastern Cougar, wolverine, meadow vole) respects the precautionary approach.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall demonstrate how its management of the habitat of endangered species for which there exists no protection plan (e.g. wolverine, meadow vole) respects the precautionary approach.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		The list of endangered species has been updated this year with the addition of some bird species. To meet CAR 18/10 and 19/10, the applicants produced a document outlining the endangered species habitats, indicated whether the forest management could have an impact on their habitats, whether governmental procedures existed, and were being practiced in the FMUs in question. When there is no procedure, the applicants have described how their approach to management at the landscape level ensures the maintenance of endangered species habitats. The applicants meet the requirements of this CAR.
Status:		CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 20/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.1
Non-Conformance		There are no maps of illustrating key forest attributes for which spatial distribution is important over the long-term horizon.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall have a visual representation of the forest condition of FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51 and of operations in the long term and in space.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the second annual audit. A one-year extension is granted to the applicant for meeting the requirements of this CAR due to exceptional circumstances outside the FME's control: work to meet this CAR requires the involvement of other stakeholders such as the MRNF (application for derogations, etc.) in the assessment process. This involvement must be accomplished taking into account the respective schedules of the parties,

	whom cannot be held to precise deadlines.
Audit findings:	Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 21/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.2
Non-Conformance		It has not been shown that silvicultural prescriptions reduce impact on Indigenous peoples' values to a minimum. Some prescriptions go against forest succession stages.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall demonstrate that its silvicultural prescriptions are related to planning to better consider the impacts on habitat, First Nations and other resources and that these are based on natural forests dynamics.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		<p>The applicant is in constant contact with First Nations to develop a guide to identify values in the field.</p> <p>The applicant has updated the work instructions about the planning and forestry operations process (validation and feedback).</p> <p>At the next harvest plan, the FME plans to warn First Nations for the harvest of birch bark if the sector contains stems suitable for use.</p> <p>Work instruction for planning allows for feedback along the way as mentioned in the findings of CAR 16/10.</p>
Status:		CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 22/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.4
Non-Conformance		The FME has not implemented concrete measures to maintain and increase the abundance of White Pine, Red Pine and oak. No particular measures have been implemented for some species reaching the edge of their range in FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51 (white pine, red oak, etc.).
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: For FMU 041-51, the FME shall ensure that the measures applied are enough to maintain (over the short term) and increase (over the long term) the abundance of species which are clearly underrepresented in comparison to the pre-industrial forest composition. Furthermore, the FME shall complete the list of species susceptible to be found at the edge of their range and adopt special measures to ensure their maintenance in the forest landscape.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit

<p>Audit findings:</p>	<p>To meet the requirements of this CAR, the applicants have identified some stands containing species at the edge of their natural range, the yellow birch in FMU 043-51 and sugar maple and white pine in FMU 041-51. However, there are several other species that are at the edge of their range in the two FMUs, but especially in FMU 041-51 (some ash, beech, some oaks, etc.).</p> <p>In addition to stands containing species at the edge of their range, the FMUs in question also contain several types of stands (old forest, uneven-aged forests, coniferous forest, white pine forest, etc.) which are currently under-represented compared to the pre-industrial forest. The applicants have put in place some measures regarding the increase in the proportion of softwood by performing adapted silvicultural practices in resinous dominated mixed stands. As for stands of irregular structure, the applicants also perform adapted silvicultural practices to maintain the structure of harvested irregular or uneven-aged stands. However, the applicants have not established targets and approaches regarding all types of stands that are under-represented relatively to their abundance in the pre-industrial forest.</p> <p>Since:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the analysis of stands containing species at the edge of their range is incomplete; 2) the applicants have not established targets and approaches regarding the continued abundance of all types of stands that are under-represented compared to their abundance in the pre-industrial forest; 3) the applicants have not demonstrated how the measures applied suffice to maintain in the short term and increase in the long term the abundance of species clearly underrepresented in comparison to the composition of the pre industrial forest. The applicants do not meet the requirements of this CAR. <p>This CAR remains open but is subject to an extension until the second annual audit, since the demonstration of increase of underrepresented species in comparison to the pre industrial portrait involves an analysis which the MRNF needs to carry out. In fact, the MRNF needs to provide the outputs of calculations of possibility being prepared by the BFEC for the 2013+ period. The applicants plan on using these outputs to demonstrate that the number of forest and community units that are clearly underrepresented in comparison to the pre industrial forest is increased in the long term. The conformity demonstration with indicator 6.3.4 is still the applicants' responsibility. This CAR, as well as other CARs subject to an extension, shall not be subject to an additional extension if ever the MRNF does not deliver the necessary analysis in</p>
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	time for the applicants to present conformity evidence to SW during the second annual audit.
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	Extension until second annual audit.

CAR 23/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.5
Non-Conformance		<p>There is no portrait or retention target in connection with the pre-industrial forest portrait and the history of natural disturbances.</p> <p>Furthermore, the FME'S management strategies to maintain the full age-range of old forests are exclusively based on objectives for forest protection and development (<i>Objectifs de protection et de mise en valeur des ressources du milieu forestier</i> or OPMV). This strategy aims to maintain 1/3 (i.e. a 67% gap) of the historic proportion of old forests found in the bioclimatic areas in question. Targets related to this strategy do not satisfy the requirements of indicator 6.3.5.</p>
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request:		
<p>The FME shall develop targets and strategies to maintain the full age-range of old forests identified through the analysis of the pre-industrial forest condition. Furthermore, the FME shall include retention targets in connection with the pre-industrial forest portrait and the history of natural disturbances and include these in its operations monitoring programme.</p>		
Timeline for Conformance:		<p>Before the second annual audit</p> <p>The FME is granted a two-year timeline to fulfill the requirements of this CAR due to exceptional circumstances beyond its control: the work to be carried out to satisfy this CAR requires the involvement of other stakeholders in the evaluation process such as the MRNF (derogation requests, etc.). This involvement should be in accordance with the respective schedule of those parties, which cannot be held to a specific deadline.</p>
Audit findings:		Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Status:		OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 24/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.6
Non-Conformance		<p>The FME carries out mostly block cutting (85%) within FMU 043-51. This type of management does not create a landscape resembling that of the pre-industrial forest, which was shaped by large fires.</p>
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request:		
<p>For FMU 043-51, the FME shall set targets for landscape patterns (disturbed and undisturbed patches), based upon the characterisation of the pre-industrial forest.</p>		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the second annual audit

