FSC Controlled Wood Risk Assessment

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

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

Summary of risk for POLAND

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Annex No 1.
The list of relevant stakeholders to contact as part of the stakeholder consultation requirements in cases of wood supplies from unspecified risk regions.

Annex No 2.
Data sets and other resources related to the threats to HCVFs specific to the area of unspecified risk, than were obtained during the consultation (PA0504 - Carpathian montane forests, Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka Forest Districts).
Refers only to Poland

Annex No 3.
The map of unspecified risk encouraging Global 200 (PA0504 - Carpathian mountain forests, WWF). Please print as a separate document to keep the scale.

Annex No 4.
The map of unspecified risk region of Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka Forest Districts. Please print as a separate document to keep the scale. (available from: http://mapa.bialystok.lasy.gov.pl/; the last access: 02.11.2012).
1. Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment for Poland

I. Requirements related to illegally harvested wood

Illegal harvesting is a potentially broad term that is difficult to define. For the purposes of evaluating risk in a given district, the term needs to be interpreted in a way that is measurable and meaningful. An area shall be considered as unspecified risk when illegal harvesting is a threat to the forest, people and communities. Minor infractions and issues such as minor geographical deviations from the allotted area of harvesting, filing in paperwork late or small infractions related to transport should not make an operation or district being considered as unspecified risk.

Governance-related criteria are therefore used to assess risk for illegal harvesting for a given district. These criteria will initially include:
- Perceived level of corruption related to forest activities,
- Degree of transparency about information that is likely to reveal or reduce illegal harvesting if made public,
- Degree to which key data and documents relevant to illegal harvesting exist and are of satisfactory quality,
- Independent reports on illegal harvesting.

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:

1.1 Evidence of enforcement of logging related laws in the district

*Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:*

Proper forest management is necessary to guarantee the forest persistence. Basic rules of proper forest management are set in the law and law regulations.

The most important regulations within the scope of the indicator are (with changes):
- Act of 28 September 1991 on forest (Dz. U No 101, item 444),
- Act on geodesy and cartography of 17 May 1989 (Dz. U No 30, item 163),
- Law Regulation of Minister of Environment on detailed conditions and the mode of forest management plan development, simplified forest management plan development and the inventory of forest condition of 20 December 2005 (Dz. U No 256 item 2151),
- Law Regulation of Minister of Environment on detailed policies of wood marking, models of marking instruments and their use, as well as boilerplates of documents verifying legal harvesting of wood of 30 July 1999 (Dz. U No 71, item 800),
- Regulations regarding to State Forest National Forest Holding (www.lasy.gov.pl),
- EUTR Regulation.

For private forests:

The acts and law regulations being in force regulate the management of private forest as well. Aside from forest management regulation and protection, the law regulates the policy of wood materials selling as well. Forest owners are obligated to acquire appropriate permissions, including information about area of management activity, species and the amount of selling wood. There is not known any discrepancy with these regulations.
Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:

risk assessment: low

1.2 There is an evidence in the district demonstrating the legality of harvests and wood purchases that includes robust and effective systems for granting licenses and harvest permits

Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:
Available reports (compare 1.1) confirm proper implementation of the law. All the decisions regarding the harvesting of wood are made on the base of forest management plans, approved by the Minister of Forestry. Forest management plan development requires public consultation. Location of management activities is given in forest management plan. Selling of wood is regulated by actual Regulation of Director General of State Forest National Forest Holding (PGL LP) [No 49 of 07.10.2010] (www.lasy.gov.pl). Selling of wood is provided by special computer system, where the purchaser is automatically selected on the base of algorithms. According to the law, any of permissions or licenses are not required in the areas under State Forest National Forest Holding management. The felling is provided by contractors selected via public procurements.

Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements: see 1.1.

risk assessment: low

1.3 There is little or no evidence or reporting of illegal harvesting in the district of origin

Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:
In Poland occasional cases of illegal harvesting occur, for example petty larceny of wood from the forest. Each forest owner is obligated to proper forest management according to the law. Wood is harvested according to the approved plan. Forest Guard is constituted for forest protection from illegal harvesting. The Guards cooperate with the police, inspection of road transport, border guard, guard of national parks, game wardens. There are reports of illegal harvesting compiled for particular forest units (Report of eradication of forest detriments). Those statistics show that robberies amount to 0,001% of total harvesting volume. Stolen wood materials are mainly used for local needs or for heating. Apart from occasional cases arbitrated by court, there is no evidence of the scale of illegal harvesting monitored by NO’s.
**Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:**
1. see 1.1.;
2. Report of eradication of forest detriments in 2011:

**Risk assessment:** low

**Argumentation:** the opinions received during consultation pointed to cases of illegal logging within the area of Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka Forest Districts (eastern part of Poland) because of the unapproved forest management plan for those units. During the preparation of this document, the forest management plan is approved for this region.

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

**Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:**
According to Transparency International Index, the index of the corruption CPI in Poland amounts to 5.3 (position 41; 2011), that allows to assess the risk as low (according to FSC-ADV-04-005-12).
According to Worldwide Governance Indicators, Poland got ca 70/100 of corruption index in 2010 (the highest indexes relate to the slightly corrupted countries).
Trade of wood is a process standalone from a corruptive behavior, thanks to the automatic system of wood selling enforced in State Forest in 2006.
There are no evidences for corruptive occurrences in the private forest.

**Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:**
1. Transparency International:

**Risk assessment:** low

**Risk assessment for category I:** low

II. Wood harvested in violation of traditional or civil rights

Civil rights are the rights that every person in a society has, for example to be treated equally, to be able to vote and work. These rights are usually outlined in the country’s constitution.

