



FSC Controlled Wood risk assessment

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

INTERPRETATION OF ANNEX 2B OF THE STANDARD FOR COMPANY EVALUATION OF FSC  
CONTROLLED WOOD FOR NEW ZEALAND  
(FSC-STD-40-005-V-2.1)

**Version:** Final

**Approval date:** 04 July 2014

**National Approval:** 13 June 2014

**International Approval** FSC International Center: Policy and Standards  
Unit

**Contact Person:** Alistair Monument

**Email address:** a.monument@fsc.org

Summary of risk for New Zealand

Controlled Wood categories		Risk level
1	Illegally harvested wood	Low
2	Wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights	Low
3	Wood harvested in forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities	Low
4	Wood harvested in forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use	Low
5	Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted	Low

Geographic scope: New Zealand

Types of forests: All

Control Wood categories: All



New Zealand Controlled Wood Risk Assessment

July 2014

Districts: NEW ZEALAND (country)

Requirements	FSC Indicator	Sources of information	Evidence	Risk
<p><b>1. Illegally Harvested Wood</b> The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to illegal harvesting when all the following indicators related to forest governance are present:</p>	<p>1.1 Evidence of enforcement of logging related laws in the district</p>	<p><b>1.1.1</b> The NZ Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) (<a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/about-mpi/legislation">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/about-mpi/legislation</a>)</p> <p><b>1.1.2</b> Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) (<a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM230265.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM230265.html</a>)</p> <p><b>1.1.3.</b> Conservation Act 1987 (<a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1987/0065/latest/DLM103610.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1987/0065/latest/DLM103610.html</a>)</p> <p><b>1.1.4</b> NZ Forests Act 1949 (<a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1949/0019/latest/DLM255626.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1949/0019/latest/DLM255626.html</a>)</p> <p><b>1.1.5</b> NZ Crimes Act 1961 (<a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1961/0043/latest/whole.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1961/0043/latest/whole.html</a>)</p> <p><b>1.1.6</b> Health and Safety in Employment Act (<a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1992/0096/latest/DLM278829.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1992/0096/latest/DLM278829.html</a>)</p> <p><b>1.1.7</b> An Everyday Guide to the Resource Management Act (<a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everyday/enforcement/">http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everyday/enforcement/</a>)</p> <p><b>1.1.8</b> World Justice Project Rule of Law Index (<a href="http://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index">http://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index</a>)</p> <p><b>1.1.9</b> Worldwide Governance Indicators (<a href="http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home">http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home</a>)</p>	<p>New Zealand's principle logging related laws are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The principal purpose of which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.</li> <li>• The Conservation Act 1987. Harvesting in government-owned indigenous forests is not permitted under this Act.</li> <li>• The Forest Act 1949. This strictly controls the harvesting, processing and exporting of timber from privately owned indigenous forests – a small portion of New Zealand's indigenous forests.</li> <li>• The Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE Act) aims to promote the prevention of harm to people at work or in the vicinity of a place of work.</li> <li>• Section 219 of the Crimes Act 1961 covers the illegal harvesting of trees in relation to crimes against rights of property, such as theft. Theft is punishable by a maximum term of 7 years imprisonment.</li> </ul> <p>The great majority of New Zealand's production forestry is from exotic plantations. The annual harvest from exotic plantations is approximately 24.8 million m<sup>3</sup> per annum, compared to approximately 18 thousand m<sup>3</sup> of indigenous species. Of New Zealand's 6.5 million hectares of indigenous forests, 5 million hectares are managed by the Department of Conservation and protected from</p>	<p><b>Low risk</b></p>



