



Forest Stewardship Council®



Forest Management Certification Follow-up Audit Report

FSC-FM-V1-0 - EN

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Former certificate code (if any)	DNV-FM/COC-000739
Certificate code	BV-FM/COC-008344
FSC license code	FSC-C008344
Audit type	Special Evaluation
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Date of report	May 13, 2022
Certification date	Jan 27, 2009

Certification body

Certification body name	Bureau Veritas Certification Holding SAS
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Introduction

SLIMFs: The elements marked with an asterisk (*) in this report are NOT required in the case of certificates issued to single SLIMF MU but are required for all other certificates.

Voluntary fields: The elements marked with hashtag (#) in this report are NOT mandatory but can be completed voluntarily.

Non-public fields: The elements marked with dollar symbol (\$) in this report will NOT be reproduced in the FM public summary, e.g. personal information.

Unit: Data presented in the report will be provided in metric system units. If nonmetric units are used, conversion rates will be indicated below, and an automatic conversion into metric units will be performed and stored in the cloud.

The entire report is based on the same units for one type of measure, which are selected from unit drop-down lists and the selections are synchronous across the document.

Unit of **area:** 1 **ha** equals 1 **ha**, e.g. forest area, HCV area.

Unit of **volume:** 1 **m3** equals 1 **m³**, used for wood related product.

Unit of **weight:** 1 Choose an item. equals **metric ton**, used for non-timber products i.e. bamboo, rubber and resin.

Unit of **pesticide:** **kg**, kg of dry mass is preferred rather than litres, due to unknown concentrations.

Repeating section:

This report contains many repeating sections e.g. species, MU/RMU, non-conformities etc., please add more tables by clicking **plus (+)** button.

1. Description of forest management

Forest management enterprise (FME) information	
1.1 Type of FM certificate	Multiple MUs
1.2 Total area under evaluation	3903000 ha
1.3 Dual-certified area certified both as FSC and another scheme*	3903000 ha
1.4 Forest zone	Boreal
1.5 Male forest workers	Totalt Sveaskog: 560 Skogsrörelsen: 372
1.6 Female forest workers	Totalt Sveaskog: 207 Skogsrörelsen: 83
1.7 Third parties related/impacted by forest management activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local communities <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional people <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous People
1.8 Third party description (existence, interests or activities etc.)*	The Sámi are indigenous people inhabiting the region of Sápmi. They traditionally practice reindeer herding that is much affected by forestry activities. They also have historical and cultural places that need to be considered by the forest manager. Local communities in entire Sweden are affected by forestry activities and land use change such as wind power plant projections.
1.9 Area of forest owned/managed but excluded from MUs in the scope of certification	5868.3 ha
1.10 Total growing stock of broadleaves #	27653511 m3

1.11 Total growing stock of conifers #	278467056 m3
1.12 Ecosystem services(ES) in the scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (annex B to be completed)
1.13 Change of scope since previous audit	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the scope has changed as described below:

i. Main commercial timber species included in scope of certificate (botanical name and common trade name)

1.14 Species	<i>Picea_abies</i> Note: Author's name of species will not be displayed in the report, but only in the database. The "_" symbol is used instead of a space for spelling check and validation purposes.	1.15 Product code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.1 Roundwood (logs) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.2 Fuel wood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.3 Twigs <input type="checkbox"/> W3.1 Wood chips <input type="checkbox"/> N5.1 Natural bamboo
1.16 Trade name#	Gran	1.17 Current annual harvest	2179159 m3
1.18 Remarks#	Click or tap here to enter text.	1.19 Sold with FSC claim since previous audit/year	2179159 m3

ii. Main commercial timber species included in scope of certificate (botanical name and common trade name)

1.14 Species	<i>Pinus_sylvestris</i> Note: Author's name of species will not be displayed in the report, but only in the database. The "_" symbol is used instead of a space for spelling check and validation purposes.	1.15 Product code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.1 Roundwood (logs) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.2 Fuel wood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.3 Twigs <input type="checkbox"/> W3.1 Wood chips <input type="checkbox"/> N5.1 Natural bamboo
1.16 Trade name#	Tall	1.17 Current annual harvest	2997887 m3
1.18 Remarks#	Click or tap here to enter text.	1.19 Sold with FSC claim since previous audit/year	2997887 m3

iii. Main commercial timber species included in scope of certificate (botanical name and common trade name)

1.14 Species	<i>Betula_spp</i> Note: Author's name of species will not be displayed in the report, but only in the database. The "_" symbol is used instead of a space for spelling check and validation purposes.	1.15 Product code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.1 Roundwood (logs) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.2 Fuel wood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.3 Twigs <input type="checkbox"/> W3.1 Wood chips <input type="checkbox"/> N5.1 Natural bamboo
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1.16 Trade name#	Björk	1.17 Current annual harvest	312002 m3
1.18 Remarks#	Click or tap here to enter text.	1.19 Sold with FSC claim since previous audit/year	312002 m3

iv. Main commercial timber species included in scope of certificate (botanical name and common trade name)

1.14 Species	<i>Fagus_sylvatica</i> Note: Author's name of species will not be displayed in the report, but only in the database. The “_” symbol is used instead of a space for spelling check and validation purposes.	1.15 Product code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.1 Roundwood (logs) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.2 Fuel wood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.3 Twigs <input type="checkbox"/> W3.1 Wood chips <input type="checkbox"/> N5.1 Natural bamboo
1.16 Trade name#	Bok	1.17 Current annual harvest	2708 m3
1.18 Remarks#	Click or tap here to enter text.	1.19 Sold with FSC claim since previous audit/year	2708 m3

v. Main commercial timber species included in scope of certificate (botanical name and common trade name)

1.14 Species	<i>Pinus contorta</i> Note: Author's name of species will not be displayed in the report, but only in the database. The “_” symbol is used instead of a space for spelling check and validation purposes.	1.15 Product code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.1 Roundwood (logs) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.2 Fuel wood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.3 Twigs <input type="checkbox"/> W3.1 Wood chips <input type="checkbox"/> N5.1 Natural bamboo
1.16 Trade name#	Contorta	1.17 Current annual harvest	64376 m3
1.18 Remarks#	Click or tap here to enter text.	1.19 Sold with FSC claim since previous audit/year	64376 m3

vi. Main commercial timber species included in scope of certificate (botanical name and common trade name)

1.14 Species	<i>Larix spp</i> Note: Author's name of species will not be displayed in the report, but only in the database. The “_” symbol is used instead of a space for spelling check and validation purposes.	1.15 Product code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.1 Roundwood (logs) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.2 Fuel wood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.3 Twigs <input type="checkbox"/> W3.1 Wood chips <input type="checkbox"/> N5.1 Natural bamboo
1.16 Trade name#	Lärk	1.17 Current annual harvest	5772 m3