Tradition rights are rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force
of alaw within a geographical or sociological unit. An example of a traditional right related to forests is accessed by local communities to forest areas to visit sacred and ritual sites.

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 in place:

2.1 There is no UN Security Council ban on timber exports from the country concerned

*Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:*

There is no such a ban for Poland.

*Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:*


**Risk assessment:** low

2.2 The country or district is not designated a source of conflict timber (e.g. USAID Type 1 conflict timber)

*Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:*

According to the latest information, Poland is not a source of conflict timber.

*Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:*


**Risk assessment:** low

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

*Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:*

Poland has ratified ILO conventions. The law in Poland prohibits work of children. Worker’s rights are well secured by the law. There is no evidence for abusing of children work or violation of primary rules and ILO conventions in noted, significant scale.

*Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:*

1. Act of 26 June 1974 The Labor Code (Dz. U. 1974, No 24, item 141 with later changes),

**Risk assessment:** low
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

_Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:_
The mechanisms of fair conflict solution are guaranteed by the law. There is no evidence for their transgression. According to international reports, violation of traditional rights in Poland is insignificant. Conflicts considering the possession rights are resolved in arbitrary courts.

_Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:_
The full description of referential law regulations is provided by The Ministry of Justice: http://www.ms.gov.pl/.

**risk assessment:** _low_

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

_Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:_
There is no evidence of violation of indigenous peoples’ rights in Poland territory. There are no indigenous people in Poland.

_Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:_

**risk assessment:** _low_

**Risk assessment for category II:** _low_

_argumentation:_ some opinions received during the public consultation pointed to the violation of the local communities’ rights because of limitation of the access to the wood logged from the region of Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka Forest District’s area. Nevertheless the opinions are not directly related to the scope of the assessment and the risk has been assessed for the whole Poland territory.
III. Wood harvested from forest in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities

For the risk assessment of this category, first an assessment of the presence of any high conservation values threatened at the ecoregion level shall be made. If there is any High Conservation Values (HCVs) threatened at the ecoregion level, the assessment shall be made of how forest management activities relate to these HCVs at a district level.

NOTE: Threat in the context of this standard means having an uncertain chance of continued survival or presence of High Conservation Values (HCVs) at ecoregion level.

Many organizations have spent considerable efforts in identifying those areas of the planet (ecoregions or complexes of ecoregions) that are a priority for conservation due to their High Conservation Values (HCVs) and the possible threats to them. The risk that forest management operations will threaten High Conservation Values (HCVs) in a forest will be higher if a) there is an abundance of high conservation values (such as genetic diversity, species diversity, intact, well-preserved ecosystem dynamics, endemism and habitat and ecosystem diversity) in the ecoregion, and/or b) High Conservation Values (HCVs) in the ecoregion are already under threat.

Two concepts are offered in this section to determine the risk related to High Conservation Values (HCVs):
- ecoregions concept, that can be identified through the supporting information that references, but is not limited to, the work of WWF, Conservation International, IUCN and WRI and Greenpeace, and
- the presence of a strong system of protection – concept to identify areas that can be considered low risk because protection schemes, such as protected areas, legal systems and its proper enforcement, ensures the continued presence of High Conservation Values (HCVs) in the ecoregion mentioned in item a).

High Conservation Values (HCVs) that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (for example floods, hurricanes and other extreme weather phenomena, accompanying global climate changes as well) and those that are fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (HCVF forest in category No V) can be considered low risk, if indicators 3.1, 3.2 and/or the indicator 2.4 are met. That is, there are recognizable 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.

The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to threat to high conservation values if:
- indicator 3.1 is met; or
- indicator 3.2 eliminates (or greatly mitigates) the threat posed to the district of origin by non-compliance with 3.1.

According to the directive FSC-DIR-40-005 (ADVICE-40-005-14), when HCVF’s are present in the ecoregion under risk assessment, the efficiency of the existing legal system of nature protection shall be assessed. One of the indicators used for the assessment of the efficiency of the nature

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Detailed maps of ecoregions in the form of GIS bases are available here: [http://www.worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder/](http://www.worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder/).
protection system is the ‘Rule of law’ released by the World Bank. The threshold value of the indicator for the efficient legal system of nature protection in the country under assessment is 75 (maximum value amount to 100). In 2011, Poland was assessed to 71 points. For this reason within the areas of special concentration of HCVs (not certified in FSC system), the assessment according to the indicators 3.1 and 3.2 of FSC-STD-40-005 pointed to unspecified risk. This assessment was the subject of the public consultation to get the opinions received from the third parties considering an approach that was applied. Following division to the regions of low and unspecified risk comes from binding FSC procedures as well as the opinions received during the public consultations.

### Risk assessment at the level of the whole Poland territory

#### National level

**3.1 Forest management activities in the relevant level (eco-region, sub-eco-region, local)**

**Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:**

Poland territory is located within the range of four ecoregions according to WWF sources. There are: Baltic mixed forests, Central European mixed forests, Western European broadleaf forests, Carpathian montane forests. Among them, capratian forests are especially precious and are listed as one of key ecoregions Global 200 (PA0504 - Carpathian montane forests). Simultaneously, those forests are considered as endangered by forest management. Areas of wood origin within this ecoregion require implementation of verification programs for Controlled Wood and can’t be considered as low risk areas (see 3.2 requirements, where the analysis show there are no basis for consideration capratin forests as not endangered by forest management). There are no natural forests in the Poland territory (according to the definition provided by Greenpeace – see sources below) or biodiversity “hot-spots” (according to the definition provided by Conservation International, see “Glossary of terms” in part 5). The range of capratin forests is given on the appendant map (Annex No 3).