		<p><b>1.1.10</b> Example of a local authority Council meeting agendas showing evidence of RMA enforcement action:- <a href="http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Community/Whats-happening/Council-meetings/">http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Community/Whats-happening/Council-meetings/</a></p> <p><b>1.1.11</b> Example of enforcement action under the Forests Act: <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/news/sawmiller-fined-for-illegal-milling">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/news/sawmiller-fined-for-illegal-milling</a></p> <p><b>1.1.12</b> Illegal logging Portal: <a href="http://www.illegal-logging.info/content/unlawful-milling-suspected-after-ministry-raids">http://www.illegal-logging.info/content/unlawful-milling-suspected-after-ministry-raids</a></p>	<p>logging under the Conservation Act.</p> <p>The remainder consists of privately owned forests where a small amount of harvesting is allowable under the Forests Act 1949. The 1993 amendment of the Forests Act prohibits unsustainable harvesting and clear-felling of any indigenous forest in New Zealand.</p> <p>The World Justice Project scores New Zealand from 0.76 to 0.92 for a range of factors relating to justice, corruption, enforcement, and open government. Under this system, New Zealand is within the top ten of 97 countries for regulatory enforcement with a score of 0.82.</p> <p>In 2012 the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators ranked New Zealand fourth out of 214 countries for rule of law with an "estimate of governance" score of 1.88. This indicator reflects perceptions of the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, and in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police, and the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence.</p> <p>Evidence of enforcement is provided by a range of publications from the relevant enforcement authorities. For example, RMA enforcement divisions of local authorities regularly provide compliance, audit and policy effectiveness reports to Council meetings. These meetings are public and the reports are often reported by the media.</p> <p>Evidence of enforcement action in New Zealand in relation to its logging laws is also provided by the Illegal Logging Portal - a website set up by the Royal Institute of International Affairs.</p>	
	<p>1.2 There is evidence in the district demonstrating the legality of harvests and wood purchases that includes robust and effective systems for granting licenses and harvest permits.</p>	<p><b>1.2.1</b> The Legality of New Zealand's Forest Products <a href="http://www.illegal-logging.info/content/legality-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-forest-products?it_id=1486&amp;it=document">http://www.illegal-logging.info/content/legality-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-forest-products?it_id=1486&amp;it=document</a></p> <p><b>1.2.2</b> Department of Conservation (<b>DOC</b>)</p>	<p>All relevant legislation is enforced by specialist staff from central and local government. The issuing of permits and enforcement is undertaken with transparent processes overseen by an independent judicial system.</p>	



		<p>(<a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/">http://www.doc.govt.nz/</a>)</p> <p><b>1.2.3</b> The NZ Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Indigenous Forestry unit. (<a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-indigenous-forestry.aspx">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-indigenous-forestry.aspx</a>)</p> <p><b>1.2.4</b> The Legality of New Zealand's Forest Products: A report prepared by the Ministry for Primary Industries and the New Zealand Forestry Industry 2013 (<a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Portals/0/Documents/forestry/forestry-nz/illegal-log/the-legality-of-new-zealands-forestry-products.pdf">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Portals/0/Documents/forestry/forestry-nz/illegal-log/the-legality-of-new-zealands-forestry-products.pdf</a>)</p> <p><b>1.2.5</b> Australia and New Zealand Arrangement to combat illegal logging (NZ Government) (<a href="http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/australia-and-new-zealand-arrangement-combat-illegal-logging">http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/australia-and-new-zealand-arrangement-combat-illegal-logging</a>)</p> <p><b>1.2.6</b> Union support of independent review of forest safety (<a href="http://first-forestry-together.org.nz/2013/11/04/independent-review-of-health-and-safety-in-the-forestry-industry-terms-of-reference-3rd-draft/">http://first-forestry-together.org.nz/2013/11/04/independent-review-of-health-and-safety-in-the-forestry-industry-terms-of-reference-3rd-draft/</a>)</p> <p><b>1.2.5</b> NZ government workplace safety reforms (<a href="http://www.mbie.govt.nz/what-we-do/workplace-health-and-safety-reform">http://www.mbie.govt.nz/what-we-do/workplace-health-and-safety-reform</a>)</p> <p><b>1.2.6</b> Examples of government enforcement of health and safety laws <a href="http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/news/news-media-centre-home">http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/news/news-media-centre-home</a></p>	<p>Consents or permits are issued under the RMA to allow harvesting subject to conditions requiring specific environmental performance outcomes, and reflect both national and regional rules. The permits, national standards and regional rules are all established through publicly transparent processes, where local communities and interest groups have opportunities to become involved.</p> <p>The New Zealand Government's commitment to combat illegal logging is demonstrated by its willingness to make agreements with similarly minded countries such as the August 2012 arrangement with Australia.</p> <p>Recent rates of serious injury and deaths have raised concerns about worker health and safety in New Zealand forests. This has prompted an independent forestry safety review in 2014, led by the industry, supported by unions and government. It complements other initiatives to improve New Zealand's health and safety, such as government workplace safety reforms. These initiatives are widely supported and evidence no wide spread disregard for health and safety laws in New Zealand. Further evidence of enforcement is provided by recent examples of prosecutions taken by the New Zealand government in relation to a forestry deaths and injuries.</p>	
	<p>1.3 There is little or no evidence or reporting of illegal harvesting in the district of origin.</p>	<p><b>1.3.1</b> The NZ Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) (<a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/news">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/news</a>)</p> <p><b>1.3.2</b> Poyry Forest Industry Pty Ltd "<i>Legal forest products assurance – a risk assessment framework for assessing the legality of timber and wood products</i></p>	<p>There is no evidence of widespread illegal harvesting in New Zealand. Unlawful activities are infrequent and, when incidents occur, they are often well publicized by independent media and relevant enforcement authorities.</p>	