1.18 Remarks#	Click or tap here to enter text.	1.19 Sold with FSC claim since previous audit/year	5772 m3
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vii. Main commercial timber species included in scope of certificate (botanical name and common trade name)

1.14 Species	<i>Populus tremula</i> Note: Author's name of species will not be displayed in the report, but only in the database. The "_" symbol is used instead of a space for spelling check and validation purposes.	1.15 Product code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.1 Roundwood (logs) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.2 Fuel wood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.3 Twigs <input type="checkbox"/> W3.1 Wood chips <input type="checkbox"/> N5.1 Natural bamboo
1.16 Trade name#	Asp	1.17 Current annual harvest	4219 m3
1.18 Remarks#	Click or tap here to enter text.	1.19 Sold with FSC claim since previous audit/year	4219 m3

viii. Main commercial timber species included in scope of certificate (botanical name and common trade name)

1.14 Species	<i>Quercus robur</i> Note: Author's name of species will not be displayed in the report, but only in the database. The "_" symbol is used instead of a space for spelling check and validation purposes.	1.15 Product code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.1 Roundwood (logs) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.2 Fuel wood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W1.3 Twigs <input type="checkbox"/> W3.1 Wood chips <input type="checkbox"/> N5.1 Natural bamboo
1.16 Trade name#	Ek	1.17 Current annual harvest	1097 m3
1.18 Remarks#	Click or tap here to enter text.	1.19 Sold with FSC claim since previous audit/year	1097 m3

i. NTFP - non-timber forest product included in scope of certificate

1.20 Species #	Click or tap here to enter text. (No species validation for NTFP, can be null here)	1.21 Product code of NTFP	Choose an item.
1.22 Trade name#	Click or tap here to enter text.	1.23 Current annual harvest	Click or tap here to enter text. Choose an item.

i. Pesticide use since previous audit/year

1.24 Active ingredient	----	1.25 Applied area	Click or tap here to enter text. ha
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1.26 Reason for use	Click or tap here to enter text.	1.27 Quantity of ingredient	Click or tap here to enter text. kg
1.28 Summary of ESRA (If applicable)	----	1.29 Environmental and social risk assessment (ESRA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicable

No chemical pesticides have been used since last surveillance audit.

2. Summary of forest context and management plan

Definition for MU and RMU:

Management Unit (MU): A spatial area or areas submitted for FSC certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long-term management objectives which are expressed in a management plan. This area or areas include(s):

- all facilities and area(s) within or adjacent to this spatial area or areas under legal title or Management control of, or operated by or on behalf of The Organization, for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives; and
- all facilities and area(s) outside, and not adjacent to this spatial area or areas and operated by or on behalf of The Organization, solely for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives.

(Source: FSC 2011).

Resource Management Unit (RMU): the management units within a group managed by the same Resource Manager. The management units within an RMU do not need to belong to the same forest owner, they can belong to many different owners.

Note: The total area of MU/RMU shall be consistent with total area under evaluation. In case of a large number of small group members, they shall be sub-grouped to RMU(s) by geographical location or tenure, and inserted in to the MU/RMU tables one by one.

Please click the add button for more MU/RMUs to be added, the total area of all MU/RMU shall be consistent with area under evaluation on page 3. In the scenario of a large number of group members, the total area can be reported at group entity level with total area of members.

The figures below reflect the productive forest land only. The low-productive forest land, where no commercial activities are undertaken is certified and is important from the perspective of overall ecological structure of the lands. See appendix with separated information per FMU:s.

i. MU/RMU					
2.37 MU/RMU name	Sweden	2.38 Tenure-ownership	State	2.39 Tenure-management	State
2.40 Centroid Longitude*	16.045310	2.41 Centroid Latitude*	61.829207	2.42 SLIMF type	Non-SLIMF
2.43 Plantation area	0.0 ha	2.44 Replanted forest area	487541 ha	2.45 Natural regenerated forest area	57209 ha
2.46 Conservation area	259130 ha	2.47 Strictly protected area	198508 ha	2.48 NTFP area	0 ha

2.49 Total area of MU/RMU (automated)	3036572 ha	2.50 Annual allowable cut (AAC)	6253000 m3	2.51 Area with ecosystem services claim#	0 ha
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HCV list			
2.52 Main HCV attribute	2.53 Secondary HCV attribute #	2.54 HCV area	2.55 HCV description
HCV1 Species diversity	Choose an item.	63900 ha	a) concentration of Woodland Key Habitats,
HCV2 Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics	Choose an item.	58500 ha	b) subalpine forests of category 1 and 2, at altitudes above the nature conservation boundary
HCV4 Critical ecosystem services	HCV5 Community needs	31400 ha	c) defined water protection areas
HCV1 Species diversity	HCV3 Ecosystems and habitats	207500 ha	d) wetlands of national and international significance
HCV1 Species diversity	HCV3 Ecosystems and habitats	174900 ha	e) water environments of particular national value
HCV1 Species diversity	HCV2 Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics	277800 ha	f) Natura 2000 areas, nature reserves, and cultural reserves
HCV5 Community needs	HCV6 Cultural values	16100 ha	g) sites of special significance for the Sami
HCV6 Cultural values	Choose an item.	45700 ha	h) registered archaeological monuments and cultural remains of nation-wide interest

Note: The secondary HCV attribute should be completed only if two HCV attributes overlap in the same area, e.g. one piece of land is qualifies as both HCV 3 and 4. Please add rows for boundary separated HCV areas.

Forest management group			
Total number of group members	Click or tap here to enter text.	Maximum manageable number of group members	Click or tap here to enter text.
Number of members sampled annually by group entity	Click or tap here to enter text.	Sampling system implemented by the group entity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 stratified sampling <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> 3 random sampling <input type="checkbox"/> 4 systematic sampling

Click or tap here to enter text.

Group member list

Group member Name	public contact	address	Email (if available)	sub-code (if applicable)	forest area
Click or tap here to enter text.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text. ha

