

	GLOBAL FORESTRY SERVICES
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Legal Requirements Natural Forests & Plantations - Generic Standard

1.0 Background:

Global Forestry Services Legal Verification Services (GFS LVS) has been developed to provide a Due Diligence System to evaluate management and harvesting of natural forests and plantations in respect to compliance to regulatory requirements as well as key international forest industry standards that include ILO conventions & FAO standards. The standard is designed to fulfill international trade regulations governing import and export of timber and wood products that currently include EU Timber Regulations, EU Deforestation Regulations, US Lacey Act, Australian Illegal Logging Bill, Japan Clean Wood Act, etc.

The GFS LVS is also designed to document compliance to the key elements that cover both legal and international standards for the forest & plantation industries for both large concessions and landholdings as well as smaller-scale systems such as smallholder planted areas. GFS operates to evaluate compliance to the GFS Generic LVS Standard (GFS-WI-006-LVS) presented in this document or through local standards developed for by national and state governments to support Due Diligence Systems and compliance by regulatory agencies. GFS LVS v03 has been developed to include deforestation free status and traceability to comply with EU Deforestation Regulations (EUDR).

The LVS requirements (GFS-WI-006-LVS v03) to define legal compliance include 8 main elements:

- 1.0 Land Use and Management Rights
- 2.0 Rights & Benefits to Native / Local Communities & Workers
- 3.0 Environmental Assessment & Mitigation of Impacts
- 4.0 Management & Operational Planning.
- 5.0 Implementation of Operations
- 6.0 Registration, Identification & Traceability of Material.
- 7.0 Monitoring
- 8.0 Payments of Fees, Royalties & Taxes.

Verification Process

Evaluation of legal compliance shall be conducted in accordance with GFS procedures (GFS-PRO-006-LVS Legal Verification Service) by registered lead assessors, assessors and experts. Evaluation of legal compliance shall include input from relevant stakeholders directly affected by the forestry or plantation operations.

Global Forestry Services will evaluate compliance to legal requirements and traceability of forest products from forest or plantation management organisations that wish to demonstrate the legality of raw wood-based material (whether of short or long-term duration). GFS will issue a detailed assessment report (GFS-FORM-006-LVS-1.2) and a Statement of Compliance (GFS-FORM-006-LVS-1.4) for forest and plantation management that demonstrates compliance to legal requirements. Compliance with EUDR includes deforestation free definitions on conversion and degradation.

GFS will issue a Statement of Compliance under the LVS in respect to verification of compliance to applicable regulatory requirements as defined in this standard considering scale of operations. The system for traceability can be based on inspection of a specific volume of material or part of the supply chain system within the GFS Wood Tracking Program.

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LVS Generic Requirements

The GFS LVS is designed to document compliance with forest and plantation management systems based on local regulatory requirements and international standards (ILO/ FAO) as applicable to the scale of operations for large concessions/land holdings as well as smaller-scale systems as in smallholder plantations or forested areas.

1.0 Land Use & Management Rights

Legal rights of land use and management shall be demonstrated by the organization in respect to a defined forest or plantation area with recognized boundaries that are not encumbered by substantiated overlapping land claims.

- 1.1 Private companies / organization shall be legally registered with the scope to carry out forest or plantation activities.
 - 1.1.1 Valid registration of company/organization.
 - 1.1.2 Certificate of title or license holder registered with government agency.
 - 1.1.3 Concession License issued by government free of gazetted overlapping land claims.
 - 1.1.4 Permits for operations (road construction, inventory, logging, extraction, camps, workshops, machinery, etc.) as required.
 - 1.1.5 Maps of forest/plantation area that correspond to the area being assessed registered with a government agency as required.

- 1.2 Individual landowners/smallholder plantations shall provide documented evidence of legal use rights to the defined forest/plantation area.
 - 1.2.1 Land Title or Land Use permits issued by government authority.
 - 1.2.2 Land lease or valid agreement for land use and management of forest or plantation area.
 - 1.2.3 Permits for harvesting forest or plantation area as applicable.
 - 1.2.4 Map defining forest / planted area.

- 1.3 Regulations defining management of forest / plantations are recognized as applicable.
 - 1.3.1 Register of relevant state and national laws & regulations associated with the company's operations
 - 1.3.2 Regulations / codes of practice in relation to forest / plantation management and operations are understood & available.
 - 1.3.3 Regulations on commercial tree species and diameter cutting limits.
 - 1.3.4 Approved annual volume cutting limits (AAC).
 - 1.3.5 Government fees / taxes for timber felling and extraction (Log Royalty Premium, Cess).
 - 1.3.6 Regulations for protection of areas; tree species, or other issues are defined in the license / permits or land title as applicable.