		<i>imported into Australia</i> " (12 February 2010). ( <a href="http://www.daff.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1871733/Poyry_Report_-_Risk_assessment_framework_for_assessing_legality_of_timber_and_wood_products_imported_into_Australia.pdf">http://www.daff.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1871733/Poyry_Report_-_Risk_assessment_framework_for_assessing_legality_of_timber_and_wood_products_imported_into_Australia.pdf</a> )	One example of an independent assessment of legality risks is from Poyry Forest Industry Pty Ltd who assessed country risks on behalf of the Australian government in February 2010 and concluded that the risks of illegally harvested wood products entering Australia from New Zealand are very low.	
	1.4 There is a low perception of corruption related to the granting or issuing of harvesting permits and other areas of law enforcement related to harvesting and wood trade.	<b>1.4.</b> CPI reference link ( <a href="http://www.transparency.org/country#NZL">http://www.transparency.org/country#NZL</a> )	In 2013 New Zealand was ranked first in the world by Transparency International for corruption perception index with a score of 91. New Zealand's corruption perception scores are consistently in the highest one or two countries in the world.	
<b>2. Wood harvested in violation of traditional or civil rights</b> The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to the violation of traditional, civil and collective rights when all the following indicators are present:	2.1 There is no UN Security Council ban on timber exports from the country concerned;	<b>2.1</b> UN Security Council Sanctions Against Specific Countries ( <a href="http://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/index-of-countries-on-the-security-council-agenda.html">http://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/index-of-countries-on-the-security-council-agenda.html</a> )	There are no UN Security Council sanctions cited against New Zealand on the Global Policy Forum (GPF) website.	<b>Low risk</b>
	2.2 The country or district is not designated a source of conflict timber (e.g. USAID Type 1 conflict timber)	<b>2.2</b> "Forest Governance, Policy, Conflict Timber and Illegal Logging" website; ( <a href="http://rmpportal.net/library/V/C/conflict">http://rmpportal.net/library/V/C/conflict</a> )	New Zealand is not cited as a source of conflict timber on the USAID (United States Agency for International Development Portal (website).	
	2.3 There is no evidence of child labor or violation of ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work taking place in forest areas in the district concerned	<b>2.3.1</b> New Zealand's ILO membership <a href="http://www.dol.govt.nz/services/international/ilo/index.asp">http://www.dol.govt.nz/services/international/ilo/index.asp</a> ( <a href="http://www.ilo.org/asia/countries/new-zealand/lang-en/index.htm">http://www.ilo.org/asia/countries/new-zealand/lang-en/index.htm</a> )  <b>2.3.2</b> Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE): Minimum employment rights ( <a href="http://www.dol.govt.nz/er/minimumrights/index.asp">http://www.dol.govt.nz/er/minimumrights/index.asp</a> )  <b>2.3.3 MBIE:</b> Legislation for Employment Relations and Health & Safety ( <a href="http://www.dol.govt.nz/about/legislation.asp">http://www.dol.govt.nz/about/legislation.asp</a> )  <b>2.3.4</b> NZ Employment Relations Act( <a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2000/0024/latest/DLM58317.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2000/0024/latest/DLM58317.html</a> )  <b>2.3.5</b> NZ Health and Safety in Employment Act ( <a href="http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1992/0096/latest/DLM278829.html">http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1992/0096/latest/DLM278829.html</a> )	New Zealand was a founding member of the ILO, joining in 1919, has provided leadership over a number of years and has ratified the majority of the ILO Conventions.  There is no evidence of violation of ILO fundamental principles. No unresolved complaints against New Zealand recorded by the ILO or the United Nations.  A range of minimum rights and obligations are provided for under New Zealand's employment relations legislation. The most relevant employment laws include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment Relations Act 2000</li> <li>• Equal Pay Act 1972</li> <li>• Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992</li> </ul> The exploitation of children is strictly prohibited by New Zealand law and the New Zealand Government	