Additionally, unspecified risk assessment regards to the range of Forest Districts: Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka, where the is a potential threat to high conservation values.

**Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:**

1. Map sources provided by WWF, including Global 200 maps: http://www.worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder,
2. Maps of intact forests provided by Greenpeace: www.intactforests.org,
3. IUCN maps of biodiversity hotspots,
5. Information about ecoregions: www.worldwildlife.org/science/ecoregions.cfm,
6. FSC documentation: www.fsc.org,
9. Critical forest endangered (see 1):
http://www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld/profiles/g200_index.html.

**risk assessment:** unspecified

**argumentation:** differentiation of HCVs concentration within the Poland territory and the way of their management makes the low risk assessment of the whole Poland territory impossible.

### 3.2 A strong system of protection (effective protected areas and legislation) is in place that ensures survival of the HCVs in the ecoregion.

**Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:**
There is no particular system of HCV Forest protection in Poland. Protection of these ecosystems relates to general law regulations regarding environment protection. Protection of HCV Forests outside areas of nature protection depends on forest manager’s activities. Considering this, the best guarantee for HCV Forests persistence in Poland according to FSC requirements is an FSC FM certificate. In case of non-certified forests, existing system of law protection shall, but doesn’t guarantee HCV Forests persistence.

**Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:**
1. Following law regulations regard HCV Forest management:
   - Act on Protection of Forests and Agriculture areas of 3 February 1995 (Dz. U. No 16, item 78 with later changes),
   - Regulation of Director General of State Forest National Forest Holding No 11 and 11a,
   - Nature Protection Law of 16 April 2004 (Dz. U. 2004. No 92, item 880 with later changes),
   - Actual Forest Management Instruction (Instruction of distinguishing and mapping of site types and plant communities in State Forest), CILP, Warsaw 2012,
   - Convention on Biological Diversity (signed by Poland): https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml;
   - Reports of protected areas regarding to the Convention on Biological Diversity: https://www.cbd.int/reports/search/
2. Guidelines of the FSC WG in Poland: Publication „Description criteria to determine the presents of High Conservation Value Forests in Poland“:
3. The World Bank indicators (Rule of Law):

**risk assessment:** unspecified

**Risk assessment for category III (national level):** unspecified

**argumentation:** differentiation of HCVs concentration within the Poland territory and the way of their management makes the low risk assessment of the whole Poland territory impossible.
Risk assessment at the level of ecoregions
Sub-national level
(ecoregions considered separately)

Ecoregion of Baltic Mixed Forests and Ecoregion on Western European Broadleaf Forests

3.1 Forest management activities in the relevant level (eco-region, sub-eco-region, local) do not threaten eco-regionally significant high conservation values

Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of ecoregion:
Those regions are not considered as globally endangered (see assessment at the level of the whole Poland territory) and potential threat can occur as a result of local abuse of the law or actions taken against recognized HCV Forests outside of areas of nature protection. The incidental character of such cases allows for consideration of those regions as low risk areas.

Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:
See assessment on the national level.

Risk assessment at the level of the ecoregion: low

3.2 A strong system of protection (effective protected areas and legislation) is in place that ensures survival of the HCVs in the ecoregion.

Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of ecoregion:
Compare evaluation on the national level;
In those ecoregions the great majority of the forest is managed by certified in FSC FM system units of State Forest National Forest Holding. State administration is a guarantee for full compliance with the law of nature conservation as well, thus given areas can be considered as low risk areas, under requirements of both indicators. In case of loss of FSC certificate, the threat to HCV Forests can occur.
The same regards to forests beyond State Forest management.

Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:
See assessment on the national level.

Risk assessment at the level of the ecoregion: low (not applicable - indicator 3.1 is met)

Risk assessment for category III (Ecoregion of Baltic mixed forests and Ecoregion of Western European broadleaf forests): low.

Argumentation: ecoregions have been assessed as low risk regions in accordance with the FSC procedure and opinions received during public consultation; according to Annex 2 of FSC-STD-40-005, the district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to threat to high conservation
values if indicator 3.1 is met or indicator 3.2 eliminates (or greatly mitigates) the threat posed to the district of origin by non-compliance with 3.1.

**ECOREGION OF CARPATIAN MONTANE FORESTS**

**3.1 Forest management activities in the relevant level (eco-region, sub-eco-region, local) do not threaten eco-regionally significant high conservation values.**

_Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the ecoregion:_
Taking into account the uniqueness of elements of the nature and their threats, which decided toGlobal 200 design in those areas, the risk for non-certified forests have to be considered as unspecified risk regions. At present, this is an area managed by the Regional Directorate of State Forest in Krosno.
The same regards to forests beyond State Forest management.

_Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:_
See assessment on the national level, consultation on the national risk assessment.