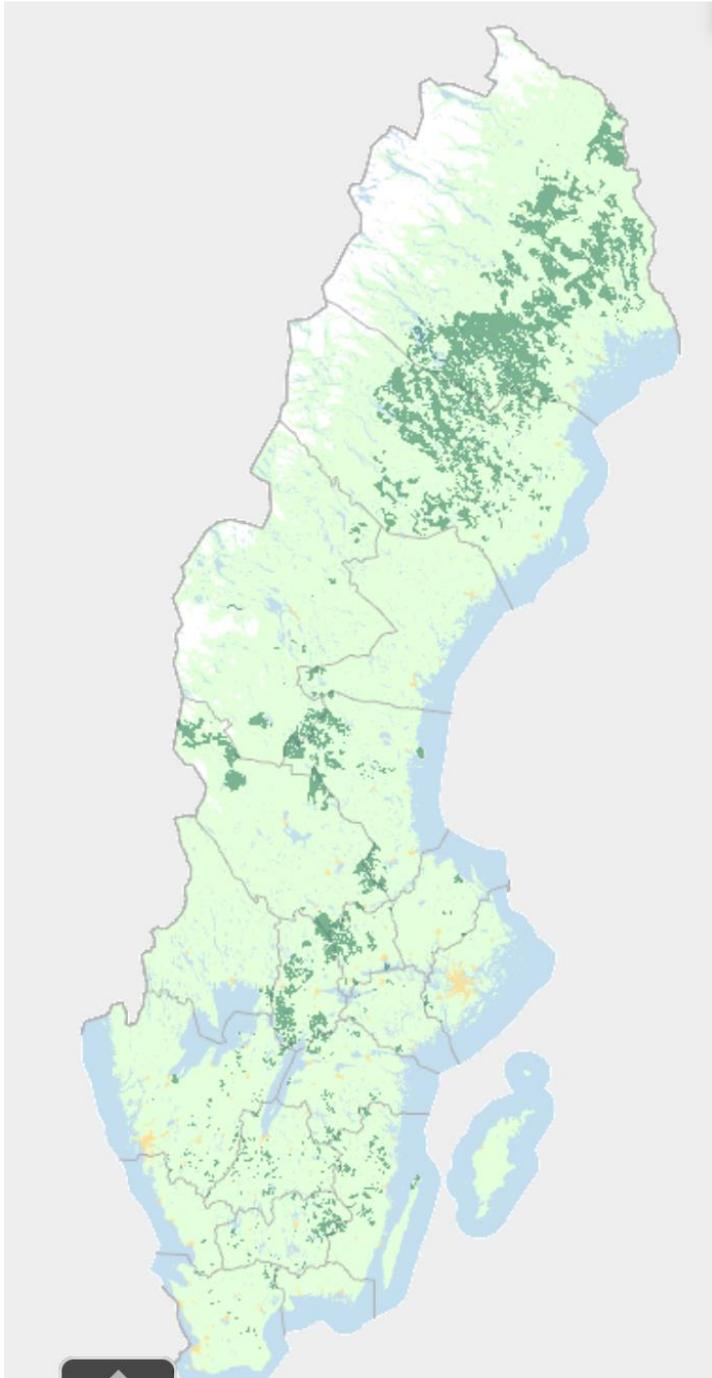


Figure 1. Forest Map of the Management unit.

Samebyar



Figure 2. Map of the Sámi villages in Sweden – explanation on the right shows Sami villages and Concession Sami villages. Source: The Sami Parliament, illustrator Anders Sunesson.

3. Standard(s)

3.1 Standard(s) used for evaluation	FM standard type: National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) based on V5 Related standards: <input type="checkbox"/> Trademark standard FSC-STD-50-001 <input type="checkbox"/> Group standard FSC-STD-30-005 <input type="checkbox"/> ES procedure FSC-PRO-30-006
3.2 Reference to FM standard used	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 Follow up audit for the verification of corrective actions to non-conformities on indicators 2.5.1, 6.2.1., 6.5.3
3.3 http link to the standard used	https://se.fsc.org/se-se/standarder/skogsbruksstandard-2020
3.4 If applicable, the adaptation process of CB interim standard*	N/A

4. The evaluation process

The evaluation dates

4.1 Audit start date	May 2, 2022
4.2 Audit finish date	May 6, 2022
4.3 Total person days	7 Man days

Note: The total person days spent on the evaluation including time spent on remote work and time spent carrying out on-site work (incl. review of documents and records, interviewing stakeholders), but excluding travel to and from the region in which the certified forest is located.

Personnel/audit team\$

4.4 Name	4.5 Role	4.6 Person days	4.7 Expertise	4.8 Auditor UAN	4.9 Profile (brief introduction of the person)
Julia Lenkkeri	Team leader	5	Forestry	Click or tap here to enter text.	MSc in Forest ecology. More than 10 years of experience from FSC forest certification.
External expert at Swedish Forest Agency	Team member	2,5	Ecology	Click or tap here to enter text.	Experts in conservation value assessment, experience since 30 years in NVA at Swedish Forest Agency.

Sampling and documents

4.10 Sampling system employed for the audit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 stratified sampling <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cluster sampling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 random sampling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 systematic sampling
4.11 Rationale for selection of MU/ members	<p>Determined in compliance with FSC-STD-20-007 v3.0 . 2 out of 5 MU were visited.</p> <p>Sveaskog has 5 FMU:s. RO Norrbotten. RO Västerbotten. RO Södra Norrland. RO Bergslagen and RO Götaland</p> <p>The selected MU:s for this audit were RO Bergslagen and RO Götaland. The selection is partly steered by possibilities to visit field objects in the bare soil period and perform conservation value assessments in this time of the year.</p> <p>Sites related to stakeholder feedback to Sveaskog and Bureau Veritas were selected.</p> <p>Sites were chosen to reflect different aspects of the verification of corrective actions to the open non-conformities, such as planned fellings, new set aside areas, sites where a conservation value assessment according to the new methodology had been made. The risk of logging in valuable habitats was considered in the sampling.</p>
4.12 Documentation reviewed during this audit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 copies of applicable laws <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 long term management plan(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 technical management guides relating to operations <input type="checkbox"/> 4 concession agreements <input type="checkbox"/> 5 documentation showing tenure or land-use rights <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 up to date maps of roads, management sites, etc <input type="checkbox"/> 7 inventory records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 work instructions <input type="checkbox"/> 9 contractor contracts <input type="checkbox"/> 10 agreements with affected local communities <input type="checkbox"/> 11 agreements with affected Indigenous Peoples, etc <input type="checkbox"/> 12 records of payments of royalties, fees, or taxes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13 records of complaints/disputes and resolution <input type="checkbox"/> 14 records of payments to workers <input type="checkbox"/> 15 wildlife evaluation records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16 environmental impacts monitoring records <input type="checkbox"/> 17 social impact survey results <input type="checkbox"/> 18 results of monitoring forest growth and health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19 harvesting and production records <input type="checkbox"/> 20 chemical use records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 21 communications with stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> 22 purchasing and sales documentation

4.13 Additional techniques employed for evaluation*	Use of external expert for audit of the conservation value assessment methodology
4.14 Number of accidents since previous audit	Not relevant
4.15 Average wage for male workers including contractors \$#	Click or tap here to enter text.
4.16 Average wage for female workers including contractors \$#	Click or tap here to enter text.
4.17 Total local employment since previous audit (persons year) \$#	Click or tap here to enter text.
4.18 Indirect surcharge for FSC certification since previous audit \$#	Click or tap here to enter text.
4.19 Number of Stakeholders affected by operations since previous audit/year \$#	Click or tap here to enter text.
4.20 List of compensation provided to local communities with regard to the impacts of management activities \$#	Click or tap here to enter text.