		<p><b>2.3.6</b> MBIE: International Services - Child Labour (<a href="http://www.dol.govt.nz/services/international/child/">http://www.dol.govt.nz/services/international/child/</a>)</p> <p><b>2.3.7</b> Ministry of Justice (<a href="http://www.justice.govt.nz/publications/global-publications/d/directory-of-official-information-archive/directory-of-official-information-december-2009/alphabetical-list-of-entries-1/h/human-rights-commission">http://www.justice.govt.nz/publications/global-publications/d/directory-of-official-information-archive/directory-of-official-information-december-2009/alphabetical-list-of-entries-1/h/human-rights-commission</a>)</p> <p><b>2.3.8</b> Human Rights Commission: Human Rights in New Zealand (<a href="http://www.hrc.co.nz/report/chapters/chapter18/race01.html">http://www.hrc.co.nz/report/chapters/chapter18/race01.html</a>)</p> <p><b>2.3.9</b> NZ Bill of Rights Act (<a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1990/0109/latest/DLM224792.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1990/0109/latest/DLM224792.html</a>)</p>	<p>is engaged in a number of international forums concerned with this issue.</p> <p>The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (BoRA) guarantees freedom from discrimination and the rights of minorities.</p> <p>The Human Rights Act 1993 includes a dispute resolution mechanism for complaints about racial discrimination, racial harassment and creating racial disharmony. Where disputes cannot be resolved by mediation and related options, complaints can be referred to the Human Rights Review Tribunal.</p>	
	2.4 There are recognized and equitable processes in place to resolve conflicts of substantial magnitude pertaining to traditional rights including use rights, cultural interests or traditional cultural identity in the district concerned	<p><b>2.4.2</b> Treaty of Waitangi 1975 (tribunal) Website; (<a href="http://www.waitangi-tribunal.govt.nz/">http://www.waitangi-tribunal.govt.nz/</a>)</p> <p><b>2.4.2</b> NZ Treaty of Waitangi Act (<a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1975/0114/latest/DLM435368.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1975/0114/latest/DLM435368.html</a>)</p>	<p>The Treaty of Waitangi is the fundamental reference point for race relations in New Zealand, giving the Crown the authority to establish a Government. It sets out the basis of the relationship between the Crown and Māori (New Zealand's indigenous people) and affirms Māori control over their own affairs and equality of citizenship for all. It is a document that provides for rights for all New Zealanders, including Māori, Pakeha (European New Zealanders) and subsequent migrants.</p> <p>The Waitangi Tribunal was established in 1975 by the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975. The Tribunal is a permanent commission of inquiry charged with making recommendations on claims brought by Māori relating to actions or omissions of the Crown, which breach the promises made in the Treaty of Waitangi.</p>	
	2.5 There is no evidence of violation of the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples taking place in the forest areas in the district concerned.	<b>2.5</b> International Labor Organisation (ILO) ( <a href="http://www.ilo.org/">http://www.ilo.org/</a> )	No complaints have been recorded by the ILO or the United Nations in regard to potential violation of Convention 169 by New Zealand.	
<b>3. Wood harvested from forest in which high conservation values are threatened by</b>	3.1 Forest management activities in the relevant level (eco-region, sub-eco-region, local) do not threaten eco-regionally significant high conservation	<b>3.1.1</b> WWF list of eco-regions ( <a href="http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/newzealand_temperate_forests.cfm">http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/newzealand_temperate_forests.cfm</a> )	WWF identifies New Zealand temperate forests as a global eco-region, with seven terrestrial eco-regions. This is given a "vulnerable" conservation status by WWF.	<b>Low risk</b>



