

3rd surveillance**Prepared by:**

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for the following certified forest area(s):

Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)

File number: 1640030-01

Date of surveillance evaluation: 24-27/05/2016

Date of finalized report: (31/07/2016)

Certificate issue date: (16/05/2003)

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1.0 DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATION

Evaluation dates:	12,13,18 24-27 May 2016
Task	Person days (excluding travel)
Pre-evaluation	0
Preparatory Work	0,5
Documents, Records and Fieldwork	10
Stakeholder Interviews	1
TOTAL	11,5

EVALUATION TEAM	
Lead auditor:	Hervé Bescond, M.Sc.
	Hervé Bescond specializes in forest ecology. He graduated from Université du Québec à Montréal with a Master 's degree in biology, and also holds a French forestry diploma. During his Master's program, Hervé studied the impact of harvesting during the first half of the 20th century on stand structure and composition in the mixed forest. For almost 10 years he took part in research work in sustainable forest management, looking at the implementation and impact of adapted silvicultural practices in the boreal forest, from the twin standpoints of silviculture and biodiversity. He was also interested in the structure of residual stands, windthrow, deadwood and the diversity of understory vegetation. Since 2010 he has taken part in audits in the boreal and mixed forest. He has conducted more than 50 FSC FM audits in the Maritimes, Boreal and Great Lakes/St-Lawrence forest types.
Auditor:	Daniel Martin, ing.f.
	Daniel Martin is a consultant offering specialized services in sustainable forest management, chain of custody and environmental management system certification. Daniel is a registered Forest Engineer in the Province of Quebec (11-014) and is an ISO 14001 lead assessor and a FSC® FM lead auditor. He has conducted more than 40 FSC FM audits in the Maritimes, Boreal and Great Lakes/St-Lawrence forest types. He has experience in the forest industry as a supervisor and manager, specifically in silviculture, harvesting and fiber procurement for sawmills in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Furthermore, Daniel has cumulated experience in the management of an engineered wood products facility in the province of Quebec and he was a lecturer at the Université de Moncton. These experiences have allowed for development of skills ranging from forest management, health and safety, budgeting, contract negotiations and human resource management.
Auditor:	N/A
Auditor:	N/A
Technical expert:	N/A
Observer:	Amos Bien, ASI Lead Auditor Étienne Kuzong, ASI Auditor

Frank Grenon, ASI technical expert
Sylvain Frappier, SAI Global

1.1 Evaluation description

1.1.1 Itinerary

April 20, 2016: Public consultation preparation

May 12, 2016: Offsite review of the documentation

May 13, 2016: Offsite review of the documentation

May 18, 2016: Offsite review of the documentation/Public consultation

May 24-27, 2016: Onsite audit/Stakeholders interviews/Field visits

1.1.2 Approach

The audit assessed conformance with the SAI GLOBAL - Locally adapted Standard for Assessing Forest Management in the Great Lakes/Saint-Lawrence (GLSL) (Version June 22, 2015) as well as the company's forest management program utilizing the following techniques:

- Review of the company's policies and procedures
- Review of the company's documentation and records
- Review of correspondence and communications
- Interviews with staff
- Interviews with contractors
- Interviews with First Nations
- Interviews with Local Citizens Committee
- Field assessment of conformance
- Review of previous audit findings
- Review of the current Forest Management Plan

1.1.3 Selected FMUs and Rationale

The field visit consisted of inspection of active and past operations on the sole FMU included in the certificate scope. Sampling is in compliance with directives and formulas listed in FSC-STD-20-007 V3-0, Annex 1

1.1.4 Sites Visited

FMU	Site #	Activities audited
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Block 162	Active harvest, Area of Concern, Selection cutting, Hauling, Health and safety, working conditions Forest fire equipment.
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Block 208	Loading, Area of Concern, Clearcut, Seedtree cutting

Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Block 210	Loading, Hauling, Health and safety, working conditions Forest fire equipment.
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Diver Road	Free to growth
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Block 198	Active harvest, Health and safety, working conditions Forest fire equipment.
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Block 171	Selection cutting
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Block 168	Selection cutting
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Glen Lake Road	Culvert installation
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Block 242	Culvert installation Aggregate Pits Clearcut Seedcut Selective cut
The camp is situated just outside the boundaries of the Nipissing Forest.	Cloutier Camp	Kitchen/food preparation Septic system Fuel storage Fuel transportation
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Block 137-12	Forest renewal planning and implementation Supervision, transportation of workers. Health and safety, working conditions Forest fire equipment.
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Block 126 (South)	Stand tending. Clearing of balsam fir using a brush saw. Forest renewal tending/stand improvement. Supervision. Fuel handling. Health and safety, working conditions. BMP implementation.
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Km15, Klocks Road	Road upgrade. BMP implementation/watercourse protection. Fuel handling. Health and safety, working conditions.
Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Planter's camp on Hawkesbury road	Kitchen/food preparation Septic system Fuel storage/handling Health and safety/working conditions

Nipissing Forest (SFL 542053)	Free to grow stand on Klocks Road	Forest renewal. Free to grow evaluation process. Stand tending process.
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1.1.5 Description of the stakeholder consultation process

The stakeholder consultation process has been done in compliance with FSC-STD-20-006 and FSC-STD-20-007.

1.1.6 Stakeholder contacted and inputs

Stakeholders contacted	Number contacted	Provided input	Stakeholders contacted	Number contacted	Provided input
FSC National Initiative	1		Representatives of forest-dwelling or forest-using communities	0	
Provincial Department of Natural Resources / State Forest Service or equivalent	6	1	Labour organizations or unions of forestry sector workers	0	
Federal/National Agencies such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans or equivalent.	0		Contractors who provide services to the forest operation to be assessed	2	
Associations / Clubs / Outfitters	12	2	Employees	0	
Private stakeholders	1	1	Municipalities	1	
NGOs that are active in respect to social or environmental aspects of forest management – National or Regional	7	1	International NGOs that have requested to be contacted in respect of evaluations in particular regions or countries	2	
Representatives of Indigenous Peoples	7	1	University/College		
Other(specify)	0				

Comments from stakeholders and SAI Global's response

Comments from stakeholder

A stakeholder has a concern about the removal of a bridge by the OMNR on a public road or when they were installed without a permit.

SAI Global's response

The OMNR closes and removes the bridges on public roads when they are not safe for vehicle traffic. It is possible to request a permit to install a bridge on crown land. The work must be carried out according to regulations.

Comments from stakeholder

A stakeholder has a concern with the licensees operating rules of the Nipissing SFL. It's difficult for small licensees to operate with the same rules than the biggest licensees on the SFL territory. Biggest licensees have acces to several blocks and they have the opportunity to move their equipment depending of the harvesting conditions.

SAI Global's response

The licensee agreement refer to a complaints mechanism that can be used by the licensees and the shareholders. This mechanism is the first step to be used to request changes to the operating rules of the SFL. The stakeholder did not use this mechanism.

Comments from stakeholder

A stakeholder has a concern on the Gap Analysis completed a decade ago in wich only one site is identified without supporting rationale included.

SAI Global's response

A non-conformity has been issue. News datas are available and the applicant did not used the datas to update the gap Analysis.

Comments from stakeholder

A First Nation has a concern about chemical spray applications near their borders.

SAI Global's response

The spray program has been review. They was no spray close of the First Nation Borders during the last years.

1.1.7 Additional Evaluation Techniques

No additional techniques were used during this audit.