4.21 Document name and date reviewed during this audit – exact document names are given in separate checklist

1. Procedures and instructions for FSC FM management
2. Conservation value assessments, instructions and monitoring plans
3. Corrective Action clearance evidence
4. Forest Management Plan
5. Operational Activity Summary
6. Training records and materials
7. Stakeholder feedback records
8. Harvest Plans
9. Monitoring reports

Audit itinerary					
4.22 Audit date	4.23 Hours	4.24 MUs or members	4.25 Activities	4.26 Site detail	4.27 Site type
May 2, 2022	4	RO Bergslagen	Site visit, interviews, document review	Stakeholder feedback, visiting concerned sites located in Hugelsta and Strängnäs	X Protected area x Production forest area

May 3, 2022	8	Central Opening meeting; management	Interviews, documents review	<p>Review of corrective measures designed by the CH to close the open major NC:s Standard indicators 2.5.1 and 6.2.1.</p> <p>Stakeholder feedback from consultation - evidence relating to the sites mentioned by stakeholders.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office
May 4, 2022	8	RO Götaland	Site visits, documents review, interviews with the staff	<p>Verification of the CVA methodology and knowledge of the management planners and staff</p> <p>Following sites were selected for field verification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skiren, Oscarshamn, Kalmar län. Verification of a site that was part of the the major NC from last audit - sites that have been set aside as a result of the corrective measures - sites that were analysed but will be logged - sites that need to be further analysed in field - sites where the new conservation value assessment has been used - Logged site for verification soil damage 	<input type="checkbox"/> Seed orchards <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Production forest area <input type="checkbox"/> Workers' amenities <input type="checkbox"/> Areas used by local communities and IP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water courses <input type="checkbox"/> Forest roads <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical storage sites <input type="checkbox"/> HCVs <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring sites <input type="checkbox"/> Office
May 5, 2022	8	RO Bergslagen	Site visits, documents review, interviews with the staff	<p>Verification of the CVA methodology and knowledge of the management planners and staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sites that have been set aside as a result of the corrective measures - sites that were analysed but will be logged - sites that need to be further analysed in field - sites where the new conservation value assessment has been used 	<input type="checkbox"/> Seed orchards <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Production forest area <input type="checkbox"/> Areas used by local communities and IP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water courses <input type="checkbox"/> Forest roads <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical storage sites <input type="checkbox"/> HCVs <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring sites <input type="checkbox"/> Office

May 6, 2022	1	Digital meeting	Office	Closing meeting of the audit	
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Stakeholder consultation process

4.28 First stakeholder consultation date for this audit	March 18, 2022
4.29 Means of engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> Face to face meetings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contacted by phone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email, or letter <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in the national and/or local press <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published on relevant websites <input type="checkbox"/> Local radio announcements <input type="checkbox"/> Local customary notice boards <input type="checkbox"/> Social media broadcast
4.30 Engaged stakeholder groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic interests <input type="checkbox"/> Social interests <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental interests <input type="checkbox"/> FSC-accredited certification bodies active in the country <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National and state forest agencies <input type="checkbox"/> Experts with expertise in controlled wood categories <input type="checkbox"/> Research institutions and universities <input type="checkbox"/> FSC regional offices, FSC network partners, registered standard development groups and NRA working groups in the region <input type="checkbox"/> Forest workers, contractors <input type="checkbox"/> Local communities, residents

Stakeholder comments

4.31 Stakeholder group	4.32 Stakeholder description	4.33 Stakeholder's comment	4.34 Notified before audit	4.35 Interviewed during this audit	4.36 CB's follow up
Environmental interests	NGO	1. We have on several occasions requested to read Sveaskog's older audit reports. This is because Sveaskog, unlike other certificate holders, only has audit reports from 2018 onwards stored in the database. The first email was sent on 25 October 2021 and the last reminder was sent on 10 February 2022. The fact that Sveaskog does not	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. The certificate holder is not the owner and rights holder to the reports and has therefore not seen the question as belonging to them. The public audit reports are stored in the FSC Database. It is the responsibility of the certification body to publish the reports from the current certification cycle. The CB is not aware of any normative requirement to publish old reports. The question has been

respond to a request from a stakeholder despite several reminders is not in line with indicator 4.6.1.

2. Felling notifications and actual fellings of previously registered key biotopes, currently create a distrust of FSC-certified forestry that damages the credibility of the FSC system. These are areas that the certificate holders have previously excluded from production due to their high natural values, but which at a later stage are reclassified to production forests available for final felling. We would like to inform you about two felling reports in Pajala municipality that partly overlap with previously registered key biotopes: A 59882-2021 and A 59889-2021. Also the presence of Nature 2000 area close to A 59882-2021 should be observed and the question is why County Administrative Board has not been contacted.

3. The lack of comprehensive knowledge regarding biologically valuable forests is a major problem in Swedish forestry, even in the FSC-certified. For example, all FSC-certified forest owners undertake to exclude key biotopes (according to the 1995 definition and method) from production-oriented forestry. At the same time, only about half of the key biotope area is estimated to be registered and recent surveys show that at least in northwestern Sweden there is a significant felling of key biotopes. In this context, so-called objects with natural values are interesting, as experience shows that such areas can in practice have natural

discussed between the NGO and BV in a meeting.

2. For the felling notifications in Pajala municipality (A 59882-2021 and A 59889-2021) Sveaskog has followed the procedure for consultation with the Swedish Forest Agency before felling in previously registered woodland key habitats. The felling notifications belong to the project that was undertaken in year 2020 concerning the verification of woodland key habitats and correcting possibly incorrectly classified biotopes.

Concerning these two objects a formal letter from the Forest Agency is available, stating the result from the field visits with a statement that these forests are production forests (dd 4.11.2020).

As there is a Natura 2000 area bordering to the logging A 59882-2021 Sveaskog was notified of the presence of the Natura 2000 from the Forest Agency in a letter.

Responsibilities between agencies (County Administrative Board and Forest Agency) concerning Natura 2000 areas has been subject to changes. At the time when the felling notification was filed, it was the Forest Agency's responsibility to communicate with forest owner in case planned forest management measures will impact the protected values. This is also said in the letter from SFA. The County Administrative Board is responsible for overseeing other activities than forest management, that could impact the values in a Natura 2000 area. The Forest Agency should contact the County Administrative Board in case they observe any threat to nature values. The procedure is under revision and might differ in different regions of Sweden.