<p><b>management activities</b> The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to threat to high conservation values if: a) indicator 3.1 is met; or b) indicator 3.2 eliminates (or greatly mitigates) the threat posed to the district of origin by non-compliance with 3.1.</p>	<p>values.</p>	<p><b>3.1.2</b> World Conservation Union <a href="http://iucn.org/">http://iucn.org/</a></p> <p><b>3.1.3</b> Conservation International <a href="http://www.conservation.org/where/priority_areas/wilderness/pages/default.aspx">http://www.conservation.org/where/priority_areas/wilderness/pages/default.aspx</a></p> <p><b>3.1.4</b> The NZ Ministry for Primary Industries (<b>MPI</b>) <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry</a></p> <p><b>3.1.5</b> Montreal Process Criteria &amp; Indicators (<b>MPCI</b>) <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/publications.aspx?title=Sustainable%20Management%20of%20New%20Zealand's%20Forests">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/publications.aspx?title=Sustainable%20Management%20of%20New%20Zealand's%20Forests</a></p>	<p>The only areas under New Zealand jurisdiction identified as Centres of Plant Diversity by IUCN are the sub Antarctic Islands. These are protected by law and also very isolated. No forestry or forest management is undertaken on these islands.</p> <p>Conservation International has not identified any New Zealand regions as high conservation wilderness areas.</p>	
	<p>3.2 A strong system of protection (effective protected areas and legislation) is in place that ensures survival of the HCVs in the eco-region.</p>	<p><b>3.2.1</b> Department of Conservation (<b>DOC</b>) <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/">http://www.doc.govt.nz/</a></p> <p><b>3.2.1.1 DOC: Statutory Mandate</b> <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/vision-role-overview-and-statutory-mandate/statutory-mandate/">http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/vision-role-overview-and-statutory-mandate/statutory-mandate/</a></p> <p><b>3.2.1.2 DOC: Role Overview</b> <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/vision-role-overview-and-statutory-mandate/overview-of-docs-role/">http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/vision-role-overview-and-statutory-mandate/overview-of-docs-role/</a></p> <p><b>3.2.1.3</b> International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) <a href="http://www.iucn.org/about/">http://www.iucn.org/about/</a></p> <p><b>3.2.1.4</b> IUCN: New Zealand's Members <a href="http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/oceania/oro_getinvolved/oro_members/oro_nzmem/">http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/oceania/oro_getinvolved/oro_members/oro_nzmem/</a></p> <p><b>3.2.2 MPI: Indigenous Forestry: Sustainable Management of Private Indigenous Forests</b> <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-nz/indigenous-forestry.aspx">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-nz/indigenous-forestry.aspx</a></p> <p><b>3.2.3 MPI: A Guide to Preparing Draft Sustainable Forest Management Plans, Sustainable Forest Management Permit Applications and Annual Logging Plans</b> <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&amp;id=1785">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/Default.aspx?TabId=126&amp;id=1785</a></p>	<p>The Conservation Act prohibits harvesting of indigenous species within the government-owned conservation estate. This protects 5 million hectares of the country's 6.5 million hectares of indigenous forests. See indicator 1.1 above for evidence of enforcement.</p> <p>The majority of New Zealand's forestry is based on exotic plantations, which is separate from the indigenous forestry estate.</p> <p>A small amount of indigenous species are harvested from private land under the Forests Act 1949 (Forests Act). This is also separated from the high conservation value indigenous forests on government land managed for by the Department of Conservation.</p> <p>The Forests Act was amended in 1993 to end unsustainable harvesting and clear-felling of indigenous forest. The Forests Act strictly controls the processing and export of indigenous lumber. See indicator 1.1 above for evidence of enforcement.</p> <p>The Resource Management Act protects a wide range of conservation values associated with harvesting on private land including the harvesting of exotic and indigenous plantation species. Local Authorities have responsibility for protecting conservation values for all forestry operations, such as: the natural character of the coastal environment;</p>	