*risk assessment at the level of the ecoregion: unspecified* (see Annex No 3)

**3.2 A strong system of protection (effective protected areas and legislation) is in place that ensures survival of the HCVs in the ecoregion**

_Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the ecoregion:_
Compare general description considering risk assessment for the cathegory.
There is no particular system of HCV Forest protection in Poland. Protection of these ecosystems relates to general law regulations regarding environment protection. Protection of HCV Forests outside the areas of nature protection depends on forest manager's activities. Considering this, the best guarantee for HCV Forests persistence in Poland according to FSC requirements is an FSC FM certificate. According to the directive FSC-DIR-40-005 (ADVICE-40-005-14), when HCVF's are present in the ecoregion under risk assessment, the efficiency of the existing legal system of nature protection shall be assessed. One of the indicators used for the assessment of the efficiency of the nature protection system is the ‘Rule of law’ released by the World Bank. The threshold value of the indicator for the efficient legal system of nature protection in the country under assessment is 75 (maximum value amount to 100). In 2011, Poland was assessed to 71 points. For this reason within the areas of special concentration of HCVs (not certified in FSC system), the assessment according to the indicators 3.1 and 3.2 of FSC-STD-40-005 pointed to unspecified risk. This assessment was the subject of the public consultation to get the opinions received from the third parties considering an approach that was applied.

_Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:_
See assessment on the national level, consultation on the national risk assessment.
risk assessment at the level of the ecoregion: unspecified (see Annex No 3)

Risk assessment for category III (Ecoregion of Carpathian montane forests): unspecified. (see Annex No 3)

argumentation: The opinions received during the public consultation point to the existing threat to conservation values within the ecoregion. Simultaneously forest managers did not present any opinion that shows the basis for low risk assessment. Available sources of information as well as the consultation process point to unspecified risk assessment. Especially difficult is the assessment considering national parks that sporadically sell the wood outside the local markets. These institutions manage the forest according to the law and protection plans. However opinions received during the public consultations point to potential threat to HCVFs within some of the National Parks areas as well as inability to general risk assessment for those areas. For these reasons occasional supplies of wood logged from the national parks located within the Global 200 ecoregion shall be considered individually. The need for individual assessment and the general approach of risk assessment (the avoidance of potential threats to HCVFs) points to unspecified risk assessment in the national parks areas.

ECOREGION OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN MIXED FORESTS

3.1 Forest management activities in the relevant level (eco-region, sub-eco-region, local) do not threaten eco-regionally significant high conservation values.

Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the ecoregion: In this ecoregion the great majority of the forest is managed by certified in FSC FM system units of State Forest National Forest Holding. State administration is a guarantee for full compliance with the law of nature conservation as well, thus given areas can be considered as low risk areas, under requirements of both indicators. In case of loss of FSC certificate, the threat to HCV Forest can occur. However this region is not considered as globally endangered (see assessment at the level of the whole Poland territory) and potential thread can occur as a result of local abuse of the law or actions taken against recognized HCV Forests outside of areas of nature protection. The incidental character of such cases allows for consideration of this region as low risk areas.

Non-certified areas are located, among others, within Bialowieża Forest, where a conflict between forest managers and both representatives of ENOs and representatives of scientific units have appeared. This conflict indicates unregulated contention regarding to the protection of precious ecosystems and have been going on for many years. Given areas shall be considered as an unspecified risk region (FSC-ADV-40-005-02). There are no presumptions to consider remaining uncertified area in ecoregion (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Krosno) as unspecified risk. The same regards to forests beyond State Forest management.

Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements: See assessment on the national level, consultation on the national risk assessment.

risk assessment at the level of the ecoregion: unspecified
3.2 A strong system of protection (effective protected areas and legislation) is in place that ensures survival of the HCVs in the ecoregion.

Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the ecoregion:

Compare general description considering risk assessment for the category.

There is no particular system of HCV Forest protection in Poland. Protection of these ecosystems relates to general law regulations regarding environment protection. Protection of HCV Forests outside the areas of nature protection depends on forest manager’s activities. Considering this, the best guarantee for HCV Forests persistence in Poland according to FSC requirements is an FSC FM certificate. According to the directive FSC-DIR-40-005 (ADVICE-40-005-14), when HCVF’s are present in the ecoregion under risk assessment, the efficiency of the existing legal system of nature protection shall be assessed. One of the indicators used for the assessment of the efficiency of the nature protection system is the ‘Rule of law’ released by the World Bank. The threshold value of the indicator for the efficient legal system of nature protection in the country under assessment is 75 (maximum value amount to 100). In 2011, Poland was assessed to 71 points. For this reason within the areas of special concentration of HCVs (not certified in FSC system), the assessment according to the indicators 3.1 and 3.2 of FSC-STD-40-005 pointed to unspecified risk. This assessment was the subject of the public consultation to get the opinions received from the third parties considering an approach that was applied.

Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:

See assessment on the national level, consultation on the national risk assessment.

Risk assessment at the level of the ecoregion: unspecified

Risk assessment for category III (Ecoregion of Central European mixed forests):

unspecified

Argumentation: differentiation in HCVF as described above makes assessment on the ecoregion level unreliable. There is a need to assess the risk on the FMU level. The area of noted conflict has been distinguished as a separate region in terms of Controlled Wood, classified as an unspecified risk area. The range of this area coincides area within the borders of Forest Districts: Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka. Remaining area can be considered as low risk area. A proposed division meets notations regarding “region” definition in FSC-ADVICE-40-005-01.
Risk assessment
On the level of forest management units (FMU) within the ecoregion of Central European mixed forests

Ecoregion of Central European mixed forests except forests within the borders of Forest Districts: Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka

3.1 Forest management activities in the relevant level (eco-region, sub-eco-region, local) do not threaten eco-regionally significant high conservation values.

Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the FMU:
This part of the ecoregion is not considered as globally endangered (see assessment at the level of the whole Poland territory, on the level of ecoregion) and potential threat to HCVFs can occur as a result of local abuse of the law or actions taken against recognized HCV Forests outside of areas of nature protection. The incidental character of such cases allows for consideration of this region as low risk areas.
The same applies to forests beyond State Forest management.

Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:
See assessment on the national level.

Risk assessment at the level of the FMU: low

3.2 A strong system of protection (effective protected areas and legislation) is in place that ensures survival of the HCVs in the ecoregion.

Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the FMU:
Compare evaluation on the national level;
In this part of ecoregion the great majority of the forest is managed by certified in FSC system units of State Forest National Forest Holding. State administration is a guarantee for full compliance with the law of nature conservation as well, thus given areas can be considered as low risk areas, under requirements of both indicators. In case of loss of FSC certificate, the threat to HCV Forests can occur.
The same applies to forests beyond State Forest management.

Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:
See assessment on the national level.

Risk assessment at the level of the FMU: low (not applicable - indicator 3.1 is met)

Risk assessment for category III (Central European mixed forests except forests within the borders of Forest Districts: Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka): low
**argumentation:** this part of the ecoregion has been assessed as low risk region in accordance with the FSC procedure and opinions received during public consultation; according to Annex 2 of FSC-STD-40-005, the district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to threat to high conservation values if indicator 3.1 is met or indicator 3.2 eliminates (or greatly mitigates) the threat posed to the district of origin by non-compliance with 3.1.

**Ecoregion of Central European mixed forest within the borders of Forest Districts: Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka**

3.1 Forest management activities in the relevant level (eco-region, sub-eco-region, local) do not threaten eco-regionally significant high conservation values.

**Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the FMU:**
Non-certified areas within the ecoregion are located, among others, within Białowieża Forest - one of the most precious primal forests in the Europe with a high concentration of conservation values. In case of this part of Białowieża primal forest, the strongly divided concepts on nature protection have been existing for many years (compare general assessment under 3.2).

**Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:**
See assessment on the national level, consultation on national risk assessment.

**risk assessment at the level of the FMU:** unspecified (see annex No 4)

3.2 A strong system of protection (effective protected areas and legislation) is in place that ensures survival of the HCVs in the ecoregion.

**Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the FMU:**
In this area a conflict between forest managers and both representatives of Environmental NOs and representatives of scientific units have appeared. This conflict indicates unregulated contention regarding to the protection of precious ecosystems and have been going on for many years. Given areas shall be considered as an unspecified risk region (FSC-ADV-40-005-02).

**Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the FMU:**
There is no particular system of HCV Forest protection in Poland. Protection of these ecosystems relates to general law regulations regarding environment protection. Protection of HCV Forests outside the areas of nature protection depends on forest manager’s activities. Considering this, the best guarantee for HCV Forests persistence in Poland according to FSC requirements is an FSC FM certificate. According to the directive FSC-DIR-40-005 (ADVICE-40-005-14), when HCVF’s are present in the ecoregion under risk assessment, the efficiency of the existing legal system of nature protection shall be assessed. One of the indicators used for the assessment of the efficiency of the nature protection system is the ‘Rule of law’ released by the World Bank. The threshold value of the indicator for the efficient legal system of nature protection in the country under assessment is 75 (maximum value amount to 100). In 2011, Poland was assessed to 71 points. For this reason within the areas of special concentration of HCVs (not certified in FSC system), the assessment according to the indicators 3.1 and 3.2 of FSC-STD-40-005 pointed to unspecified risk. This
assessment was the subject of the public consultation to get the opinions received from the third parties considering an approach that was applied.

*Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:*
See assessment on the national level, consultation on the national risk assessment.

**Risk assessment at the level of the FMU: unspecified** (see Annex No 4)

**Risk assessment for category III (Central European mixed forests within the borders of Forest Districts: Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka): unspecified** (see Annex No 4)

**Argumentation:** the unspecified risk assessment in the region being a part of the Białowieża primal forest comes from the potential threat to HCVFs caused by forest management and the respect to the general rule of avoidance of low risk assessment where such threats occur. The unique character of Białowieża primal forest and its significance for the European biodiversity require an especially cautious approach. Simultaneously it is important to underline a lot of forest manager’s effort committed to keep a high level of nature protection. The eventual change of risk assessment will follow a procedure described in part 3 of this document, nevertheless a verification is planned around the half of 2013.

**Risk assessment for category III: differentiated on the level of the whole Poland territory as well as at the level of ecoregions**

**Risk assessment summary for category III:**

1. Regions/FMUs:
   - Ecoregion of Baltic mixed forests,
   - Ecoregion of Western European broadleaf forests,
   - Ecoregion of Central European mixed forests *except the range of Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka Forest Districts* (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Białystok):

   **Low**

2. Regions/FMUs:
   - Ecoregion of Carpathian montane forests (Global 200 PA0504, see Annex No 3),
   - The area of Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka Forest Districts (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Białystok, see Annex No 4) in the ecoregion of Central European mixed forests:

   **unspecified**
IV. Wood harvested from areas being converted from forest and other wooded ecosystems to plantations or non-forest uses

The intent of this category is to avoid wood coming from regions where there is a significant occurrence of deforestation of natural and semi-natural forests. FSC National Initiatives and FSC Regional Offices are encouraged to provide additional guidance on the interpretation of “significant rate of loss” for forests in their countries and regions.

The district of origin may be considered low risk in relation to conversion of forest to plantations or non-forest uses if:

4.1 There is no net loss AND no significant rate of loss (> 0.5% per year) of natural forests and other natural wooded ecosystems such as savannahs taking place in the eco-region in question.