		<p>values corresponding to key biotope quality. With this in mind, we would like to enlighten you on felling notification A 30798-2021 in Överkalix municipality which concerns an object with natural value. The notification refers to the notification of final felling. The nature value object covers most of the notified area (see map) and Sveaskog has only pointed out a small part of the nature value object as a consideration in the notification to the Swedish Forest Agency.</p>			<p>3: The object in Överkalix municipality (A 30798-2021) has previously been classified as an object of natural value and has not carried the status of woodland key habitat. It was visited by the Forest Agency in June 2018 and the delineations of the consideration area on the logging were agreed in field. The e-mail from Forest Agency expert to Sveaskog states the nature values and the outcome of the field inspection. The auditor contacted the expert at the Forest Agency to receive more detailed information on the nature values and their distribution. The Forest Agency's expert confirmed that the values were found only in the wet parts of the compartment and that they are delineated out from the planned logging and the values will be preserved when following the logging plan.</p>
Environmental interests	NGO	<p>During several audits back in time, Sveaskog has received both serious and minor deviations linked to a lack of conservation value assessment in connection with planned fellings. The majority of these are deviations that have been discovered by the non-profit nature conservation and the areas would therefore most likely have been felled today if non-profit organizations would not have reacted. It is obvious that the measures that Sveaskog has taken so far in connection to all previous non-conformities have not been sufficient. Sveaskog's measures should therefore this time include completely new working methods and competencies at the company, not least linked to good species knowledge among those who make conservation value assessments. Non-profit</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Bureau Veritas will not comment on the NGO's allegations concerning past assessments, as the outcome can be freely evaluated by all parties in the certification process.</p> <p>The audit team has assessed the two logging plans raised as concerns by the stakeholders and visited the sites in field.</p> <p>1. Strängnäs, Eskilstuna.</p> <p>No felling notification filed as the site was not planned for final felling. The estate where this compartment is located has been purchased some years ago by Sveaskog. No conservation value assessment has been made yet. In the southern part of the compartment there was bark beetle infection of spruces (age 70 years) on ca 0,5 ha. A plan to take out the damaged trees was put in to action in 2020. The plan was not executed in the time frame planned and since then the trees are considered dead</p>

nature conservation examines only a fraction of the company's felling plans each year, yet remarkably many shortcomings are found. We know nothing about the dark figure, however, we know that the result of Sveaskog's lack of assessments is that forests with very high natural values are felled and sold as certified timber. This greatly undermines the credibility of the FSC system.

In addition to the above, two more incidents have been documented. One is about a planned felling in a natural forest (see appendix 1). The area has not yet been reported for felling, but has nevertheless been delineated in the field for felling. Sveaskog has replied to the complainant that the planning is not complete. Given that the area is very small in size, it is difficult for the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation to see that Sveaskog intended to return to the area to make detailed planning.

The second is about a *Goodyera repens*- site where Sveaskog has cut a tractor road straight through a rich occurrence of the orchid. The area that was felled was also part of a natural coniferous forest with high natural values. Why did the company choose to pull the road straight through a protected natural forest with abundant occurrences of the knee when there were other alternatives that would not risk damaging high natural values.

Finally, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation also wants to point out the fact that

wood and should not be taken out. The bands in field mark the base road (skid road) that was planned to be opened to the bark beetle infected area. The information on protected species/ indicator species findings (*Goodyera repens*, *Pyrola chlorantha*) was received from stakeholders after the logging planning. Considering the species information and the old pine trees located in the northern part of the stand, the site will now be protected as a set-aside by Sveaskog.

2. Hugelsta, Eskilstuna.

A base road has been opened to a thinning site. The base road is not located in a protected area. It consists of a narrow strip with 90 year old mixed forest located between two protected forest areas. The protected forests are pine dominated forest aged +150 years on stony hills. The road is 4 meters wide, meaning that not many trees have been removed in order to open the road. Living orchides were found by the auditor on the borders of the road and outside of the road. The auditor considers that the orchide population will not be harmed in this operation, that can be considered lighter in effect than most selective cuttings. The skidding would of course break the soil and harm single individuals of the population, but the population itself should not be effected significantly. In case this should be considered a violation against principle 1 for adherence to law (Species Protection Ordinance (2007: 845), the case should be investigated by authority. A certification body is not the party to undertake an investigation or make interpretations of adherence to law other than in already decided cases or evident violations of law. The certificate holder shall consider information of *known* redlisted species according to the standard and shall respect all statutory and legal requirements for protecting

Sveaskog was recently been convicted of a species protection crime in Västerbotten. In this case, the court came to the conclusion that Sveaskog could not be considered to have done what could reasonably be required of them to prevent the intervention.

Given the above and the fact that Sveaskog has for a long time been allowed to continue felling forests within the framework of the certification, despite inadequate nature conservation assessments and despite insufficient corrective measures, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation believes that the need to close the two serious deviations is now greater than it would have been if the instances would have been graded and sanctioned correctly from the beginning.

species listed in the Species Directive. The orchides were not registered in Artportalen at the time of opening the base road.

The certificate holder has left the logged trees on site and has stopped the further use of the road.

This stakeholder input is connected to a complaint concerning soil damages on the adjacent thinning site (see complaint table below). The first base road to be used, passing the forest patch with 90-year old trees, was an adaptation to prevent soil damage. When the orchide *Goodyera repens* was then found by the NGO on this base road it was not used, but an alternative base road had to be used where passages across water were needed. The complaint concerning soil damages (see below) is connected to the use of this second base road.

There is currently a prohibition of use of the area (that came after the logging permit and the thinning operation) because of a new nature reserve. Thus the thinning will not be finalized and the base road will not be used.

3. The case that stakeholders raise, where Sveaskog has been convicted for a species protection crime in Västerbotten, will be handled in the upcoming surveillance audit as it is not connected to the non-conformities audited in this Follow-up audit. It does not concern forest land or an area that is subject to conservation value assessment.

Complaint(s) received

4.37 Recei ved date	4.38 Firs t rec eive d by	4.39 Compl ainant	4.40 Complaint detail	4.41 Open/ Close d	4.42 Actions	4.43 Close date	Close
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Choose an item.		----		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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Mar 2, 2022	CH	Local E-NGO	<p>On February 10, 2022, we made a species inventory in Hugelsta outside Eskilstuna (Kafjårdsskogen 1: 2) in a bedrock forest where Sveaskog is the landowner. Sveaskog was contacted immediately, and felling was stopped temporarily.</p> <p>Sveaskog continued to fell the following days, it was a thinning of young forest, but in the young forest we found Green shield moss which was reported directly on Artportalen. Sveaskog chose a new base road to transport the timber, but it has low bearing capacity, wet soil and a lot of organic material, which led to severe driving damage. Right next to the driving damage, a ditch runs parallel, a drainage from Härsmossen which later flows into a swamp (Enebyhörnet) The risk of nutrient leakage, humus, heavy metals and toxic mercury into the watercourse is great. I met the felling manager on site yesterday 28 / 2-2022, and they were going to repair the driving damage, but the damage has already happened, and the risk is great that it will be even worse when they dig around with an excavator.</p>	Closed	<p>The auditor inspected the site. No evidence of erosion was found in the ditches and the ditch walls were in order. The area is not classified as a recreational area or a valuable habitat. The ditches were heavily overgrown with vegetation in the down stream, also it was totally dry in the diches down stream in the spring time when audit was and the ditches did not show marks of being actively used as a water way. The auditor does not see it as probable that the waters would reach Enebyhörnet in large amounts or would affect the swamp negatively. Sedimantation and absorption from vegetation will happen. This case is not easy to determine objectively as the soil damage from driving has been</p>	May 6, 2022	
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				fixed by Sveaskog and the result looks good.
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5. Corrective actions from previous audit that were verified in this follow-up audit