1.1.8 Pesticide use

List of chemical pesticides used within the forest area:			
Product name	Quantity (l or Kg)	Treated areas ha.	Reason for use
Glyphosate	987.2	430.6	Air blast spray - site prep for Pw/Pr/Sw planting
Paraffinic Oil	30.1	324.5	Air blast spray - site prep for Pw/Pr/Sw planting
Glyphosate	961.8	310.4	Aerial spray - site prep for Pr, Pw, Sw, Pj plant and Pj seed
Paraffinic Oil	7.8	39.1	Aerial spray - site prep for Pr, Pw plant
Glyphosate	166.7	101.5	Air blast spray - tending Pw/Pr/Sw
Glyphosate	1365.5	1569.7	Aerial spray - tending Pw/Pr
Triclopyr	2800.9	1489.8	Aerial spray - tending Pw/Pr

1.1.9 Workers

Workers (includes employees, seasonal workers of certificate holder and contractors)						
Men	6	Women	3	Total	9	
Number of accidents in since last audit			Serious	0	Fatal	0

1.1.10 Description of any significant changes in the management and/or harvesting methods

N/A

2.0 STANDARD(S)

2.1 Standard Used

Generic SAI-Global Great Lakes St-Lawrence

You may get a copy of the standard at the following address:

<http://www.saiglobal.com/assurance/forestry/FSC.htm?regid=2> for the generic SAI-Global Great Lakes St-Lawrence.

The SAI Global generic standard was modified to include the indicators found in the Great Lakes St-Lawrence standard to become the Generic SAI-Global Great Lakes St-Lawrence

This generic standard was subject to a public consultation before its official usage.

Revision to the standard since last audit:	N/A
Implication for the FMU:	N/A

3.0 OBSERVATIONS

PRINCIPLE #1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES	
Criterion 1.1 Compliance with national and local laws and administrative requirements.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 1.2 Payment of fees, taxes etc.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 1.3 Compliance with international agreements	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 1.4 Documenting of conflicts with laws.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 1.5 Protection from illegal activities	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Monitoring for illegal activities is conducted primarily through the FOIP system. Forest workers are expected to bring to the attention of the staff at Nipissing forest any occurrences of illegal activities occurring in the forest. Training is provided to forest workers as part of the spring compliance training. The NFRM staff can't provide evidence that some of the illegal activities have been to an appropriate authority. Minor N.C. 1.5.2
Criterion 1.6 Adherence to FSC principles.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
PRINCIPLE #2 TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND REPSONSIBILITIES	
Criterion 2.1 Evidence of forest use rights.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 2.2 Local communities with use rights can protect their rights and resources.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 2.3 Appropriate mechanisms to resolve disputes.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	A dispute resolution process is in place and has been recently updated however There is no evidence that the current system for resolving dispute allows to document the circumstances and status of dispute. Minor N.C. 2.3.2
PRINCIPLE #3 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS	

Criterion 3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 3.2 Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Active involvement of the First Nations in the FMP planning process and the Aboriginal Working Group. Background information report has been completed for all First Nations communities in and around the Nipissing Forest. Report on the protection of First Nations values, taking into account that values have evolved through time.
Criterion 3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to Indigenous People(s) shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such Peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 3.4 Indigenous Peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
PRINCIPLE 4 COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND FOREST WORKERS' RIGHTS	
Criterion 4.1 The communities within or adjacent to the forest management area should be given the opportunity for employment, training, and other services.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 4.2 Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	A process for resolving disputes with employees on occupational health and safety is in place. The process has never been used. There is evidence that the manager does not ensure the continual compliance with all relevant provincial occupational health and safety requirements. There is evidence that relevant corrective actions have not been implemented following inspection of camp. Minor N.C. 4.2.1
Criterion 4.3 The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organization (ILO).	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups directly affected by management operations.	
Comments	Due to the public nature of the FMU, NFRM have developed a history