	The FME is granted a two-year timeline to fulfill the requirements of this CAR due to exceptional circumstances beyond its control: the work to be carried out to satisfy this CAR requires the involvement of other stakeholders in the evaluation process such as the MRNF (derogation requests, etc.). This involvement should be in accordance with the respective schedule of those parties, which cannot be held to a specific deadline.
Audit findings:	Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 25/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.10	
Non-Conformance		There are no objectives for retention of individual stems representing initial stands, structural elements or proportions of these elements in regards to those of the pre-industrial forest in final cutting except in harvests with green-tree retention (cprsbou), seed cutting (CPE), multicohort harvests, harvests with protection of small merchantable stems (CPPTM) and variable retention harvests. However, these types of harvest remain marginal compared to harvests with protection of regeneration and soil (CPRS).
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall demonstrate that the harvest leaves in place residual structures in sufficient quantity and distribution so that they can fulfil their ecological functions.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		<p>There is a retention instruction for harvests with protection of regeneration and soil and targets as mentioned in 5.3.2.</p> <p>There is no monitoring result at the harvest or landscape scale since treatment application began in spring 2011.</p> <p>During field sampling, the auditors found that the stems kept in groups of trees are representative of the initial stand. Individual stems should also be representative since they are randomly selected.</p> <p>However, the demonstration of the goal of maintaining 10 trees/ha is based on a 1990 publication, which aims to popularize the notion of retention in general, rather than as a guide for the manager. The publication is considered to be too general in North America to ensure its applicability in Quebec hardwood, mixed and boreal forest.</p> <p>The CAR remains open until the applicants have identified retention targets and objectives supported by scientific literature more appropriate for the situation in the Mauricie.</p>

	This CAR remains open and becomes a Major CAR with a 3-month deadline.
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	
New SW findings following presentation of new Conformance evidence by the applicants.	
Findings:	<p>The applicant modified instruction 446-REC-Gestion de travaux de récolte-v4.0.0 concerning the retention of individual shoots, snags and trees with wildlife value. This instruction now specifies that the objective is to maintain a minimum of 25 merchant shoots per hectare dead or alive. This instruction also specifies that the objective is met by the following methods: For deciduous: by prioritizing shoots of more than 20 cm at DBH and trees with wildlife value (big snags of irregular shape). For coniferous: by prioritizing shoots of more than 10 cm at DBH and trees with wildlife value (big snags of irregular shape). Individual trees with commercial or non commercial value.</p> <p>This objective is inspired from the recent <i>Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales</i> (2010) of the Ontario MRN.</p> <p>This modification of instruction 446 fulfills the remaining gap with CAR 25/10. The CAR can be closed.</p>
Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 26/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.12	
Non-Conformance	The FME has not identified large areas of contiguous core forest habitat within FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51.	
Major	Minor	
	√	
Corrective Action Request:		
The FME shall demonstrate that large areas (thousands of hectares) of contiguous core forest habitat are preserved within FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51; if such large areas do not exist, the FME shall develop strategies to create new ones over the long term.		
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit	
Audit findings:	The applicants identified some large areas of contiguous core forest habitat in their HCVF identification exercise (core forest) within the FMUs in question. That said, these core forests do not cover the 20% of the area of the FMUs required by the standard and the applicants have not demonstrated that the	

	<p>identified core forest areas meet the requirements of this indicator with respect to the area of individual core forests, the total area of core forests, the composition of individual core forests in terms of age of stands (mature, recently disturbed) and linear disturbances. Also the applicants have not implemented strategies and objectives in the case that these large areas do not exist.</p> <p>The applicants do not meet the requirements of this CAR. This CAR remains open and becomes a Major CAR with a 3-month deadline.</p>
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 27/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.14	
Non-Conformance	<p>Although targets and management plans drawn up by the MRNF exist for certain chosen species, there is room to include other species. The FME has not set quantitative objectives regarding habitat using data provided by specialists for species chosen due to the habitat needs they represent, and has not developed and implemented plans to reach these objectives.</p>	
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Major</td> <td>Minor ✓</td> </tr> </table>		
Major	Minor ✓	
Corrective Action Request:		
<p>The FME shall set quantitative objectives regarding habitat, using data provided by specialists, for species chosen due to the habitat needs they represent, and shall develop and implement plans to reach these objectives.</p>		
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit	
Audit findings:	<p>The applicants have established benchmarks with regard to the habitat quality index for moose and marten and several benchmarks with regard to spawning grounds. They have also established targets for these habitat quality indexes and performed a comparison of the condition of these variables before and after the plan in effect to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan to achieve the targets for these 2 variables.</p> <p>The applicants meet the requirements of this CAR.</p>	
Status:	CLOSED	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 28/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.16	
Non-Conformance	<p>The FME has (preliminary) infrastructure management plans for FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51. However, these do not mention abandonment and closure of forest roads.</p>	
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Major</td> <td>Minor ✓</td> </tr> </table>		
Major	Minor ✓	
Corrective Action Request:		