Non-conformity raised in previous audit – Complementary audit 2021			
Finding No.	1.	Due date	May 14, 2022
Grading	Major	Open / closed	Closed
Standard	National or CB FM standard - NFSS	Clause	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW 6.2.1
Requirement			
<p>6.2.1 A conservation value assessment is conducted and documented as part of the site planning, generally when the ground is free from snow cover, prior to regeneration felling, final thinning and forest road construction.</p> <p>DIRECTIVES 6.2.1 AND 6.2.2: To achieve sufficient consistency and a reliable result, the methodology for assessing conservation values shall be well structured and tested, and include appropriate instructions for application.</p>			
Description of audit finding			
<p>A number of felling reports have been withdrawn due to external complaints received by Sveaskog. Since spring 2021, several of the objects have been allocated within the new strategic program for protecting continuity forests in northwestern Sweden, which is positive., However, they were reported for felling and might have been felled without external activity. Such cases are Guttuån, Skiren and Knäberget. The felling notifications have been withdrawn before external audit and nature values have not been harmed.</p> <p>20 complaints concerning forests that have been reported for felling, have been received by Bureau Veritas. Out of these, five cases have been assessed by the Swedish Forest Agency on request from BV. All five cases have proven to be correctly assessed by Sveaskog and are production forests. Three of the 20 complaints, Guttuån, Skiren and Knäberget have been set aside after external activity already before the external audit. This deviation concerns forests that Sveaskog has not assessed correctly, and which now will be set aside.</p> <p>Please also see complaint management table for further information on the cases.</p> <p>The overall analysis of deviations that affect woodland key biotopes reported for felling or downgrading of these during the ongoing certification cycle indicates that there are shortcomings in the system of performing conservation value assessments that have not been effectively corrected. The shortcomings discovered during the certification cycle are individual cases. They still indicate the risk of possible more cases of incorrect conservation value assessments, when the scope of Sveaskog's activities is taken into account. A major non-conformity is thus justified. This is not a typical system failure as there is regular calibration and training of personnel in place and the conservation value assessment system itself provides a good basis for identifying conservation values in accordance with the requirements of the FSC standard. The reason for the incorrect assessments is not obvious and the situation requires a thorough overall analysis by the organization.</p>			
Corrective action taken by the auditee			

1. Review of notified fellings (traktbanksgenomgång)

The review aimed to identify among the already planned objects for fellings, those that could accommodate high nature values and woodland key habitats, that have not been identified correctly previously. The review was performed risk-based and systematically for all loggings.

A large number of parameters both inside and outside the stands were used in the search, in order to find the objects that potentially could host high nature values. Among others large proportion of consideration patches in the stand, species occurrence, stand age and closeness to protected areas were used in the search. The objects that were identified were paused for fellings.

Within each geographic region a group of experts was appointed with the task of analyzing the objects that were identified in the review. The analysis of all objects was made with the support of a dedicated guiding document, developed for the purpose and with an associated checklist.

The analysis was documented at object level and the objects were sorted into three categories: 1) felling, 2) field inspection needed and 3) set aside because of high natural values.

The field inspections have started in May 2022 and will be finalized during the bare soil period 2022, with the newly developed methodology (see below). During the field inspections, it should be decided whether the respective felling can be carried out according to existing planning, or whether the planning needs to be changed or if the area is to be set aside for nature conservation.

The audit team could verify a number of NVA performed with the new methodology in field.

Special rules have been applied for ongoing felling plans during the period from the start of the review. New objects have been checked against the same parameters and guidance used in the review described above. Objects that have given results according to the checklist and they have been handed over to appointed group working with the review for a second opinion. The same procedure has applied when an object is to change status from pre-planned to available for felling in the system.

Documentation

- *Guidance for the review of planned fellings*
- *Checklist for ongoing planning and change of status of objects*
- *Results of the review*

2. Development of methodology for conservation value assessment

The purpose of the development project has been to create better conditions for identifying high nature values with better precision in connection with felling planning. Important focus areas have been:

- Management of stratified and differently aged forests
- Identification of consideration-demanding biotopes ("hänsynskrävande biotoper" in Swedish) and woodland key habitats
- Consideration of species, especially those associated with consideration-demanding biotopes
- Synchronization with the methodology for conservation value assessment used by the Swedish Forest Agency

The development of the methodology can be described in two steps. First, the so-called ratings of nature value potential (numerical grade) were subject to both change and calibration. Secondly two new modules were implemented, which now are important parts of Sveaskog's methodology.

The first module is based on the Swedish Forest Agency's current method for assessing nature values in their supervisory work and provides support for assessing consideration-demanding biotopes. It provides the description of 27 different consideration-demanding biotopes and the species that can be related to each of them. Also the second module is from the Swedish Forest Agency and includes support for evaluating certain particularly important characteristics of the forest that indicate high natural values.

The Swedish Forest Agency does no longer use the term woodland key habitat. The Agency's new way of working aims to identify consideration-demanding biotopes with high nature values instead. When the biotopes have very high natural values, they correspond well to what have previously been called woodland key habitat by the Agency. This is hence the way that Sveaskog now uses to consider the FSC standard requirement concerning woodland key habitats.

Development of Sveaskog's method for evaluating and rating nature conservation parameters has also been made. The nature conservation parameters are a measure of the presence of structures that indicate good conditions for biological diversity and hence high nature values. For example, a number of threshold values have been harmonized with the Swedish Forest Agency's way of classifying and measuring different structure, such as dead wood. Furthermore the practical inventory work methods have been adapted to how the Swedish Forest Agency works when they inventory natural values.

In summary the new methodology consists of three interacting parts that provide more stability and precision when assessing nature values.

The methodology has been presented and discussed at several meetings with the Swedish Forest Agency's specialists.

A digital application for field use will support the new way of working and is launched in the second half of May. The application will both guide and facilitate the work in the field. The flow in the tool follows the decided working method and all inventory data is saved, both at the sample plot level as well as at the integrated object level.

Documentation

- *New instruction for conservation value assessment in Sveaskog*
- *The Swedish Forest Agency's working method for inventory of consideration-demanding biotopes*
- *Conservation value assessment checklists for Northern and Southern Sweden*

3. Monitoring

The monitoring plan aims to ensure that natural values are identified in the correct manner as well as ensuring that the staff that carry out the natural value assessments are able to correctly use the methodology.