(strengths/weakness)	of working closely with stakeholders and adjacent landowners. There is evidence that the managers consult on a regular basis with stakeholders and give meaningful notices of upcoming forest management activities.
Criterion 4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
PRINCIPLE 5 BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST	
Criterion 5.1 Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	There were no indications during the field inspection that the resources were not in place to implement the management plan.
Criterion 5.2 Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	This being a Crown forest, it is mandatory to seek the optimal and highest and best value for forest products. Local transformation is privileged when feasible. Crown timber must be offered to appropriate wood processing facilities in Ontario within an economic hauling distance of the harvest area before it is sold outside the Province.
Criterion 5.3 Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Requirements for leaving residual standing trees are specified in the FMP. Both are monitored during compliance inspections. During the field visit, excessive butting has been observed in a closed block. Minor N.C.5.3.1
Criterion 5.4 Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	This being a Crown forest, it is mandatory to seek the optimal and highest and best value for forest products. Local transformation is privileged when feasible. Crown timber must be offered to appropriate wood processing facilities in Ontario within an economic hauling distance of the harvest area before it is sold outside the Province.
Criterion 5.5 Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources, such as watersheds and fisheries.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	AOC prescriptions are designed to protect values of interest to stakeholders.
Criterion 5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	The determination of planned harvesting volumes in the Phase I and Phase II FMP is done in accordance to the forest management planning manual and have been approved by the MNR and meet the

	GLSL standard. Current actualized harvest rates are approximately 30% of planned and do not exceed the projected long term harvesting rate.
PRINCIPLE 6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	
Criterion 6.1 Environmental impact assessments.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 6.2 Safeguards must exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas).	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	There is a list of species at risk that could potentially be found in the Nipissing Forest in the Forest Management Plan. The section on Wildlife-Species at Risk lists the AOC stated in the management plan for species at risk. This information is integrated in the FMP. The FMP is designed to generate prescriptions in case that habitat for species at risk is identified.
Criterion 6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced or restored.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Forest management operations are conducted in a manner that maintains the integrity of small streams, seepages, and woodland pools. The FMP is designed to leave the insular and peninsular patches standing forever in the clearcuts. There are three silviculture systems employed on the Nipissing Forest under which forest management activities (harvest and renewal) occur. Each one of these systems (Clearcut, Shelterwood, Single Tree Selection) are prescribed and implemented based on groupings of forest tree species with similar silvicultural and ecological aspects. Vegetation management begins with harvesting and varying proportions of the canopy are removed. The consideration of the natural benchmark was used to determine appropriate desired levels and targets for objectives designed to represent natural features of the Forest.
Criterion 6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 6.5 Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	The detailed instructions in the FMP cover this requirement. The field inspection demonstrates that implementation is effective
Criterion 6.6 Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 6.7 Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.	
Comments	Most of the operators working on the Forest are very knowledgeable of

(strengths/weakness)	proper procedures for mitigating environmental impact when dealing with spills. However, leaking equipment, spills, and non conforming tanks have been observed during the field visit. Major N.C 6.7
Criterion 6.8 Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 6.9 The use of exotic species is carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	No exotic species have been used. Their use is not planned.
Criterion 6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a. Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b. Does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; (HCVF) and c. Will enable clear, sustainable, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
PRINCIPLE 7 MANAGEMENT PLAN	
Criterion 7.1 Content of management plan.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	A complete copy of the 2009-2019 FMP including text, tables, appendices and supplementary documentation was provided. Information was found to be in compliance with the standard requirement
Criterion 7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	The Forest Management Planning Manual is the document that provides direction for all aspects of forest management planning for Crown lands in Ontario. Forest management plans are prepared for a ten-year period with two five-year operational terms.
Criterion 7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Verified records of the annual spring compliance meeting for 2016. During this meeting, items discussed (among other things) was the 2016-2017 annual work schedule, changes to AOC, operating on shoreline areas, species at risk, residual forest planning, skid trail coverage, review of compliance issues. Most of the workers interviewed during the field visit demonstrated good knowledge and awareness of the relevant requirements that must be followed during the implementation of the FMP. However There is evidence that workers did not receive adequate training in regards to the process for documenting and reporting to the appropriate authority's instances of illegal harvesting, settlement, occupation or other unauthorized activities