The FME shall add to its access roads management plan strategies of road abandonment, of construction limits near protected areas and of isolation maintenance for certain areas. These strategies shall be based on data provided by a specialist and shall allow for balance between ecological and socio-economic values.	
Timeline for Conformance:	Before to the second annual audit A one-year extension is granted to the applicant for meeting the requirements of this CAR due to exceptional circumstances outside the FME's control: the work required to meet this CAR requires the involvement of other stakeholders such as the MRNF (exemption requests, etc.) in the evaluation process. This involvement must be accomplished taking into account the respective schedules of the parties, whom cannot be held to precise deadlines.
Audit findings:	Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 29/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.18
Non-Conformance		Winter sites have a poor record of respect for ephemeral waterways.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall review its operational site planning process in order to better identify ephemeral waterways during winter operations.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		Field visits revealed no significant deviations with regard to the respect of intermittent waterways in harvest operations currently under way. Work instructions for layout of cut areas has been updated to clarify procedures. Interviews with operators have highlighted the good understanding and application of the precautionary principle when waterways are encountered during operations. The annual training sessions focus on the requirements of the Rule are SOPs. This CAR can be closed. The results from the MRNF show several notices of irregularity in operations site called CHB in the south and slow application of corrective actions. This could not be triangulated in the field during the audit. A note is issued to focus on field verification field of the protection of waterways in the southern White oak operations.
Status:		CLOSED

Follow-up Action (if applicable):	NOTE 8/11: Verify waterways crossings and respect of intermittent streams in southern White oak operations.
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CAR 30/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.19
Non-Conformance		There is no incentive program or agreements with other tenure holders to encourage the reduction of negative impacts on ecosystems.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall implement a programme aiming to encourage tenure holders to reduce negative impacts on ecosystems, in relation to their access roads management plan.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the second annual audit A one-year extension is granted to the applicant for meeting the requirements of this CAR due to exceptional circumstances outside the FME's control: the work needed to meet the requirements of this CAR required the involvement of other tenure holders, of the MRNF and of other parties, whom could not be involved sufficiently within the set deadline. The one-year deadline cannot be imposed to the stakeholders in spite of the efforts of the applicants.
Audit findings:		Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Status:		OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 31/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.4.1
Non-Conformance		The FME has undertaken a gap analysis of the protected areas network based exclusively on enduring features (ecodistricts). The gap analysis has not been peer reviewed.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall have a gap analysis identifying the deficiencies to be addressed in regards to protected areas. This analysis shall take into account all the variables listed at indicator 6.4.1 (e.g. connectivity, intactness, age of the forest) and shall be submitted for peer review.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		To respond to this CAR, the applicants have provided auditors with the MDDEP gap analysis. Auditors analysed the approach of the MDDEP and concluded that this approach, which takes into account not only the persistent elements but also ecological and ephemeral elements (old forests, integrity, rare ecosystems, etc.), meets the requirements of indicator 6.4.1. The MDDEP gap analysis also benefited from an ongoing scientific review via the MDDEP Scientific Committee consisting of 4 independent conservation experts. The applicants therefore meet the requirements of this CAR.

Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 32/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.4.2	
Non-Conformance	The FME has been suggesting protected areas to address gaps in the protected areas network for several years. The FME has contributed 25,643 ha in biological refuges within the candidate FMUs and is willing to recognise 103,118 ha as MDDEP territory of interest. This being said, the FME has not yet demonstrated that areas in the process of becoming protected represent a maximal contribution that sees to the gaps in the protected areas network. Furthermore, the FME's preliminary gap analysis clearly demonstrates that important deficiencies still remain.	
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall demonstrate that areas in the process of becoming protected represent a maximal contribution that sees to the gaps in the protected areas network (according to indicator 6.4.1) as per the relative responsibility of the FME.		
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit	
Audit findings:	<p>The Mauricie region has set up a committee on protected areas which includes a good representation of various stakeholders (Fauna managers, watershed organism, industries, Regional Economic Council, Aboriginals, large private forests, applicants, FSC, etc.). In collaboration with the MDDEP, the committee started in December 2010 the evaluation of several protected area proposals with various scenarios targeting areas of interest and areas of study. For now, areas of interest are recognized and benefit from full protection. The applicants have also produced a document recognizing an additional contribution of more than 1000 km² (+3.2% of the region) that benefit from a full protection.</p> <p>The study zones are not all known to the applicants and they have indicated that some cuts have already been carried out and that more were planned in some study zones, and that other rights incompatible with conservation are active in these study zones. There are other zones being discussed that could fulfill the deficiencies, of which two coming from proposals from First Nations in FMU 043-52.</p> <p>The works of the committee continue in order to propose zones that will fulfill the deficiencies. Another committee meeting is planned for early September. The works of the committee should be completed prior to the next annual audit.</p> <p>The applicant have started work to evaluate impacts of cuts done or planned on identified deficiencies that should end</p>	

	<p>around the end of summer. The applicant assert that preliminary results do not indicate a significant gap et that the final gap analysis will be done by the MDDEP as part of its role in the committee.</p> <p>SW understands that the applicant does not have control over the velocity to which the committee will identify protected areas. For this reason, this CAR is subject to an extension until the next annual audit.</p> <p>This CAR remains open and becomes a Major CAR with a 3-month deadline.</p>
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 34/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.5.1.a	
Non-Conformance	Standard operating procedures offer opportunities for improvement for the protection of sites sensitive to nutrient loss. There is no plan to minimise the impact of stacking areas located along roads or of loss of productive land to windrow, delimiting sites or sand/gravel pits.	
Major	Minor	
	√	
Corrective Action Request:		
The FME shall improve its instructions and standard operating procedures dealing with the productivity of the soil so as to:		
A: Define elements treating with nutrient loss on sensitive sites (6.5.1.e) and;		
B: Ensure that loss of productive land associated with delimiting near roads, windrows as well as gravel pits and sand pits is reduced to a minimum. (6.5.1.c; 6.10.5).		
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit	
Audit findings:	<p>A: Work instructions identify fragile sites and describe the methods of work for harvest on these sensitive sites. INS-REC (MOP-0786).</p> <p>B: Loss of productive areas: In 2008 and 2009 several gravel pits in FMU 043-51 were put back into production. The applicant has recovered data on MRNF extraction leases. The FME is collecting this information to produce a plan to put gravel pits created before 2010 back in production of (see indicator 6.10). A procedure has been produced to assess harvest sites and delimiting areas to establish an appropriate prescription for each segment of windrow delimiting area. However, as there have not been enough operations since the assessment audit, the applicants are not able to demonstrate that their SOPs reduce losses of productive areas. For this reason, the CAR is extended until the next annual audit.</p>	
Status:	OPEN	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	Extension until the second annual audit.	