		<p><b>3.2.4 Ministry for the Environment (MfE)</b> (<a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/environment.html">http://www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/environment.html</a>)</p> <p><b>3.2.4.1 Environment Act 1986</b> (<a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1986/0127/latest/DLM98975.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1986/0127/latest/DLM98975.html</a>)</p> <p><b>3.2.4.2 MfE: Resource Management Act</b> (<a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everyday/overview/">http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everyday/overview/</a>)</p> <p><b>3.2.4.3 Enforcement of the Wildlife Act</b> <a href="http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/publications/biosecurity-magazine/issue-74/multiagency">http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/publications/biosecurity-magazine/issue-74/multiagency</a></p> <p><b>3.2.5 Convention on Biological Diversity.</b> <a href="http://www.cbd.int/reports/nr4/default.shtml">http://www.cbd.int/reports/nr4/default.shtml</a></p>	<p>outstanding natural features; significant indigenous vegetation; significant habitats of indigenous fauna; public access to waterways; Māori culture and tradition; historic heritage; and customary rights. See 1,1 above for evidence of enforcement.</p> <p>The Wildlife Act 1953 deals with the protection and control of wild animals and birds and the management of game, including the establishment of reserves, refuges and sanctuaries. This Act is enforced by the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Customs Service.</p> <p>Further evidence of the strength of the New Zealand system of protection is provided by the World Bank. New Zealand has a ranking in the top four countries for rule of law according to the World Bank rule of law indicators, described in indicator 1.1 above</p> <p>New Zealand is a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). There is no evidence of widespread trade in illegal flora and fauna. The New Zealand Customs Service gives evidence of border control security risks as assessed by a number of independent organisations and surveys.</p> <p>New Zealand is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The latest country report confirms a large proportion of New Zealand's land area is protected by international standards, and the area under protection is growing.</p> <p>New Zealand is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators Working Group (MPCI).</p> <p>As part of its membership on the MPCI New Zealand regularly reports on sustainable forest management practices throughout the country. The most recent National Report (2008) indicates positive trends in most of the relevant criteria for high conservation values - it states that "New Zealand is distinctive in</p>
--	--	--	--



			having a low threatened vascular plant biodiversity by international standards".	
<p><b>4. Wood harvested from areas being converted from forests and other wooded ecosystems to plantations or non-forest uses</b> The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to conversion of forest to plantations or non-forest uses when the following indicator is present:</p>	<p>4.1 There is no net loss AND no significant rate of loss (&gt; 0.5% per year) of natural forests and other naturally wooded ecosystems such as savannahs taking place in the eco-region in question.</p>	<p><b>4.1.1 MfE:</b> New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory 1990-2011: <a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate/greenhouse-gas-inventory-2013/greenhouse-gas-inventory-2013.pdf">http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate/greenhouse-gas-inventory-2013/greenhouse-gas-inventory-2013.pdf</a></p> <p><b>4.1.2 MfE:</b> The New Zealand Land Cover Database <a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/land/land-cover-dbase/">(http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/land/land-cover-dbase/)</a></p> <p><b>4.1.3 MfE:</b> National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Native Biodiversity on Private Land <a href="http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/pdfs/protecting-our-places-brochure.pdf">http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/pdfs/protecting-our-places-brochure.pdf</a></p> <p><b>4.1.4 MPI:</b> Indigenous Forestry: Sustainable Management of Private Indigenous Forests <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-nz/indigenous-forestry.aspx">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-nz/indigenous-forestry.aspx</a></p> <p><b>4.1.5 MPI:</b> Carbon forestry Options for New Indigenous Forests <a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-nz/indigenous-forestry.aspx">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-nz/indigenous-forestry.aspx</a></p> <p><b>4.1.6</b> The New Zealand Forest Accord <a href="http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/component/docman/cat_view/25-agreements-and-accords?Itemid=27">http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/component/docman/cat_view/25-agreements-and-accords?Itemid=27</a></p>	<p>Harvesting from New Zealand's separate exotic plantation system ensures no net loss of natural forests.</p> <p>Harvesting is prohibited from the majority of New Zealand's natural forests.</p> <p>Any natural forest or indigenous species harvested from private land must be undertaken under the Forest Act which prohibits clear felling and requires the maintenance of a continuous forest cover and ecological balance. See 1.1 above for evidence of enforcement.</p> <p>The New Zealand Government's latest MPCl: report (2008) indicates that the estimated area of indigenous forest has remained constant since the previous Montreal Process report in 2003 at 6.5 million hectares,</p> <p>The land use accounting system reported in the New Zealand Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory (1990-2011) indicates a loss of "natural forests" from the entire country of 0.5% over the 21 year period – well below 0.5% per annum specified by indicator 4.1 for "natural forests or naturally wooded ecosystems".</p> <p>New Zealand's laws and regulatory framework provide a strong disincentive for the economic conversion of natural forests and ecosystems to plantations or non-forest uses.</p> <p>The New Zealand Forest Accord established a series of commitments agreed between the forestry industry and environmental and recreational stakeholders which includes the protection and conservation of natural indigenous forests. There is no evidence of substantial dispute on the implementation of this accord since its establishment in 1991.</p>	<p><b>Low risk</b></p>
<p><b>5. Wood from forests in</b></p>	<p>a) There is no commercial use of</p>	<p><b>5.1</b> The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)</p>	<p>There is currently no commercial use of genetically</p>	