	Minor N.C. 7.3.1
Criterion 7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	A Public Summary of the FMP was developed and made available in French & English on the Nipissing Forest Management website.
PRINCIPLE 8 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT	
Criterion 8.1 Frequency and intensity of monitoring.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 8.2 Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) Yield of all forest products harvested. b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest. c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna. d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations. e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Yields are projected during planning and monitored during harvest and the Annual reports summarize wood deliveries to receiving mills. Ongoing surveys of regeneration are being conducted to monitor the condition of the forest. The FMP considers the current forest condition including habitat feature changes and factors habitat supply into modeling and management decisions. Updates to values in operating areas is ongoing, in particular during tree marking, and changes in key habitat values are communicated to MNR and adjustments to operations are performed accordingly – values information is managed in NRVIS Several monitoring programs are undertaken by NFRM. Exceptions to guideline requirements are monitored and reported in the ARs. Routine compliance monitoring of forest operations is conducted and renewal programs are regularly monitored. Table 16 column 5 of the HCVF Report discusses the monitoring program for each HCV. Areas of concern are monitored during operations under the FOIP reports. Regeneration monitoring checks are conducted for hemlock. Prescriptions for values are adjusted during forest management planning to account for new information and understandings and are incorporated into the new FMP. MNR Science and Tech division is a key centre for research into forestry impacts and adjustment to mandatory management guides – e.g. Stand and Site Guide. Area of Concern prescriptions for cultural heritage values are implemented during operations and monitoring takes place under FOIP. The NFRM manager was reviewer on new Cultural Heritage Guide. NFRM monitors renewal expenditures and reports the information in the ARs. NFRM does not monitor the business activities of the licensees. NFRM is a member of the Provincial Forest Renewal Trust Committee. Meeting discussions cover activities and developments affecting the Renewal Trust Fund

	accounts.
Criterion 8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 8.5 While respecting the confidentiality of some information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
PRINCIPLE 9 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS	
Criterion 9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	HCVF monitoring of compliance is done the FOIP and compliance summaries are presented in the Annual Reports
PRINCIPLE10 – PLANTATIONS	
Criterion 10.1 The management objectives of the plantation, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives, shall be explicitly stated in the management plan, and clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the plan.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 10.2 The design and layout of plantations should promote the protection, restoration and	

conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods, shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands found within the natural landscape.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 10.3 Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 10.4 The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological impacts.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 10.5 A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation and to be determined in regional standards, shall be managed so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 10.7 Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimize outbreaks of pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions. Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Plantation management should make every effort to move away from chemical pesticides and fertilizers, including their use in nurseries. The use of chemicals is also covered in Criteria 6.6 and 6.7.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 10.8 Appropriate to the scale and diversity of the operation, monitoring of plantations shall include regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site ecological and social impacts (e.g., natural regeneration, effects on water resources and soil fertility, and impacts on local welfare and social well-being), in addition to those elements addressed in Principles 8, 6 and 4. No species should be planted on a large scale until local trials and/or experience have shown that they are	

ecologically well-adapted to the site, are not invasive, and do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems. Special attention will be paid to social issues of land acquisition for plantations, especially the protection of local rights of ownership, use or access.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016
Criterion 10.9 Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly for such conversion.	
Comments (strengths/weakness)	Not audited in 2016

3.1 Observations on review and resolution of complaint raised by stakeholder with the certificate holder or with the certification body since the previous evaluation

N/A

3.2 Summarized progress in implementing the conditions related to any approved pesticide derogation

N/A

4.0 SURVEILLANCE DECISION

4.1 Follow-up on Non-Conformitie(s) from previous audit

N/A

4.2 Non-Conformitie(s) from present audit

NC#:	2016-01	Grade- Major/Minor:	Major
Requirement:			
CRITERION 6.7 - Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.			
6.7.1 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are in place and implemented regarding safe handling and disposal of chemicals, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil. These SOP's reflect best management practices and at minimum ensure compliance with all regulatory guidelines.			