applicable):	
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CAR 35/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.5.1.b
Non-Conformance		First Nations' traditional ecological knowledge and concerns could be better included in standard operating procedures. There is no identification and protection system for values encountered in operations.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall improve its instructions and standard operating procedures relating to Indigenous peoples and the public so as to: A: Continue with the steps taken to better include the concerns and traditional ecological knowledge of First Nations in the establishment of standard operating procedures and in the preparation of plans, if the First Nations are interested (6.5.1.b) and; B: Implement a system allowing the identification of values in the course of operations and the use of measures to protect these values. (6.5.1.i).		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		A. The applicant sought the FN for descriptions (images) of Aboriginal values to produce a quick reference tool for operations. B: The applicant has developed a tool for validation of sensitive sites. This tool allows to properly identify these sites when planning. This CAR can be closed.
Status:		CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 36/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.5.1.f
Non-Conformance		There is no portrait or modalities for sensitive watersheds. The current system for classifying waterways does not categorise them according to their sensitivity.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall improve its instructions and standard operating procedures relating to hydrological impacts during harvest operations so as to: A: Identify sensitive watersheds, establish the harvest rate, type and season allowed within these watersheds and identify sites to be avoided. (6.5.1.f) and; B: Improve the system for classifying waterways so they are categorised according to their sensitivity and identify the required precautionary approach according to the degree of sensitivity. (6.5.1.h) and; C: Improve its methods for the identification of intermittent waterways in the field and during the preparation of operations plans.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		A: Fragile watersheds have been identified and a calculation for the equivalent harvest area was conducted. For both

	<p>FMUs, the applicants claim that there is no fragile watershed overlapping FMUs outside the Mauricie region and that for basins that overlap FMUs in Mauricie, the equivalent harvest areas are calculated by AbiBow for their part of watershed. Rates, types and harvesting season have been determined.</p> <p>B: The applicant has established work instructions, in conjunction with AbiBow, concerning a chart for the evaluation of the fragility of waterways. A note is issued to check its implementation for the next annual audit.</p> <p>C: The applicant has amended the instructions on the layout of intermittent streams and improved training to that effect.</p> <p>This CAR can be closed.</p>
Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	Note 6-/11: Validate the use of the waterway classification chart.

CAR 37/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.5.1.h	
Non-Conformance	In FMU 043-51, SmartWood has observed irregularities in the delimitation of the riparian protection areas, which led to excessive thinning and machinery traffic in this protection area. Standards exist and are applied during planning and marking in the field.	
Major	Minor	√
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall review its work methods and instructions so as to ensure adequate identification and protection of riparian protection areas.		
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit	
Audit findings:	<p>Layout instructions has been improved and training has placed emphasis on the respect for the Rule on SOPs relating to streams.</p> <p>Field visits revealed no gaps with respect to riparian protection areas.</p>	
Status:	CLOSED	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 38/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.7.1
Non-Conformance	In the waste management sites of one forest camp (Kawaie), containers

Major	Minor √	to collect various products were all present and the workers had been trained in this respect. However, at the time of a visit to a FMU 043-51 harvest from the 2008-2009 season, auditors found three large spills (> 10m ²) as well as old rags and soiled gloves, all this along a single section of the road. This situation is alarming, especially as the personnel responsible for operations in this sector did not seem aware of the current situation nor of the extent of the impact at the time. The standards and procedures, as good as they may be, do not seem to be applied in this portion of the territory, and the management program for residual material, if it planned for systematic visits of worksites, misses its target. For all these reasons, CAR 38/10 is issued.
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall re-examine the application of its management standards for residual and hazardous material in order to collect leaks and contaminated soil and to prevent contaminant spills in the environment.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		Training and instructions have put emphasis on the accountability of all with regard to the environment, and management of petroleum products and spills were targeted. Spill reports have been provided by the applicants. At camp Kawaie, containers to retrieve the various products are all present. Workers received training for spill recovery. Contaminated soil has been collected and was at the recovery site.
Status:		CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 39/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.9.2
Non-Conformance		The FME uses a seed mix containing exotic species for bank stabilisation. However seed mixes using only indigenous species are available.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall obtain a seed mix made up of indigenous species for the bank stabilisation. In the case that such mixtures are not available or prove to be ineffective, the FME shall use non-invasive exotic species in the forest environment.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		It is now shown that the exotic species in "mixture B" are not invasive in the forest. The applicants can continue to use this mixture, provided that they continue to monitor it to detect any negative environmental impact.
Status:		CLOSED

Follow-up Action (if applicable):	
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CAR 40/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.9.3
Non-Conformance	Although the FME uses a seed mix (Mixture B) containing exotic species and has established plantations of hybrid poplar and larch (one strain of which is exotic) and Norway spruce, the FME has not developed a monitoring system to evaluate the invasiveness of all exotic species used.
Major	Minor √

Corrective Action Request:
The FME shall implement a procedure to monitor the invasiveness of all exotic species used.

Timeline for Conformance: Before the next annual audit

Audit findings:

To respond to this CAR the applicants have put efforts on the demonstration of the non-invasive character of species used rather than implement the monitoring procedure required by the standard for exotic species. The applicants therefore gathered governmental technical notes, research agency technical notes and articles in non-scientific journals which indicate that the invasive potential of used species is low. However the CAR and the statement of criterion 6.9 require that *The use of exotic species is carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.* The CAR and the standard do not require the demonstration of the invasive/non-invasive character of the exotic species used, but their monitoring, whether they are considered invasive or not.