2.0 Rights & Benefits to Native / Local Communities & Workers

The company / organization shall identify and recognize claims to land and use rights by native and local communities that occur within the concession / management unit and provide benefits to support the community's well-being as appropriate. Any use of claimed areas within the management unit shall be in

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agreement with the community that includes compensation for defined uses prior to starting any forest or plantation operations within claimed areas. Workers' rights and benefits shall be defined and maintained.

- 2.1 Companies / organizations holding concession licenses or lease agreements etc, shall conduct a social impact assessment to define native and local communities that have potential land claims and or use rights within the management unit.
 - 2.1.1 The assessment shall identify and map all native / local communities residing and actively using land areas within the management unit.
 - 2.1.2 The assessment shall identify all areas of land claims within the management unit such as agriculture, hunting, fishing, water resources, sacred areas, etc.
 - 2.1.3 Land claims and use rights shall be identified in agreement with the community and defined in the management plan along with maps of land claims and use by each community.
 - 2.1.4 Potential negative and positive impacts of planned forest and/or plantation management shall be defined with direct input by affected communities to support an agreement between the parties for protection and potential land use.

- 2.2 Companies /organizations holding concession licenses or lease agreements etc, shall develop a formal documented agreement for use of areas claimed by native/local communities.
 - 2.2.1 Agreements with native/local communities shall be clearly documented and understood by all parties on the terms of land use, associated compensation, community support, goodwill contributions, etc.
 - 2.2.2 Implementation of conditions of the agreement (including payments and other activities) shall be upheld by all parties.
 - 2.2.3 Disputes to the agreement shall be documented and resolved through negotiations between the parties based on a dispute resolution process.
 - 2.2.4 Agreements shall be periodically reviewed and can be amended based on agreement between the parties.
 - 2.2.5 Areas under valid disputed land claim without formal signed agreement must not be harvested.

- 2.3 Companies/organizations shall have a system for communication and dispute resolution with native and local communities to foster good relations.
 - 2.3.1. Communication provide a forum for communities to voice concerns and issues to the management relevant to the agreement and general needs.
 - 2.3.2. The organization shall record and document communications and consultation with communities.
 - 2.3.3. A system for dispute resolution is defined between the company & the community to resolve problems or issues between the community and the company.

- 2.4 Smallholders shall provide evidence that there is no overlapping 3rd party claims or use rights within the management area.

- 2.5 The organization shall have procedures to comply with labour regulations in respect to employment and contracting labour, health and safety.
 - 2.5.1. The organization shall ensure all staff are legally employed or contracted
 - 2.5.2. The organization shall comply with labour regulations; salary, benefits, compensation for work conducted (over time / contract conditions) and for work related accidents.

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- 2.5.3. The organization shall have a system of communication & dispute resolution with workers and recognize their rights to engage in workers' organizations without discrimination for exercising these rights.
- 2.5.4. The organization shall ensure all staff are trained for their work and safety.
- 2.5.5. The organization shall provide adequate safety equipment for workers.
- 2.5.6. Working and living conditions shall be in line with ILO requirements in respect to safety and health. There is no evidence of forced or compulsory labour.
- 2.5.7. All workers shall be provided medical care / hospitalization for work related health issues and accidents.

3.0 Environmental Assessment & Mitigation of Impacts

The organization assess the potential impacts of planned operations on key environmental elements for protection such as biodiversity; wildlife habitat and protection, soil conservation, stream protection, steep slopes, handling and use of chemicals and fuel, waste disposal, etc., according to scale of activities.

3.1 Potential environmental impacts shall be evaluated based on the scale of activities

- 3.1.1 Environmental assessment conducted that adequately identifies potential negative impacts of planned forest/plantation management and operations.
- 3.1.2 Mitigation measures are defined to minimize potential impacts in relation to operations.
- 3.1.3 The company/organization shall protect rare, threatened, endangered species from illegal activities and their habitat.
- 3.1.4 Wildlife habitat should be protected from degradation and wildlife corridors shall be provided to allow movement of wildlife through plantations as appropriate.
- 3.1.5 Streams shall be protected along with steep slopes in accordance to EIA requirements.
- 3.1.6 Use of herbicides, pesticides & fungicides shall be minimized in accordance with EIA & government regulations.
- 3.1.6 System for monitoring of impacts on environmental issues are defined.
- 3.1.7 EIA approved by government agency as required.