6.7.2 A recycling program is in place for used oil and plastic containers.	
6.7.3 In the event of a hazardous product spill, the manager shall immediately contain the product, notify the appropriate authorities, and begin cleanup and product elimination with the assistance of qualified personnel.	
6.7.4 Leaking equipment is repaired or taken out of the forest. Recovered material is taken to a designated disposal site.	
Non-conformance:	
There is evidence that Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil are not disposed of an environmentally appropriate manner.	
Justification for Major or Minor:	
The non-conformities identified do not allow to achieve the objectives of the Criterion 6.7	
Evidence provided to close the non-conformity:	
NFRM Fuel Handling/Fuel Tank Inspection Memo From Mark Lockhart to NFRM Staff, Contractors, Nipissing Forest Licensees FOIP Pictures of the equipment	
Status Closed/Open or Upgraded:	Closed

NC#:	2016-02	Grade- Major/Minor:	minor
Requirement:			
Requirements for use of the FSC trademarks by Certificate Holders FSC-STD-50-001 (V1-2) 1.16 The organization shall submit artwork of all new reproductions of FSC trademarks to the certification body for approval.			
Non-conformance:			
There is no evidence that the FSC trademarks used have been submitted and approved by the certification body			
Justification for Major or Minor:			
The non conformance situation is non systematic			
Evidence provided to close the non-conformity:			
The effectiveness of the action plan will be verified at the next surveillance audit or 12 months, which ever comes first.			
Status Closed/Open or Upgraded:	Open		

NC#:	2016-03	Grade- Major/Minor:	minor
Requirement:			
1.5.2 For large operations, a system shall exist for documenting and reporting to the appropriate authority instances of illegal harvesting, settlement, occupation or other unauthorized activities.			
Non-conformance:			
There is evidence that unauthorized activities are not reported			
Justification for Major or Minor:			
The non conformance situation is non-systematic			

Evidence provided to close the non-conformity:	
Summary of Unauthorized Activity Reported on the Nipissing Forest	
Status Closed/Open or Upgraded:	Closed

NC#:	2016-04	Grade- Major/Minor:	minor
Requirement:			
2.3.1 FME shall use mechanisms for resolving disputes over tenure claims and use rights that respectfully involve the disputants and are consistent in process.			
Non-conformance:			
There is no evidence that the current system for resolving dispute allows to document the circumstances and status of dispute			
Justification for Major or Minor:			
The non conformance situation is non systematic			
Evidence provided to close the non-conformity:			
Summary of Dispute Resolution Process on the Nipissing Forest			
Status Closed/Open or Upgraded:	Closed		

NC#:	2016-05	Grade- Major/Minor:	minor
Requirement:			
4.2.1 The manager ensures that all forest workers comply with all relevant provincial occupational health and safety requirements			
Non-conformance:			
There is evidence that the manager does not ensures the continual compliance with all relevant provincial occupational health and safety requirements. There is evidence that relevant corrective actions have not been implemented.			
Justification for Major or Minor:			
The non conformance situation is non systematic			
Evidence provided to close the non-conformity:			
The effectiveness of the action plan will be verified at the next surveillance audit or 12 months, which ever comes first.			
Status Closed/Open or Upgraded:	Open		

NC#:	2016-06	Grade- Major/Minor:	minor
Requirement:			
5.3.1 Within the framework of the silvicultural system used, all harvested merchantable and marketable timber is utilized unless left on-site to provide structural diversity and wildlife habitat or for cultural reasons.			
Non-conformance:			
There is evidence that not all harvested merchantable and marketable timber has been utilised			
Justification for Major or Minor:			
The non conformance situation is non systematic. One site with evidence that not all harvested merchantable and marketable timber has been utilised has been identified during			

the audit.	
Evidence provided to close the non-conformity:	
The effectiveness of the action plan will be verified at the next surveillance audit or 12 months, which ever comes first.	
Status Closed/Open or Upgraded:	Open