Since the applicants have not implemented a monitoring system for the invasive potential of exotic species used, they do not meet the requirements of this CAR.

This CAR remains open and becomes a Major CAR with a 3-month deadline.

Status: OPEN

Follow-up Action (if applicable):	
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New SW findings following presentation of new Conformance evidence by the applicants.

Findings:

The applicant has presented a protocol aiming to evaluate the invasion potential of exotic species from plantations. This protocol foresees an inventory method to be added to the monitoring (Monitoring of forest management manual) of hybrid poplar and hybrid larch plantations.

This monitoring protocol of plantation of hybrid poplar (10 years after first plantation) and hybrid larch (30 years after first plantation) will be done at the same time as the monitoring of forest management manual and will allow validation of adjacent areas that are not systematically submitted to

	<p>an inventory (cut separator, riparian zones, residual forest, etc.). The exotic species shall be added to the species list during inventories of monitoring of manual (1 and 2) in all groups of priority plantation in order to detect the possible presence on the harvesting site.</p> <p>The protocol also presents the modalities of the drilling plan as well as the details of the sampling method.</p> <p>This protocol meets the requirements of the CAR and therefore can be closed.</p>
Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 41/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 7.1.4	
Non-Conformance	The FME has not proven it has made efforts to coordinate management at the landscape level with the managers of neighbouring territories.	
Major	Minor	
	√	
Corrective Action Request:		
The FME shall demonstrate that it has made all the possible efforts to coordinate management at the landscape level with the managers of neighbouring territories.		
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit	
Audit findings:	<p>The applicant has contacted the surrounding land managers and exchanged documentation with them with regard to HCVFs, core forests, fragile water basins and PRDIRT.</p> <p>The applicant meets the requirements of the CAR.</p>	
Status:	CLOSED	
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 42/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 7.1.5	
Non-Conformance	Although strategies and indicators have been defined, the management plan or its related documents contain no targets relating to socio-economic benefits, such as recreation or benefits to local communities. There are also no targets or indicators related to historical and cultural resources or traditional uses by Indigenous peoples and others.	
Major	Minor	
	√	
Corrective Action Request:		
The FME shall define targets and indicators relating to socio-economic benefits, such as recreation, benefits to local communities, historical and cultural resources or traditional uses by Indigenous peoples and others.		
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the second annual audit	

	The FME is granted a two-year timeline to fulfill the requirements of this CAR due to exceptional circumstances beyond its control: the work to be carried out to satisfy this CAR requires the involvement of Indigenous communities and other parties interested by the evaluation process. This involvement should be in accordance with the respective schedule of those parties, which cannot be held to a specific deadline.
Audit findings:	Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 43/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 7.1.6	
Non-Conformance		All non-timber resources have not been identified and described in the management plan and related documents. Also, the FME suggests using the summary found on the website of the Forester in Chief as a PGAF summary. These documents sum up allowable cut calculations and strategies well, but they are incomplete in regards to some contextual information: non-timber forest resources, processing plants, First Nations, endangered species, etc.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall improve the plan and related documents so they include a complete description of all non-timber resources within FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51. The FME shall also improve summaries of management plans in order to present more of the context and issues particular to these territories.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		The <i>Plan régional de développement intégré des ressources et du territoire</i> (Regional integrated resources and territory development plan) for the Mauricie region provides a description of the non-timber forest products and all other resources. The first part of the CAR is fulfilled. The summary presented during audits can serve as a summary of the plan, to which should be added the summary of the HCVF report. The summary of the HCVF report was produced, the applicant therefore meets the requirements of the CAR.
Status:		CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 44/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 7.3.2
Non-Conformance	SmartWood has observed that very often work is not carried out

Major	Minor √	conformingly and natural drainage and water protection objectives are not respected. The audit was not able to identify whether the problem resides on the part of the degree of supervision granted to work teams or if the supervision teams' level of comprehension of standards and of the impact of non-Conformances is in question. The FME will be able to make this diagnosis. Furthermore, there does not seem to be a systematic plan for corrective measures dealing with damage to sites after operations.
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall ensure that the system of supervision on all the certified territory is able to ensure that work respects laws and regulations as well as the operational environmental requirements of the FSC standard. Also, the FME shall implement systematic plan for corrective measures dealing with damage to sites so as to minimise the impact of operations on the spot.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		<p>The applicant has improved its operations monitoring forms to include a specific section for required corrective actions. FO1 - CHE (MOP-0599).</p> <p>The applicant is implementing its plan for the protection of areas sensitive to erosion and sedimentation for the main roads.</p> <p>The first corrective actions have been made to the approaches of some bridges (sedimentation basins, ditches). Also, the applicant applied peat at the edge of bodies of water along the road.</p> <p>That said, other sections of railways must be treated, something the applicant plans to do. A note is issued to monitor the for the waterways protection corrective action plan.</p>
Status:		CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		Note 7/11: Validate corrections made to roads along waterways that show risks of sedimentation.

CAR 45/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.5.3, 7.2.1, 7.2.2, 8.1.1, 8.2.5, 8.2.6, 8.2.8	
Non-Conformance	Although several types of monitoring exist and are found in the management plan and related documents, some types of monitoring are lacking, including monitoring of nutrient loss (indicator 6.5.1e), watersheds (indicator 6.5.1.g) residual structures within stands (indicators 6.3.7 and 5.3.1), wildlife and plant species (indicator 8.2.5) and other non-timber resources.	
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall complete its monitoring programme by defining the parameters to be considered as well as the frequency and intensity of monitoring activities. The FME shall include these details in its planning and ensure their implementation. Among the elements prescribed by the standard which must be monitored, the FME shall make sure to include the		