4.0 Management & Operational Planning

The organization shall demonstrate adequate long term, annual and operational planning of natural forest and plantation management appropriate to the scale of its operations and approved by government authorities as required.

4.1 Long term planning of forestry/plantations activities shall be according to scale of activities that include resource sustainability, environmental protection and social benefits to native/local communities and be approved by the relevant government authority if required. Natural Forest areas under sustainable management and plantation areas originally established prior to 2021 are classified as Deforestation Free for EUDR eligibility.

- 4.1.1 Larger scale natural forest management units must have a Forest Management Plan (FMP) in relation to planned harvesting cycle that defines all key elements of its operations (approved as required):
 - Policy Statement
 - Resource Inventory results defining forest conditions
 - Environmental Assessment

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- Social Assessment
- Zoning of forest area into Production, Conservation, Social, etc.
- Delineations of compartments
- Net production area
- Sustainable yield & Annual Allowable Cut
- Plans for restoration & Industrial Timber Plantations (ITP)
- FMU / Land use map (production, conservation and non-forested agriculture, community settlement areas)
- Planned annual harvest schedule by compartment
- System for monitoring of impacts to resources, environment and social elements
- Estimated economic costs and projected revenue

4.1.2 Larger scale timber plantations must have a Plantation Development Plan (PDP) in relation to existing and planned development of Industrial Timber Plantations (ITP), preferred species, harvesting cycle which defines all key elements of its operations (approved by government agency as required):

- Policy Statement
- Description of current plantation areas & planned development of Industrial Timber Plantations
- Resource Inventory results defining current forest or plantation conditions under PDP management
- Environmental Assessment
- Social Assessment
- Zoning of PDP management area into Production, Conservation, Social, etc.
- Delineation of compartments for planting and current resource status
- List of plantation areas (current) original planting date & EUDR eligibility
- List of areas for salvage logging and plantation development
- Land use map (plantation, conservation and non-forested agriculture, community settlement areas)
- Annual plan for salvage logging and planting by compartment including selected species
- System for monitoring plantation growth, environment impacts and social elements
- Estimated economic costs and projected revenue

4.1.3 GIS Mapping of the concession / plantation management unit area shall clearly reference land use plans (production (plantation), conservation areas, communities & social areas, infrastructure, etc.) associated geo-locations and approved (as required).

4.2 Smallholder management units (below 100 ha) shall have a management plan for their areas that contain details on timber resources (planted and natural), protected areas, infrastructure and associated map with GPS coordinates.

4.2.1 Long term planning shall define natural forest areas, planted areas and areas planned for conversion to plantations or other land use including a map appropriate to scale.

4.2.2 Operational planning shall include compartment level planning (CHP) for natural forest areas and CPP for existing and future plantation areas.

4.2.3 Natural forest areas defined for conversion to plantations or other land use shall be defined in the compartment plan.

4.2.4 Mapping of the forest and plantation areas shall be detailed in the CHP / CPP along with geo-locations of each compartment.

4.2.5 List of compartment areas for natural forest management, plantation management shall define the EUDR status and geo-locations.