NC#:	2016-07	Grade- Major/Minor:	minor
Requirement:			
6.4.1 The manager shall identify potential gaps in the representative completeness of protected areas in the appropriate ecological unit(s) (Eco regions, Ecodistricts, natural regions) contained on the management unit, using the best available tools and information, such as but not necessarily limited to:			
a. land cover gap analysis; and			
b. enduring features gap analysis.			
Non-conformance:			
There is evidence that the current gap analysis does not use the most recent data			
Justification for Major or Minor:			
A gap analysis a been done. The non-conformity does not result in a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the applicable certification requirement.			
Evidence provided to close the non-conformity:			
The effectiveness of the action plan will be verified at the next surveillance audit or 12 months, which ever comes first.			
Status Closed/Open or Upgraded:	Open		

NC#:	2016-08	Grade- Major/Minor:	minor
Requirement:			
7.3.1 The applicant ensures that forest workers receive adequate training to ensure they meet this standard's requirements. Training is tailored to their roles and responsibilities. Training material and courses address the following topics, among others:			
a. How to avoid damage to the environment, in particular to residual stands, streams, and sites of cultural significance			
b. Assessment of log quality and destination			
c. Appropriate implementation of the management plan			
d. The relevant sections of international agreements (see Criterion 1.3)			
e. Health and safety requirements			
f. Implementation of ecosystem-based management (e.g. harvesting and site preparation)			
g. Use and handling of pesticides			
h. Identify species at risk and other species listed in 6.2.1			
Non-conformance:			
There is evidence that some workers did not receive adequate training in regards to the process for documenting and reporting to the appropriates authority's instance of illegal harvesting, settlement, occupation or other unauthorized activities and Identify species at risk and other species listed in 6.2.1			
Justification for Major or Minor:			
The non conformance situation is non systematic.			

Evidence provided to close the non-conformity:	
The effectiveness of the action plan will be verified at the next surveillance audit or 12 months, which ever comes first.	
Status Closed/Open or Upgraded:	Open

NC#:	2016-09	Grade- Major/Minor:	minor
Requirement:			
8.1.2 The monitoring program has been designed to see if the results of management activities conform to the stated objectives, and provide the information required to allow the necessary adaptations if the objectives are not met.			
Non-conformance:			
The monitoring program does not allow for the necessary adaptations if the objectives are not met.			
Justification for Major or Minor:			
The non-conformity does not result in a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the applicable certification requirement.			
Evidence provided to close the non-conformity:			
The effectiveness of the action plan will be verified at the next surveillance audit or 12 months, which ever comes first.			
Status Closed/Open or Upgraded:	Open		

4.3 Positive

Positive comments from stakeholders

4.4 Difficult Assessments

None identified

4.5 Observations on elements to be followed during the next audit

N/A

4.5 Recommendation to maintain the certificate

(Name of Applicant) has demonstrated, subject to the correction of the non-conformities, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate with the exception of the non-conformitie(s) identified during the audit. As discussed during the closing meeting, please submit a root cause analysis and an action plan for approval within 30 days for both the major and minor non-conformances. Major non-conformities(s) must be closed within 90 days. Implementation

of corrective actions for Minor non-conformance(s) will be reviewed at the time of the first surveillance audit or at the latest 12 months after the NC reports have been issued.

A recommendation to maintain the registration is on hold pending the receipt, review and acceptance of the corrective action plan for all non-conformances and the closure of the major non-conformance(s).

5.0 COMPLAINTS, DISPUTES AND APPEALS

On receiving a complaint the relevant details are recorded on a complaint register by the person receiving the complaint.

A SAI Global person is responsible for the handling of complaints/appeals, and forwards the complaint on to the respective Manager in charge of SAI Global FSC Program for resolution.

An initial response, including an outline of the proposed course of action to follow up on the complaint, will be sent within two (2) weeks of receiving the complaint.

SAI Global will keep the complainants informed of progress in evaluating the complaint. An investigation of the allegations and all its proposed actions in response to the complaint/appeal will be dealt within three (3) months of receiving the appeal. Upon completion of the investigation a full report of the investigation and its findings are then sent to the complainant.

Full implementation of actions and confirmation of implementation (e.g. correction and closing out of non-compliances that may have been identified as a result of the complaint) outlined in the final report will be completed.