goals and targets of the plan (7.1.3), data on plant and wildlife species that will contribute to monitoring the efficiency of the management plan (8.2.5), the environmental impact of forest management activities (8.2.6) including nutrient loss, (6.5.1e), watersheds (6.5.1g), residual structures in stands (5.3.1 and 6.3.7), and the impact of forest management activities on resources and cultural values (8.2.8) and non-timber forest resources.	
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:	<p>Although the monitoring program is summarized in a table, the details allowing verifying Conformance of the program are erratic and difficult to make sense of. The applicants shall consolidate and complete their monitoring program so that it can be evaluated efficiently by SW.</p> <p>Missing monitoring program elements are: - frequency of monitoring of flora and fauna data (8.2.5); - monitoring of residual structures in stands (5.3.1 and 6.3.10);)</p> <p>Mainly, the auditors were not able to verify how the applicants include the monitoring program in planning, for the reason explained in the first paragraph.</p> <p>The applicant does not meet all the requirements of the CAR.</p> <p>To meet the requirement of this indicator, the applicants shall not only complete the two missing monitoring elements, but also demonstrate way how all monitoring is integrated into planning.</p> <p>This CAR remains open and becomes a Major CAR with a 3-month deadline.</p>
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 49/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 9.3.2
Non-Conformance		Some identified HCVF (e.g. Rivière-du-Loup watershed) overlap another management unit outside the Mauricie region and the FME has not proven it made efforts to coordinate activities with managers and users of neighbouring lands in order to maintain and reinforce applicable conservation attributes.
Major	Minor ✓	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall prove it made efforts to coordinate activities with managers and users of neighbouring lands (outside the Mauricie FMUs) order to maintain and reinforce applicable conservation attributes.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Audit findings:		The efforts of the applicants to coordinate activities with managers and users of the adjacent lands outside the Mauricie gave no result.

	Since the indicator requires only that the applicants make efforts to coordinate activities with the managers of adjacent land, the applicants, in having contacted the managers and in having exchanged documents with them, meet the requirements of this CAR.
Status:	CLOSED
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 51/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 9.3.3
Non-Conformance		The FME has developed modalities that will ensure the maintenance of HCV within the majority of HCVFs and has committed to withholding operations within HCVFs for which modalities have not yet been defined. That said some modalities still require definition and the FME has not demonstrated that the measures developed conform to the precautionary approach.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall finalise the development of measures that ensure the maintenance or improvement of HCVs within all HCVFs and shall demonstrate that these measures conform to the precautionary approach.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the first annual audit
Audit findings:		<p>The applicants have identified modalities of intervention for each of the HCVs. However, some of these are described very briefly and the applicants have not shown that these modalities are consistent with the precautionary principle. This applies only to HCVFs who do not benefit from governmental modalities (Rule on SOPs) or integral protection (protected areas, exceptional forest environments, etc.) such as forests, old forests, HCVF watersheds, steep slopes and shallow soils on moderate slopes, etc.</p> <p>For the Mauser and Dansurand lakes watersheds as well as sensitive areas (Vallée St-Maurice visual frames, etc.), the applicants have established modalities and clear targets regarding the maintenance of HCVs in these HCVFs.</p> <p>For areas of high concentrations of old growth forests, the applicants have selected for the overlay exercise zones that are larger than 5,000 ha and contain at least 12% of old forests (FMU 43-51) and are larger than 3,000 ha (FMU 041-51). Some of these areas were selected after the overlay exercise. The applicants propose as a modality to perform block cutting (for space distribution) in large areas where the concentration is very high and also to make partial cuts to keep old forests attributes. The applicants have not demonstrated that 12% of old forests were not going to be majorly represented by stands from partial cutting. They have not demonstrated that these modalities complied with the</p>

	<p>precautionary principle.</p> <p>The identification of core areas was undertaken by the creation of buffer zones along the railways and the main forest roads. However, the modalities of the proposed interventions do not mention the modalities for road construction or refitting of the roads. They mention however, timber harvesting which involves road construction. Moreover, intervention modalities proposed (page 48 of the HCVF report for FMU 43-51) are very complex and very difficult to understand, which will not facilitate public participation in the finalizing of the modalities. Finally the applicants have not demonstrated so far how the modalities of interventions in selected HCVF core areas respect the precautionary principle. As for the temporary precautionary approach, applicants have excluded all HCVF core forests intervention in the current plans.</p> <p>For 'thin soils on moderate slopes' and strong slopes HCVFs, the applicants have identified several modalities that are difficult to measure, verify and too vague to be effectively implemented, such as: supporting winter operations, minimizing machinery passages in trails and paying attention to the creation of ruts and orientation paths. The applicants have not presented targets with respect to the season of operations, path directions, creation of ruts or machinery passages in trails.</p> <p>For the decisive HCVF of the village community area of Clova, the applicants have not presented modalities (zone and modalities to be defined with the Citizens Committee of Clova). The applicants have not demonstrated how they applied the precautionary principle in the present case where there are no modalities.</p> <p>For territories of interest for Aboriginal communities HCVFs and the healing site of Lake Decelles, the applicants have developed the following modalities: exclude weeks of cultural activities, promote block cutting, pay attention to trap camps, trap lines, campsites, gathering and healing sites, apply rules of landscape management and pre-plan. For now, the applicants have not established targets in relation to these modalities, (e.g. width of the buffer surrounding sites of cultural importance, amount of block cutting vs. traditional harvests with protection of regeneration and soil, etc.). The applicants have not shown how these modalities are consistent with the precautionary principle.</p> <p>Given the lack of clear targets for certain modalities, lack of modalities, lack of targets for some HCVFs and the lack of documentation to show that the modalities comply with the</p>
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	precautionary principle, the applicants do not meet the requirements of this CAR . This CAR remains open and becomes a Major CAR with a 3-month deadline.
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