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- 4.3 Planning for large scale management units shall include Annual Planning for activities to be conducted to support natural forest management and/or plantation development in relation to the FMP / PDP.
- 4.3.1 Annual Planning define activities conducted annually in relation to the FMP, PDP that includes harvesting, salvage logging, planting, maintenance activities, etc.
- 4.3.2 Identification of Plantation Compartments that were originally planted prior to 2021 that comply with EUDR requirements.
- 4.3.3 Identification of harvesting compartments under Natural Forest Management that comply with EUDR requirements and compartments under salvage logging and conversion that do not comply with EUDR requirements.
- 4.4 Compartment planning for harvesting, salvage logging & planting shall clearly define areas for protection and production of natural forest (CHP) or timber plantations (CPP) based on sustainability of resources and approved by government as required.
- 4.4.1 Compartment plans (CHP / CPP) defines the boundaries, protected areas, and resulting net production area.
- 4.4.2 Areas defined for protection in CHP / CPP shall be demarcated on the ground to prevent disturbance from field operations.
- 4.4.3 CHP for natural forest management areas identifies and lists all trees for harvesting.
- 4.4.3 Compartment Planting Plan (CPP) defines areas for salvage logging and species to be planted, spacing relevant to site conditions.
- 4.4.4 CPP includes estimates log production under salvage logging for plantation development within the net planting area.
- 4.4.5 Compartment plans (CHP & CPP) identifies infrastructure (feeder roads, skid trails, log landings, water crossings).
- 4.4.6 GIS Mapping of planned harvest / plantation areas (CHP / CPP) along with protection areas and infrastructure shall be accurate to ground conditions and approved (as required).
- 4.5 The organisation shall provide evidence of approved harvesting systems, volumes, diameter limits, and species in respect to sustained yield and reduced impact systems.
- 4.5.1 Description of harvesting system(s) to minimize impact.
- 4.5.2 Estimated log volume from forest inventories and cutting limits by species for sustained yield management.
- 4.5.3 Estimated log volume from salvage logging and system for site preparation for plantation development.
- 5.0 Implementation of Operations**
- The organization and smallholders shall demonstrate implementation of its operations comply with regulations governing their activities.
- 5.1 The organisation shall demonstrate compliance to planning, regulations/codes of practice regarding harvesting, planting and other field operations within each compartment.
- 5.1.1 The organization shall implement Annual and Compartment plans.
- 5.1.2 The organization shall not cut trees that are protected from felling.
- 5.1.3 The organization shall comply with codes of practice (local / FAO) and regulations on harvesting to minimize impacts.

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- 5.1.4 The organization shall only harvest trees within the compartment area based on tree harvest list per the Compartment Harvest Plan (CHP) under natural forest management.
- 5.1.5 The organization shall only harvest trees in areas defined for salvage logging and planting based the Compartment Planting Plan (CPP).
- 5.1.5 Areas for identified for protection shall not be disturbed by operational activities.
- 5.1.6 The organization shall comply with requirements and permits for forest roads, skid trails & infrastructure.
- 5.1.7 Site preparation and planting shall be in accordance to the compartment planting plan (CPP) to minimize impacts and prevent soil erosion.

- 5.2 The organisation shall demonstrate compliance to planning, procedures and regulations regarding environmental issues, such as an approved Environmental Impact Assessment.
 - 5.2.1 The organization shall implement EIA requirements and reporting on compliance.
 - 5.2.2 The organization shall minimize disturbance during logging, timber extraction site preparation and planting.
 - 5.2.3 The organization shall protect the forest /management unit against illegal activities and poaching of wild animals.
 - 5.2.4 The organization shall comply with regulations on trash disposal, fuel, oil and other chemicals.

- 5.3 Operations within claim areas shall abide by agreements between the community and the company.
 - 5.3.1 All operations and activities within native or local community claimed areas shall be in compliance with the signed agreement.
 - 5.3.2 Payments for goodwill contributions and for compensation for use & extraction of resources shall be in accordance to the agreement and paid within an agreed time period.
 - 5.3.3 Activities and social projects supporting community development and welfare shall be clearly defined and implemented by both parties as agreed.
 - 5.3.4 Any issues arising from implementation of agreements shall be documented and resolved through the system of consultation and dispute resolution.

6.0 Registration, Identification & Traceability of Material

The organization must demonstrate compliance to government regulations for scaling, identification and recording of material harvested that is traceable back to the harvest license area. Traceability of material for EUDR must include geo-location polygons of the harvested compartment based on the CHP / CPP map.

- 6.1 The organisation shall provide clear records that identify and record trees harvested within licensed areas.
 - 6.1.1 Identification and recording of trees harvested / logs produced against the compartment harvest plan (CHP CPP).
 - 6.1.2 Records of harvesting shall include the geo-locations of the harvested compartment for EUDR status.

- 6.2 Trees harvested within Natural Forest Management areas shall be identified and recorded in accordance with the CHP, codes of practice, with associated log measurement correct in respect to species, sizes, etc., to comply with government rules and fee scales.