SAI Global ensures that the persons engaged in the appeals, complaints and disputes handling processes are different from those who carried out the audits, made the certification decisions and the day to day implementation.

If the issue has not been resolved through the full implementation of SAI Global's procedures the person or organization raising the complaint/dispute/appeal has the opportunity to refer their complaint/dispute/appeal to FSC's dispute resolution process.

6.0 NEXT AUDIT

Next Scheduled Audit:

Date: May 23-26, 2016

APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

This is a confidential document. The list is on file with SAI Global

APPENDIX 2 – FMU QUANTITATIVE INFORMATION

Changes since last audit (if yes, complete the following table, if not leave blank)					Yes / No
Type of certificate					
Single UAF		Multiple UAF		Group	
Small SLIMF		Low intensity SLIMF		Group SLIMF	
Number of Group Members or Group SLIMF					
		Number		Area ha.	
Less than 100 ha					
100-1,000 ha					
1,000-10,000 ha					
More than 10,000 ha					
Total					
FMUs list					
Name/Description		Area. ha.	Forest Zone	Location Latitude N/S - Longitude E/O	
			Temperate		
			Boreal		
			Subtropical		
			Tropical		
Tenure		Area (ha)			
Private					
Public					
Community					
Area		Area (ha)			
Natural Forest					
Plantation					
Conservation Forest					
Total certified area (FSC Database)					
					Area (ha)
Production forest (from which timber may be harvested)					
Forest and non-forest land protected from commercial harvesting and managed primarily for conservation objectives					
Protected from commercial harvesting and managed primarily for the production of NTFPs or services.					
Classified as 'high conservation value forest'					
Production forest classified as 'plantation'					
Production forest regenerated primarily by replanting or by a combination of					

replanting and coppicing of the planted stems	
Production forest regenerated primarily by natural regeneration or by a combination of natural regeneration and coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems	

Changes since last audit (if yes, complete the following table, if not leave blank)		Yes / No
List of High Conservation Values:		
Categories	Description	Area ha.
1 - Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, and refugia).		
2 - Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.		
3 - Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.		
4 - Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).		
5 - Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).		
6 - Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).		

Changes since last audit (if yes, complete the following table, if not leave blank)			Yes / No
List of main commercial timber and non-timber species included in scope of certificate:			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Approximate AAC (m3)	Non-timber (✓)

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Non-timber forest products included in scope:	
Product	Approximate Annual Commercial Production

List of product categories included in the scope certificate:	
Product	Description

Note: These products are available for sale as FSC® certified products (include basic description of product - e.g. round wood, pulp wood, sawn timber, kiln-dried sawn timber, chips, resin, non-timber forest products, etc.

APPENDIX 3- GROUP MEMBERSHIP LIST

Changes since last audit (if yes, complete the following table, if not leave blank)						Yes / No
Name and contact	# of FMUs	Sup. Ha.	Location	Managed* P – S - C	Products	Code **
* P: Private, S: State or Province, C: Community						
** Registration code including sub code						

APPENDIX 4 – HISTORY OF NON-CONFORMITIES

This is a confidential document. The list is on file with SAI Global.

NC #	Indicator	I/RR	S1	S2	S3	S4
2013-01	1.2.1	minor				
2013-02	3.1.3	minor				
2013-03	1.1.1	minor				
2013-04	8.3.1	minor				
2013-05	9.1.2	minor				
2013-06	6.4.6	minor				
2013-07	2.3	minor				
2013-08	6.6.	minor				
2013-09	6.3.11	minor				
2014-01	4.5.2		minor			
2015				none		
2016-01	6.7				Major	
2016-02	FSC-STD-50-001 1.16				minor	
2016-03	1.5.2				minor	
2016-04	2.3.1				minor	
2016-05	4.2.1				minor	
2016-06	5.3.1				minor	
2016-07	6.4.1				minor	
2016-08	7.3.1				minor	
2016-09	8.2.1				minor	