Evaluation of compliance with requirements of the indicator on the level of the whole Poland territory:

Forested area in Poland has been increasing. Increase in forest area follows the National Program for Increase in Forest Area, approved via the Resolution of the Cabinet on 23 June 1995. Maintaining of forest area is the law obligation as well (Act of 28 September 1991). Conversion of forests to plantations does not take place. Conversion to non-forest areas takes place only in cases of high social or economic needs and follow the relative law proceeding.

Basic sources for evaluation of the indicator requirements:
3. Act of 28 September 1991 on forest (Dz. U No 101, item 444 with later changes).
4. Act on Protection of Forests and Agriculture areas of 3 February 1995 (Dz. U. No 16, item 78 with later changes),
5. Program for Increase in Forest Area:

Risk assessment: low

Risk assessment for category IV: low

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2 Note: the change from plantations to other land uses is not considered as conversion.
V. Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted

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:

a) there is no commercial use of genetically modified trees of the species concerned taking place in the country or district concerned, OR
b) licenses are required for commercial use of genetically modified trees and there are no licenses for commercial use, OR
c) it is forbidden to use genetically modified trees commercially in the country concerned.

Evaluation of compliance with requirements on the level of the whole Poland territory:
Genetically modified trees are not used in Poland territory. According to the law, native species for a particular area are used for forest regeneration, with documented origin and under permanent control of state institutions. Nativeness of the tree's origin is a guarantee for genetic congruity with natural forests in particular regions (considered as an ecotype).

Basic sources for evaluation requirements:
1. Act of 7 June 2001 on forest propagation material (Dz. U. 2001, No 73, item 761 with later changes);
2. Regulations of Director General of State Forest National Forest Holding relevant to the Rules of Silviculture and seedling material: www.lasy.gov.pl;
3. FAO inventory of GMO use: http://www.fao.org/biotech/inventory_admin;
4. Forestry Department of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) working paper "Preliminary review of biotechnology in forestry, including genetic modification", 2004: http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/ae574e/ae574e00.htm

Risk assessment: low

Risk assessment for category V: low

2. Evaluation and approval of national risk assessment

The process of evaluation and approval of the national risk assessment is strictly regulated by FSC-PRO-06-002 procedure. The final project of national risk assessment has been approved by the FSC Poland Board of Directors on 12.11.2012. The document was assessed by the FSC IC in accordance with a formal and substantive compliance against FSC-PRO-06-002 requirements. Formal and substantive compliance with the procedure is a condition that must be fulfilled for national risk assessment approval. The effective date of the national risk assessment (01 February 2013) starts after the approval (10 January 2013).

The English version of this document is overriding to the Polish one.

The national risk assessment will be evaluated at least every 3 years. New facts reported by Stakeholders will be counted during each revision.
In case of receiving current complaints or new information that can be the basis for re-evaluation of binding risk assessment considering particular indicators, those situations will be first considered by the FSC Poland Board of Directors in 30 days since receiving. If evaluation of risk assessment is considered legitimate, the decision of national risk assessment re-evaluation will be made after consultation with FSC IC and published on the FSC Poland website.

3. Detailed information to support companies sourcing from areas designated as „unspecified risk” and implementing their own verification program

4.1. The list of relevant stakeholders to contact as part of the stakeholder consultation requirements in cases of wood supplies from unspecified risk regions – see Annex No 1.
4.2. Data sets and other resources related to the threats to HCVFs specific to the area of unspecified risk, than were obtained during the consultation (PA0504 - Carpathian montane forests, Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka Forest Districts) – see Annex No 2 (refers to Poland).
4.3. The map of unspecified risk ecoregion Global 200 (PA0504 - Carpathian montane forests) – see Annex No 3 (please print as a separate map document).
4.4. The map of the unspecified risk region of Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka Forest Districts – see Annex No 4 (please print as a separate map document).

4. Glossary of terms used in the project of national risk assessment, detailed in FSC-STD-40-005 V2-1

**Biodiversity hotspots** - conservation International’s 25 richest and most threatened reservoirs of plant and animal life on Earth (see also “hot spot”).

**Civil rights** - right or rights belonging to a person by reason of citizenship. The rights that every person in a society has, for example to be treated equally, to be able to vote, work, etc.

**Civil Rights Violation** - infringement of the right or rights belonging to a person by reason of citizenship.

**Controlled Wood** - material originating in non FSC-certified forests or plantations supplied with an FSC claim by a supplier which has been assessed by an FSC-accredited certification body for conformity with the requirements of standards FSC-STD-40-005 or FSC-STD-30-010; wood which is identified by a company for avoidance of the wood categories outlined in section 1.1 of FSC-STD-40-005: FSC standard for company evaluation of Controlled Wood.
**District (region)** - generic geographical definition within a country, which has similar features and similar risk for controlled wood categories and from which wood is sourced. It can be a county, locality or watershed, and is normally a sub-set of an eco-region.

**Ecoregion** - a large area of land or water that contains a geographically distinct assemblage of natural communities that
a) share a large majority of their species and ecological dynamics,
b) share similar environmental conditions, and;
c) interact ecologically in ways that are critical for their long-term persistence (WWF - http://www.worldwildlife.org/science/ecoregions.cfm).

**Genetically modified organism (GMO)** - biological organism which has been induced by various means to consist of genetic structural changes (FSC Principles and Criteria, Feb 2000).

**Genetically modified (GM) tree** - GMO derived from a tree species.³

**Global 200 Ecoregion** - a region identified on the basis of species richness; endemism; higher taxonomic uniqueness; extraordinary ecological or evolutionary phenomena and global rarity of the major habitat type (WWF International, The Global 200 Ecoregions).