A concept for monitoring is produced including the following parts:

- 1) Follow-up meetings in the field with management planners,
- 2) Enhanced monitoring of planning loggings
- 3) Impact evaluation of developed conservation value assessment and
- 4) Exchange of experience with the Swedish Forest Agency

The follow-up meetings will take place locally in the regular work areas and will start when the major part of the field educations have been completed. The focus for the follow-up meetings will be to exchange experiences and calibrate aspects that are crucial in the assessments.

The enhanced monitoring of planning is based on the already existing model for monitoring of logging planning, which is supplemented with an in-depth section on conservation value assessment. A competency description regarding what knowledge and experience is needed to make the follow-ups is developed.

In the impact evaluation, the developed conservation value assessment will be compared with the previous methodology by looking at the outcome of these two in objects that have fallen out to field

inspections in the review previously planned object (see above). Together with the results from monitorings, will provide a basis for further development of the methodology.

The exchange of experience with the Swedish Forest Agency will focus on the application of the Agency's model for identifying consideration-demanding biotopes and the outcome of the same. The exchange is planned for the autumn/winter of 2022.

Documentation

- *Instruction for the monitoring of logging planning*
- *Checklist for monitoring of natural value assessment quality*

CB's review to corrective actions

Bureau Veritas reviewed the risk based analysis of notified loggings (traktbanksgenomgång) as well as instructions, monitoring plans and evidence of trainings held.

BV and the external expert from the Forest Agency reviewed the new NVA methodology in office and conducted field visits in Götaland and Bergslagen RO:s. according to a risk based approach.

Parameters such as high stand age, result of previous NVAs, registered species information and large proportion of consideration patches in the stands was used to select the visited sites. The following categories were chosen to for field verification:

1. Sites decided to be logged as a result of Sveaskog's risk analysis
2. Sites decided to be protected as a result of Sveaskog's risk analysis, including site that contributed to the issuance of the major NC (Skiren, Oscarshamn),
3. Sites that had been re-assessed by Sveaskog with the new NVA methodology
4. Sites informed by stakeholders to contain high values, connected to the stakeholder consultation performed prior to this audit (Hugelsta and Strängnäs).

The audit team's conclusion is that Sveaskog has taken extensive measures to develop the conservation value assessment methodology. The methodology for performing the inventory in field is systematic, the parameters used are relevant and considers species and structures better than the previous assessment. The assessment most likely capture high nature values and key biotopes. The definitions and parameters for nature values are calibrated with Skogsstyrelsen and the Recommendation for forest sector goals on consideration demanding biotopes (Målbilder för hänsynskrävande biotoper) are defined with the help of a specially developed checklist containing structures and indicators as defined by the Forest Agency. The audit team received evidence of the management planners' knowledge on nature values in field. It is important anyhow to secure the knowledge over the entire organization and continue calibration efforts. Consultation with the Forest Agency's representative was performed in connection to verification of one stakeholder complaint.

The audit team received sufficient evidence of conformity in order to close the major non-conformity. Further implementation of the corrective measures will be verified in the course of the next scheduled surveillance in autumn 2022.

Non-conformity raised in previous audit – Complementary audit 2021

Finding No.	2.	Due date	May 14, 2022
Grading	Major	Open / closed	Closed
Standard Requirement	National or CB FM standard - NFSS	Clause	FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW 2.5.1

2.5.1 Workers have relevant and up-to-date competence required for the work assignment.

Description of audit finding

Conservation value assessments are made before forestry measures, but they do not always reach the correct classification. A number of cases have been discovered where the organization has failed to identify woodland key habitats as presented in the Major NC nr 1.

Upgrading of the minor non-conformity regarding staff's competence from the complementary audit reported 24.8.2021 to a major non-conformity. There were several cases of incorrect conservation value assessments discovered in last audit and as the issue has been going on for a long time the non-conformity is classified as major. Please see further details of the non-conformity on the same issue (indicator 7.3.1 of the previous FM standard for Sweden) that is presented in section 5 of the report.

Corrective action taken by the auditee

Education program

An education program for management planners and forest management plan experts was designed to explain the reasons for changes made in the conservation assessment methodology, introduce the new parts of the methodology and to create security in the use of the methodology. The education plan also considers both the managerial perspective and the performer perspective.

The education program, with its main target group of area managers who perform the majority of Sveaskog's management planning and natural value assessments, consists of three parts: 1) theoretical education via Teams, 2) practical education in the field and 3) education in the digital field tool.

The theoretical education was completed in the weeks 16 and 17. The field education is ongoing and will be completed in the week 23. IT training is carried out during the weeks 20 and 21.

The field education was preceded by a calibration exercise in the field for the specialists and leaders concerned in the respective result area. This is to give the specialists and leaders good conditions to lead and coach their staff and the specialists the conditions to support in that work as well as to act as experts.

Established procedure for second opinion still applies if there is a need to receive support in assessments at the site level. Questions concerning the instruction are dealt with on an ongoing basis by environmental and nature conservation specialists as well as sustainability managers.

A digital field support tool is being established, that will guide the planners and make it easier to record the assessments in field.

Competence building

The overall effect of the educations, together with the corrective measures related to NC no. 1, means that the overall competence in conservation value assessment increases at both organizational and individual level in Sveaskog.

Commitment to the development of nature conservation work and collective competence building has also been generated through continuous reporting and dialogue in forums with people in senior positions. Recurring meetings have been held with managers at MO level and RO level. Sveaskog's Group Management has followed up the progress at a regular basis.

Documentation

- *Training plan for theory part and field trainings*
- *Participant list from trainings*
- *Training materials*

CB's review to corrective actions

Bureau Veritas reviewed the training materials, the participant lists and interviewed several management planners and environmental- and nature value specialists. The knowledge of the mentioned staff was verified in field during the assessment of nature values together with the external expert from the Forest Agency. It was verified that both the material and the field trainings include parts related to important indicator species and red listed species. It is relevant to note that the parameters for structures to be noted down in the assessment are the same as the Forest Agency uses in their inventories and thus are relevant and can be considered correct. The non-conformity can be closed based on evidence received.

The next stages of extensive field training programme will be continued and its progress will need to be further verified during the upcoming surveillance audit in autumn 2022, as the field season starts in May-June in Northern Sweden.

Non-conformity raised in previous audit – Complementary audit 2021

5.1 Finding No.	1 _complementary 2021	5.2 Due date	Jun 9, 2022
5.3 Grading	Minor	5.4 Open/closed	Closed
5.5 Standard	National or CB FM standard - NFSS	5.6 Clause	6.5.3.
5.7 Requirement			

FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010

6.5.3. Managers shall implement procedures for avoiding damage caused by heavy machinery, including appropriate methodology and technology for transports across watercourses.

Related requirement in FSC-STD-SWE-03-2019 SW is clause 6.7.6.