2.3. New corrective actions issued as a result of this audit

CAR 17/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.1.11	
Non-Conformance	To meet the requirement of the FSC standard in regards to the integration of environmental assessments results in planning and implementation of forest management, the FME has recently produced a document: ' <i>Tableaux_enjeux_UAF4151_4351_v20090710.pdf</i> ' that includes a series of issues and indicators. However the evaluation method is not described for all indicators. Since this document has just been produced, the assessment of all presented issues is not yet implemented and therefore the results of these assessments are not yet integrated in planning for FMUs 043-51 and 041-51.	
Major √	Minor	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall demonstrate that results from environmental impact monitoring are included in planning for FMU 043-51 and FMU 041-51.		
Timeline for Conformance:	Within 3 months	
Status:	OPEN	

CAR 26/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.12	
Non-Conformance	The FME has not identified large areas of contiguous core forest habitat within FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51.	
Major √	Minor	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall demonstrate that large areas (thousands of hectares) of contiguous core forest habitat are preserved within FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51; if such large areas do not exist, the FME shall develop strategies to create new ones over the long term.		
Timeline for Conformance:	Within 3 months	
Status:	OPEN	

CAR 45/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.5.3, 7.2.1, 7.2.2, 8.1.1, 8.2.5, 8.2.6, 8.2.8	
Non-Conformance	Although several types of monitoring exist and are found in the	

Major √	Minor	management plan and related documents, some types of monitoring are lacking, including monitoring of nutrient loss (indicator 6.5.1e), watersheds (indicator 6.5.1.g) residual structures within stands (indicators 6.3.7 and 5.3.1), wildlife and plant species (indicator 8.2.5) and other non-timber resources.
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall complete its monitoring program by defining the parameters to be considered as well as the frequency and intensity of monitoring activities. The FME shall include these details in its planning and ensure their implementation. Among the elements prescribed by the standard which must be monitored, the FME shall make sure to include the goals and targets of the plan (7.1.3), data on plant and wildlife species that will contribute to monitoring the efficiency of the management plan (8.2.5), the environmental impact of forest management activities (8.2.6) including nutrient loss, (6.5.1e), watersheds (6.5.1g), residual structures in stands (5.3.1 and 6.3.7), and the impact of forest management activities on resources and cultural values (8.2.8) and non-timber forest resources.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Within 3 months
Status:		OPEN

CAR 51/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 9.3.3
Non-Conformance		The FME has developed modalities that will ensure the maintenance of HCV within the majority of HCVFs and has committed to withholding operations within HCVFs for which modalities have not yet been defined. That said some modalities still require definition and the FME has not demonstrated that the measures developed conform to the precautionary approach.
Major √	Minor	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall finalise the development of measures that ensure the maintenance or improvement of HCVs within all HCVFs and shall demonstrate that these measures conform to the precautionary approach.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Within 3 months
Status:		OPEN

NCR#:	01/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor x
Standard & Requirement:		Boreal Standard, Indicator 6.3.3		
Report Section:		Appendix IV		
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				
Indicator 6.3.3 states: "Harvesting, site preparation, and other forest operations should be undertaken in a manner that avoids site and soil damage and encourage the protection of the site."				
Auditors found that there is a gap in the applicants' system for reduction of damage to natural drainage and to sites during harvesting operations, either in total or partial harvests. Although a statement concerning rutting is issued and sites are identified as sensitive, harvest has not been adapted (either by changing machinery or by changing harvesting season) to minimize the risks.				
In cuts, sectors targeted in harvests with protection of small merchantable stems are particularly likely to rutting even in partial harvests. Indeed, these sites are often poor and have irregular vertical structures making them more suitable for this treatment (Ériko site).				

<p>In the case of the Cantin site, the stand had been targeted as being susceptible to rutting but a total summer harvest was still conducted by a tree-length process.</p> <p>For partial cuts, fall harvests using grapple skidders can cause problems on rich sites located at the bottom of a slope, as auditors were able to observe in the Baril site in a group-selection progressive cutting.</p>	
Corrective Action Request:	<p>Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>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 non-conformance.</p>
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	

NCR#:	02/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor x
Standard & Requirement:	Boreal Standard, criterion 10.1			
Report Section:	Appendix IV			
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				
<p>There are no relevant and explicit goals, objectives and timeframes in the management plan with respect to the space for the conservation or rehabilitation of natural forests related to plantation management and harvesting. The measures providing for the establishment of new plantations and the goals and objectives relating to the existing plantations are not highlighted during the development and consultation of the management plan. The applicants do not meet the requirements of criterion 10.1.</p> <p>This is a Minor NC as plantations represent less than 0.5% of the certified territory.</p>				
Corrective Action Request:	<p>Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>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 non-conformance.</p>			
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit			
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING			
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING			
NCR Status:	OPEN			
Comments (optional):				

NCR#:	03/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor x
Standard & Requirement:	Boreal Standard, criterion 10.2			
Report Section:	Appendix IV			
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				

The applicants have not yet established clear goals and objectives with regard to biodiversity in plantations; the applicants do not meet the requirements of criterion 10.2. This is a Minor NC as plantations represent less than 0.5% of the certified territory.	
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 non-conformance.
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	

NCR#:	04/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor x
Standard & Requirement:	Boreal Standard, criterion 10.3			
Report Section:	Appendix IV			
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				
For the moment the applicants have not shown how plantation areas are planned and managed in a way to contribute to the diversity at the site and landscape levels. This is a Minor NC as plantations represent less than 0.5% of the certified territory.				
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 non-conformance.			
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit			
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING			
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING			
NCR Status:	OPEN			
Comments (optional):				

NCR#:	05/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor x
Standard & Requirement:	Boreal Standard, criterion 10.4			
Report Section:	Appendix IV			
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				
The applicants do not have monitoring procedures in place with the negative ecological impacts of planted species The applicants do not meet the requirements of criterion 10.4. This is a Minor NC as plantations represent less than 0.5% of the certified territory.				