**HCVF - High Conservation Value Forests** - high conservation value forests are those that have one or more of the following attributes:
- a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or 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
- b) forest areas that are in or contain rare; threatened or endangered ecosystems
- c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control)
- d) forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities

**Hot Spot** - biogeography region of the world greatest biodiversity, threatened by human: http://www.conservation.org/where/priority_areas/hotspots/Pages/hotspots_main.aspx (see also Biodiversity hotspot).

**Illegally harvested wood** - wood that has been harvested in violation of any laws applicable to harvesting in that location or jurisdiction including the acquisition of the harvesting rights from the rightful owner; the harvesting methods used and the payment of all relevant fees and royalties.

**Indigenous peoples** - “The existing descendants of the peoples who inhabited the present territory of a country wholly or partially at the time when persons of a different culture or ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the world, overcame them and, by conquest, settlement, or other means 

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³ Clones, hybrids formed by natural processes, or the products of traditional tree breeding, selection, grafting, vegetative propagation or tissue culture are not GMOs, unless produced by GMO techniques (FSC POL-30-602).
reduced them to a non-dominant or colonial situation; who today live more in conformity with their particular social, economic and cultural customs and traditions than with the institutions of the country of which they now form a part, under State structure which incorporates mainly the national, social and cultural characteristics of other segments of the population which are predominant." (Working definition adopted by the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples) (FSC Principles and Criteria, February 2000). Convention 169 of the International Labour Office relates to Indigenous and Tribal peoples and is applicable to the definitions and provisions of this standard.

**Low/unspecified-risk forest area** - forest areas classified as having a low/unspecified risk of supplying wood from the categories as outlined in section 1.1 of *FSC-STD-40-005: Standard for company evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood*.

**Origin** - forest area where the trees for the wood or fiber were harvested.

**Procedure** - a specified way to carry out an activity or a process. Procedures may be documented or not.

**Region (district)** - generic geographical definition within a country, which has similar features and similar risk for controlled wood categories and from which wood is sourced. It can be a county, locality or watershed, and is normally a sub-set of an eco-region.

**Threatened** - having an uncertain chance of continued survival. In this standard, it should be considered at the ecoregion level for HCVF.

**Traditional rights** - rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit. Also known as customary rights (FSC Principles and Criteria, February 2000).

**Traditional rights violations** - infringement on local customary rights.

**Unspecified/low-risk forest area** - forest areas classified as having a unspecified/low risk of supplying wood from the categories as outlined in section 1.1 of *FSC-STD-40-005: Standard for company evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood*. 
Annex No 1 of Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment for Poland
The list of relevant stakeholders to contact as a part of the stakeholder consultation requirements in cases of wood supplies from unspecified risk regions.
Following list comprises environmental parties that took part in the consultation of Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment, as well as the parties representing the groups of interest as states in FSC-PRO-60-002 (V. 3).
The parties shall be informed before the consultation.
The list of parties is open and it does not limit the participation of Stakeholders not mentioned in this document.

I. **Unspecified risk region within the ecoregion of Carpathian montane forests (Global 200 PA0504)**

**Economical interests**

1. Regional Directorate of State Forest in Krosno - Regionalna Dyrekcja Lasów Państwowych w Krośnie, ul. Bieszczadzka 2, 38-400 Krosno, tel: 13 43 73 900, fax: 13 43 73 902, e-mail: rdlp@krosno.lasy.gov.pl.

2. The main contractors purchasing the wood from the region - Główni odbiorcy surowca drzewnego z obszaru ryzyka nieokreślonego – the Stakeholders shall be chosen in dependence on the location of the FMU under verification.

3. Forest Entrepreneurs Association, Affiliate in Krosno – Stowarzyszenie Przedsiębiorców Leśnych, Oddział w Krośnie (SPL), Nowy Łupków 30/3 38-543 Komańcza, jabe0@op.pl.

4. Associations of private forest owners- Stowarzyszenia właścicieli lasów prywatnych:


5. National Parks that sell the wood - Parki Narodowe jako podmiot zbywający surowiec podlegający weryfikacji – the Stakeholders shall be chosen in dependence on the location of the FMU under verification:


   Bieszczady National Park - Bieszczadzki Park Narodowy, Ustrzyki Góorne, wwwxbdpn.pl
6. Other ownership forests - Lasy innych form własności – the Stakeholders shall be chosen in dependence on the location of the FMU under verification.

Social Interests

1. Forest Entrepreneurs Association, Affiliate in Krosno – Stowarzyszenie Przedsiębiorców Leśnych, Oddział w Krośnie (SPL), Nowy Łupków 30/3, 38-543 Komańcza, jabe0@op.pl.

2. Forest workers and employees trade union: Krajowy Sekretariat Zasobów Naturalnych Ochrony Środowiska i Leśnictwa, Trawica 8a (Siedziba Nadleśnictwa Karnieszewice), 76-004 Sianów, tel. 0 600 833 541, zkuszelicz@wp.pl.


5. Association of Forest Women - Stowarzyszenie Kobiet Lasu, kobietylasu@gmail.com.

6. Local communities - Społeczności lokalne (jednostki samorządu terytorialnego, podmioty indywidualne) – the Stakeholders shall be chosen in dependence on the location of the FMU under verification.

Environmental Interests


3. Naturalist’s Club - Klub Przyrodników, ul. 1 maja 22, 66-200 Świebodzin, tel./fax: +48 683828236, kp@kp.org.pl.
4. National Parks within the region - Parki Narodowe w regionie (compare the list among economic interests).