5.8 Description of audit finding

Soil damage has not been avoided in one logging in Hedlandet nature reserve.

Objective evidence:

The damage has occurred on wet ground and in an area of importance to outdoor life. No direct runoff to water courses could be identified despite of the claim.

5.9 Corrective action taken by the auditee

Sveaskog has educated all logging machine operators in the management units till the end of May 2022. Logging managers and planning staff of Sveaskog have been taken part in the courses. The content of the courses was to repeat and teach participants in Sveaskogs methodology for avoiding soil damages, called MMM (soil, machine and people). The method gives guidance on how to approach and deal with challenging circumstances, such as places where creeks or ditches need to be crossed and ground with poor carrying capacity, to avoid soil damages in the forest. The courses created awareness on definition of different types of soil damages, as wells as the importance of communication and cooperation with the machine crew and other colleagues in the logging chain. Participants received a summarizing folder to have in the machine.

Improvements were made in the machines map application and a new educational film has been made for the internal digital information and educational channel Skötselskolan, that is compulsory to all new machine operators. Internal audits especially targeted for this subject were made in field in order to verify the effectiveness of the training.

5.10 CB's review to corrective actions

Evidence: updated map application for machine operators Maskin GIS, training programme, participant register, information folder to machine operators, monitoring results (checked the ones performed on 7.12.2021, 3.12.2021).

Auditor verified the improved machines map application and visited newly harvested sites. The loggings were made without soil damages. The auditor also interviewed logging planners. The auditor concludes that the NC can be closed based on sufficient evidence of corrective actions.

Observation raised in previous audit – Complementary audit 2021

5.1 Finding No.	3_complementary 2021	5.2 Due date	Click or tap to enter a date.
5.3 Grading	Obs	5.4 Open/closed	Closed
5.5 Standard	National or CB FM standard - NFSS	5.6 Clause	2.2.2

5.7 Requirement

FSC-STD-SWE-02-04-2010

2.2.2S. Managers shall respect everyone's right to pick wild berries, mushrooms and flowers in the forest in line with Sweden's Right of Public Access.

5.8 Description of audit finding

The way and content of communication sent by (or on behalf of) certificate holder to the stakeholders regarding the current phase in planning of wind power establishment, is not always clear and consistent. The relevant information- if there is a contract established for the use of the area or not, has been subject to misunderstandings.

- Clear contact information of the landowner is not easily accessible. Instead, reference is made to the website, from where the information can be found, but this information is not included in the letter sent to stakeholders as well. <https://www.sveaskog.se/om-sveaskog/var-verksamhet/vindkraft/>

Review of the complaint concerning wind power establishment at Galmsjömyran.

5.9 Corrective action taken by the auditee

The contact information to the land owner Sveaskog will be displayed with e-mail and tel. nr in coming projects. A timeline showing the different steps in the planning procedure and where we are now will be added to the consultation letter.

5.10 CB's review to corrective actions

BV inspected evidences related to the corrective actions. Letter sent to stakeholders for the wind power plant planning Ommaberget, Tranemo municipality (17.9.2021). BV can conclude that the contact information to the land owner is clearly presented in the letter and clear indication of the stage of the project is presented.

6. Observations

Clear and systematic presentation of the observations and considerations on which the certification decision is based at criterion level, including findings of both conformities and nonconformities.

6.1 No.	6.2 Clause	6.3 Summary of findings for the criteria selected for evaluation in this audit
2.5.1	Workers have relevant and up-to-date competence required for the work assignment.	A minor non-conformity (NC02) identified during the complementary audit 2021 was upgraded to a major non-conformity (NC02) during the last surveillance audit. The non-conformity addresses the knowledge of staff regarding identification of high nature values in performing the conservation value assessment. The non-conformity was closed during this assessment. Please see the actions taken and the conclusion of the audit team in part 5 of this report.
6.2.1.	A conservation value assessment is conducted and documented as part of the site planning, generally when the ground is free from snow cover, prior to regeneration felling, final thinning and forest road construction.	<p>A conservation value assessment (CVA), also called conservation value assessment (NVA), is conducted and documented as part of the site planning when performing final fellings, thinnings or road construction.</p> <p>A major non-conformity (NC01) was issued in last surveillance audit. The overall analysis of non-conformities that affect woodland key biotopes reported for felling or downgrading of these during the ongoing certification cycle indicates that there are shortcomings in the system of performing conservation value assessments that have not been effectively corrected.</p> <p>The non-conformity was closed during this assessment, please see further details in part of the report.</p> <p>The methodology for conservation value assessment has been presented and discussed with Swedish Forest Agency. Calibration and monitoring of the quality of NVAs is undertaken. The auditor contacted the Forest Agency during the assessment to verify the conclusion from their side regarding one stakeholder complaint. The outcome was that Sveaskog had planned the logging correctly taking in account the nature values present on the site and that the entire compartment was not a woodland key habitat.</p>
10.10	The Organization shall manage infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture so that water resources and soils are protected, and disturbance of and damage to rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values are prevented, mitigated and/or repaired	<p>A minor non-conformity (NC01 complementary audit 2021) was raised regarding soil disturbance in an area important for recreation. The corrective actions are presented in part 5 of the report.</p> <p>One complaint related to soil disturbance and leakage of nutrients to water bodies was verified (complaint 1 of this report).</p> <p>The procedures established and the updated training given to the machine groups and staff of Sveaskog confirms that logging, soil scarification and road constructions are carried out so that soil damages will be avoided.</p>

7. Audit findings

No new non-conformities have been identified during this audit.

8. Certification decision

Peer review			
8.1 Review date	8.2 Peer reviewer	8.3 Peer reviewer expertise	8.4 Peer reviewer's comment
Click or tap to enter a date.			

Note: Peer review is only applicable for main evaluation.

Certification decision	
8.5 Difficulties identified during the evaluation	The major Non-conformities were due to be closed on 14th of May, 2022, while the high field season starts at the same time in northern part of Sweden. Therefore, the organization will further implement the new conservation value assessment approach in a larger scale than at the time of audit. This further implementation will be scrutinized in the upcoming surveillance audit in autumn 2022.
8.6 Conditions (corrections of minor non-conformities) or pre-conditions (corrections of major non-conformities) associated with the certification decision	The two major non-conformities and the one minor non-conformity is closed.
8.7 Auditor recommendation for the certificate holder's management system and performance	The lead auditor recommends the certificate to be maintained valid.
8.8 Certification decision	Maintain
8.9 Decision detail	Bureau Veritas Certification decides that FSC FM certificate of SVEASKOG FÖRVALTNINGS AB, Sweden, remains valid. Two Major non-conformities were addressed by the certificate holder and implementation of corrective measures was confirmed in the course of complementary audit. There are minor non-conformities which shall be closed by specified deadlines.
8.10 Decision date	May 13, 2022
8.11 Decision making entity	FSC FM HUB of Bureau Veritas Certification