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 non-conformance.
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	

NCR#:	06/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor x
Standard & Requirement:	Boreal Standard, criterion 10.5			
Report Section:	Appendix IV			
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				
The applicants do not have measures or targets in place for the return in production of gravel pits operated by other parties. This is a Minor NC as plantations represent less than 0.5% of the certified territory.				
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 non-conformance.			
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the next annual audit			
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING			
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING			
NCR Status:	OPEN			
Comments (optional):				

2.4. CARs extended until the second annual audit

CAR 10/10	Reference Standard & Criteria: 5.6.1	
Non-Conformance	Harvest simulation is done on a 150-year time horizon, but does not take into account the spatial distribution of the strata to be harvested. The evolution of habitats in time is ignored in allowable cut calculations.	
Major	Minor	√
Corrective Action Request:		
The FME shall demonstrate that the precautionary approach guides allowable cut		

calculations and that its operational implementation takes into account aspects relating to the maintenance of habitats in time.	
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the second annual audit
Audit findings:	Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Findings:	
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 20/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.1
Non-Conformance		There are no maps of illustrating key forest attributes for which spatial distribution is important over the long-term horizon.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall have a visual representation of the forest condition of FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51 and of operations in the long term and in space.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the second annual audit.
Audit findings:		Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Findings:		
Status:		OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 22/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.4
Non-Conformance		The FME has not implemented concrete measures to maintain and increase the abundance of White Pine, Red Pine and oak. No particular measures have been implemented for some species reaching the edge of their range in FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51 (white pine, red oak, etc.).
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: For FMU 041-51, the FME shall ensure that the measures applied are enough to maintain (over the short term) and increase (over the long term) the abundance of species which are clearly underrepresented in comparison to the pre-industrial forest composition. Furthermore, the FME shall complete the list of species susceptible to be found at the edge of their range and adopt special measures to ensure their maintenance in the forest landscape.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Findings:		
Status:		OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		Extension until second annual audit.

CAR 23/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.5
Non-Conformance		There is no portrait or retention target in connection with the pre-industrial forest portrait and the history of natural disturbances. Furthermore, the FME'S management strategies to maintain the full age-range of old forests are exclusively based on objectives for forest protection and development (<i>Objectifs de protection et de mise en valeur des ressources du milieu forestier</i> or OPMV). This strategy aims to maintain 1/3 (i.e. a 67% gap) of the historic proportion of old forests found in the bioclimatic areas in question. Targets related to this strategy do not satisfy the requirements of indicator 6.3.5.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall develop targets and strategies to maintain the full age-range of old forests identified through the analysis of the pre-industrial forest condition. Furthermore, the FME shall include retention targets in connection with the pre-industrial forest portrait and the history of natural disturbances and include these in its operations monitoring programme.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the second annual audit
Audit findings:		Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Findings:		
Status:		OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 24/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.6
Non-Conformance		The FME carries out mostly block cutting (85%) within FMU 043-51. This type of management does not create a landscape resembling that of the pre-industrial forest, which was shaped by large fires.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: For FMU 043-51, the FME shall set targets for landscape patterns (disturbed and undisturbed patches), based upon the characterisation of the pre-industrial forest.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the second annual audit
Audit findings:		Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Findings:		
Status:		OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 28/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.16
Non-Conformance		The FME has (preliminary) infrastructure management plans for FMU 041-51 and FMU 043-51. However, these do not mention abandonment and closure of forest roads.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall add to its access roads management plan strategies of road abandonment, of construction limits near protected areas and of isolation maintenance for certain areas. These		

strategies shall be based on data provided by a specialist and shall allow for balance between ecological and socio-economic values.	
Timeline for Conformance:	Before the second annual audit
Audit findings:	Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Findings:	
Status:	OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):	

CAR 30/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.3.19
Non-Conformance		There is no incentive program or agreements with other tenure holders to encourage the reduction of negative impacts on ecosystems.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall implement a programme aiming to encourage tenure holders to reduce negative impacts on ecosystems, in relation to their access roads management plan.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the second annual audit
Audit findings:		Will be evaluated during the second annual audit.
Findings:		
Status:		OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 32/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.4.2
Non-Conformance		The FME has been suggesting protected areas to address gaps in the protected areas network for several years. The FME has contributed 25,643 ha in biological refuges within the candidate FMUs and is willing to recognise 103,118 ha as MDDEP territory of interest. This being said, the FME has not yet demonstrated that areas in the process of becoming protected represent a maximal contribution that sees to the gaps in the protected areas network. Furthermore, the FME's preliminary gap analysis clearly demonstrates that important deficiencies still remain.
Major	Minor √	
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall demonstrate that areas in the process of becoming protected represent a maximal contribution that sees to the gaps in the protected areas network (according to indicator 6.4.1) as per the relative responsibility of the FME.		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the next annual audit
Findings:		
Status:		OPEN
Follow-up Action (if applicable):		

CAR 34/10		Reference Standard & Criteria: 6.5.1.a
Non-Conformance		Standard operating procedures offer opportunities for improvement for

Major	Minor √	the protection of sites sensitive to nutrient loss. There is no plan to minimise the impact of stacking areas located along roads or of loss of productive land to windrow, delimiting sites or sand/gravel pits.
Corrective Action Request: The FME shall improve its instructions and standard operating procedures dealing with the productivity of the soil so as to: A: Define elements treating with nutrient loss on sensitive sites (6.5.1.e) and; B: Ensure that loss of productive land associated with delimiting near roads, windrows as well as gravel pits and sand pits is reduced to a minimum. (6.5.1.c; 6.10.5).		
Timeline for Conformance:		Before the second annual audit
Findings:		
Status:		OPEN

2.5. Audit decision

The table below gives an overview of the CARs status for 2011 after the current audit.

CAR type	#
Open before current audit	40
Closed	27
Upgraded to Major	4
New CARs	6 9 extended
New Major CARs	0

√	Certification Recommendation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certification requirement met: client approved for certificate maintenance:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Certification requirements not met: major non Conformances identified that need to be addressed during 3 months after the final report date	Conformance to Major CAR(s) required
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certification Suspension required: major non-Conformance not addressed.	