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- 6.2.1 Log marking is traceable to harvest tree, harvest block as part of the harvest plan and complies with regulations as applicable.
- 6.2.2 Logs are scaled (measured) and recorded based scaling rules.
- 6.2.3 Documentation of royalty assessment and other fees are correct to log scaling as applicable.
- 6.3 Planted trees areas shall be identified and recorded in accordance with the harvest/planting plan, (CPP) codes of practice with associated log measurement (or weigh scale) correct in respect to species, sizes, etc. to comply with government rules and fee scales.
- 6.3.1 Logs are traceable to the compartment harvest plan and complies with regulations as applicable.
- 6.3.2 Logs are scaled (measured) and recorded based scaling rules (volume/weight).
- 6.3.3 Documentation of royalty assessment and other fees are correct to log scaling as applicable.
- 6.4 Records shall contain adequate information to verify the trees harvested and resulting quantity and volume of logs within the harvest area is in accordance with the license requirements and compartment harvesting / planting plan (CHP / CPP).
- 6.4.1 Log volume and felling records are maintained daily and adhere to license requirements and compartment harvesting plan.
- 6.4.2 Records of logs harvested include geo-location of the compartment harvested (CHP / CPP)
- 6.5 The organization shall comply with government regulations regarding the transportation of logs from the forest/plantations to mills or export, using government authorized transport documentation.
- 6.5.1 Permits issued by government for transporting raw material from a licensed forest or plantation area adequately identify the origin of the material to the licensed area, define the quantity (pieces/volume/weight), destination, fee assessment, etc. as required.
- 6.5.2 Raw material is identified (log numbers, species, diameters, length and volume) and documented in relation to the official transport permits enabling traceability to the compartment harvest area.
- 6.5.3 Transport documents include geo-location of harvested compartments for EUDR requirements (as applicable).
- 7.0 Monitoring**
- The organization shall monitor operations in relation to regulatory requirements, impacts of activities on sustainability of resources, environmental requirements, social obligations. fire and the prevention of illegal activities within the management unit.
- 7.1 The organisation shall provide for monitoring operations in respect to regulatory requirements, codes of practice, sustainability etc.
- 7.1.1 Monitoring shall be conducted in accordance to the scale of operations to document compliance with regulatory requirements and harvest planning.
- 7.1.2 Monitoring of impacts of operation on the growth and sustainability of forest resources shall be conducted annually.
- 7.1.3 Monitoring of mortality, growth, pests and diseases of plantation timber shall be conducted annually and recorded.
- 7.1.4 Permanent Sample Plots (PSP) shall be established as required to measure and document impacts of harvesting, residual stands and growth of natural timber resources.
- 7.1.5 Planting for enrichment or industrial timber plantations shall be monitored in relation to Annual Work Plans and compartment planting plans as required.

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- 7.2 Monitoring of environmental impacts as defined in the environmental assessment; harvest planning shall be conducted to minimize negative impacts of activities.
- 7.2.1 Monitoring of environmental impacts of operations shall be conducted to document compliance with the environmental assessment (EIA) and harvest planning.
- 7.2.2 Monitoring of operations shall include protection of areas and trees identified for conservation.
- 7.2.3 Monitoring of base camps, waste disposal, scheduled waste, chemical storage & use in relation to requirements as applicable.
- 7.2 Monitoring of activities in regards to social benefits for communities and workers.
- 7.3.1 Monitoring of implementation in regard to social issues and agreements through consultation forums with communities and workers shall be conducted (as appropriate to scale).
- 7.3.2 All monitoring of consultation, activities, projects, etc. related to communities shall be documented.
- 7.3.3 Monitoring of worker consultations shall be conducted and recorded to provide a forum for resolving issues related to operations, health and safety, working and living conditions, potential disputes, training appropriate to the scale of activities.
- 7.4 The organization shall develop and implement systems to protect forest from illegal activities, exploitation, encroachment and fire (as appropriate to scale of operations).
- 7.4.1 Systems for entry and access control to concession - (e.g. entry gate registry)
- 7.4.2 Forest security and patrolling measures for encroachment, illegal logging and poaching - (monitoring schedule, personnel)
- 7.4.3 Identification of illegal activities & reporting to authorities - (security records)
- 7.4.4 Monitoring of fire risk and identification of fire based on risk
- 7.4.5 Fire training and equipment for fire suppression
- 7.4.6 Monitoring of infrastructure and access.
- 7.4.7 Results of monitoring shall be recorded and reflected in scheduling of activities to support operations and maintenance.
- 8.0 Payment of Fees, Royalties and Taxes**
- Payments of fees, royalties and other taxes associated with operations and management must be clearly recorded and fulfilled as required.
- 8.1 The organisation shall provide evidence that all relevant taxes, royalties, etc. for the forest operation and material harvested due to government and other beneficiaries are paid.
- 8.1.1 Royalties, cess and other fees associated with timber harvesting are assessed and paid
- 8.1.2 Fees for permits for land use & operations are paid as applicable
- 8.1.3 Fees associated with social agreements and obligations are paid as applicable

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