<p><b>which genetically modified trees are planted</b> The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to wood from genetically modified trees when one of the following indicators is complied with:</p>	<p>genetically modified trees of the species concerned taking place in the country or district concerned</p> <p>b) Licenses are required for commercial use of genetically modified trees and there are no licenses for commercial use</p> <p>c) It is forbidden to use genetically modified trees commercially in the country concerned</p>	<p>(<a href="http://www.epa.govt.nz/about-us/what/Pages/Hazardous-substances-and-new-organisms.aspx">http://www.epa.govt.nz/about-us/what/Pages/Hazardous-substances-and-new-organisms.aspx</a>)</p> <p><b>5.2</b> Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. (<a href="http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1996/0030/latest/DLM381222.html">http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1996/0030/latest/DLM381222.html</a>)</p> <p><b>5.3</b> Role of the EPA's New Organism team (<a href="http://www.epa.govt.nz/new-organisms/about/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.epa.govt.nz/new-organisms/about/Pages/default.aspx</a>)</p> <p><b>5.4</b> MPI: Register of Conditionally Released GM Crop Sites (<a href="http://www.mpi.govt.nz/agriculture/rural-communities/gm-coexistence/register-of-conditionally-released-gm-crop-sites">http://www.mpi.govt.nz/agriculture/rural-communities/gm-coexistence/register-of-conditionally-released-gm-crop-sites</a>)</p> <p><b>5.5</b> EPA's assessment of <i>Pinus radiata</i> field trials in New Zealand <a href="http://www.epa.govt.nz/Documents/ERMA200479_decision_March_2013.pdf">http://www.epa.govt.nz/Documents/ERMA200479_decision_March_2013.pdf</a></p> <p><b>5.6</b> EPA register of incidents involving new organisms <a href="http://www.epa.govt.nz/new-organisms/about/Pages/new-organism-incidents.aspx">http://www.epa.govt.nz/new-organisms/about/Pages/new-organism-incidents.aspx</a></p> <p><b>5.7</b> Courts of New Zealand judicial decisions database (Sustainability Council vs EPA, May 2014 ) <a href="http://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/from/decisions/judgments.html">http://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/from/decisions/judgments.html</a></p>	<p>modified (GM) trees in New Zealand. No licenses for commercial use have been issued under the relevant legislation. No licenses have been issued for conditional release of GM trees or plants.</p> <p>New Zealand's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) regulates the introduction and use of hazardous substances and new organisms under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996. This Act is enforced by a number of local government and central government organizations.</p> <p>The EPA has approved several contained field trials of GM plants including some <i>Pinus radiata</i> and <i>Picea abies</i> trials undertaken at a government research institute. These approvals come with strict controls on containment and monitoring. The approval processes considered a wide range of risks to the environment and society, including the potential impact on New Zealand's ability to produce GM free timber and concluded they would have no impact.</p> <p>Under the HSNO Act, the EPA also has ability to grant permits for "conditional release" of GM organisms. This is an intermediate stage between new organisms being in fully-contained conditions and these organisms being released without any conditions. No such permits have been issued, as discussed above.</p> <p>Evidence of enforcement activity in New Zealand is discussed broadly in indicator 1.1 above. More specifically, New Zealand authorities monitor incidents involving new organisms that may have resulted from non-compliance with regulatory requirements or caused effects to human health and safety or the environment. Records since 2004 show only minor incidents have occurred. The most serious incidents involved vandalism of <i>Pinus radiata</i> GM trials in 2012 and 2008. There are no reports of heritable material release from these incidents. Enforcement is further demonstrated by the ability of interest groups to legally challenge regulatory</p>	<p><b>Low risk</b></p>
---	--	---	---	------------------------



Forest Stewardship Council®  
FSC Asia Pacific Regional Office

			decisions. For example, in 2013 an environmental organization successfully appealed an EPA determination of the GM status of new plant breeding techniques under the HSNO Act.	
--	--	--	--	--