5. Polish Society for the Protection of Birds - Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków, ul. Odrowąża 24, 05-270 Marki k. Warszawy, tel. +48 22 761 82 05, +48 22 188 50 81, biuro@otop.org.pl.

6. The Workroom for All the Beings - Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot, Adam Bohdan, ul. Świętojańska 22 lok.1, 15-082 Białystok, tel. 509 197 718, podlasie@pracownia.org.pl.


8. University of Rzeszow, Faculty of Biology and Agriculture - Uniwersytet Rzeszowski, Wydział Biologiczno-Rolniczy, ul. Ćwiklińskiej 2, 35-601 Rzeszów, e-mail: dziek-br@univ.rzeszow.pl.


11. WWF Poland Foundation – Fundacja WWF Polska, ul. Wiśniowa 38, 02-520 Warszawa, tel. (22) 849 84 69 / 848 73 64, dop@wwf.pl.

12. Forest Research Institute - Instytut Badawczy Leśnictwa, Sękocin Stary, ul. Braci Leśnej nr 3, 05-090 Raszyn, tel. 22 7150 300, 22 7150 301, ibl@ibles.waw.pl.

II. Unspecified risk region within the range of Białowieza, Browsk and Hajnówka Forest Districts.

Economical interests

1. Regional Directorate of State Forest in Białystok - Regionalna Dyrekcja Lasów Państwowych w Białymstoku; Adres: ul. Lipowa 51; 15-424 Białystok, rdlp@bialystok.lasy.gov.pl, tel. 8574-818-34.

7. The main contractors purchasing the wood from the region - Główni odbiorcy surowca drzewnego z obszaru ryzyka nieokreślonego- the Stakeholders shall be chosen in dependence on the location of the FMU under verification.

2. Forest Entrepreneurs Association, Affilliate in Białystok – Stowarzyszenie Przedsiębiorców Leśnych, Oddział w Białymstoku (SPL), Wejsuny 2c, 12-220 Ruciane-Nida, waldmex@op.pl, tel. 87 4236642.
Social interests

1. Forest Entrepreneurs Association, Affiliate in Białystok – Stowarzyszenie Przedsiębiorców Leśnych, Oddział w Białymstoku (SPL), Wejsuny 2c, 12-220 Ruciane-Nida, waldmex@op.pl, tel. 87 4236642.

2. Forest workers and employees trade union: Krajowy Sekretariat Zasobów Naturalnych Ochrony Środowiska i Leśnictwa, Trawica 8a (Siedziba Nadleśnictwa Karnieszewice), 76-004 Sianów, tel. 0 600 833 541, zkuszlewicz@wp.pl.


5. Association of Forest Women - Stowarzyszenie Kobiet Lasu, kobietylasu@gmail.com.


Environmental interests

1. Białowieża Geobotanical Station Faculty of Biology Warsaw University - Białowieska Stacja Geobotaniczna, ul. Sportowa 19, 17-230 Białowieża, tel. +85 68 12 548, sekretariat.bsg@uw.edu.pl.

2. Białowieża National Park – Białowieski Park Narodowy, Park Pałacowy 11, 17-230 Białowieża, tel. 85 682-97-00 lub 85 681-20-33; bpn@bpn.com.pl.


5. Naturalist's Club - Klub Przyrodników, ul. 1 maja 22, 66-200 Świebodzin, tel./fax: +48 683828236, kp@kp.org.pl.

6. National Parks within the region - Parki Narodowe w regionie (compare the list among economic interests).

7. Polish Society for the Protection of Birds - Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków, ul. Odrowąża 24, 05-270 Marki k. Warszawy, tel. +48 22 761 82 05, +48 22 188 50 81, biuro@otop.org.pl.
8. The Workroom for All the Beings - Pracownia na rzecz Wszystkich Istot, Adam Bohdan, ul. Świętojańska 22 lok.1, 15-082 Białystok, tel. 509 197 718, podlasie@pracownia.org.pl.


10. University of Białystok, Faculty of Biology and Chemistry - Uniwersytet w Białymstoku, Wydział Biologiczno-Chemiczny, ul. Pogodna 65, 15-399 Białystok, wbch-dz@uwb.edu.pl.

11. Nature-Humanistic University of Siedlce, Faculty of Nature - Uniwersytet Przyrodniczo-Humanistyczny w Siedlcach, Wydział Przyrodniczy, ul. B. Prusa 14, 08-110 Siedlce, tel., fax.: 25 643-13-53, dziekrol@uph.edu.pl oraz dwp@uph.edu.pl, dorotacz@ap.siedlce.pl.

12. WWF Poland Foundation – Fundacja WWF Polska, ul. Wiśniowa 38, 02-520 Warszawa, tel. (22) 849 84 69 / 848 73 64, dop@wwf.pl.

13. Forest Research Institute - Instytut Badawczy Leśnictwa, Sękocin Stary, ul. Braci Leśnej nr 3, 05-090 Raszyn, tel. 22 7150 300, 22 7150 301, ibl@ibles.waw.pl.
Annex No 3 of Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment for Poland
The map of unspecified risk ecoregion Global 200
(PA0504 - Carpathian montane forests, WWF).

(please print the map as a separate document to keep the scale)
Uspecified risk areas managed by State Forest in southeastern part of Poland

As a part of Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment for Poland

WGS84

The borders of Regional Directorates of State Forest

The borders of chosen ecoregions (WWF)

Atlantic mixed forests
Baltic mixed forests
Carpathian montane forests - Global 200
Central European mixed forests
East European forest steppe
Pannonian mixed forests
Pontic steppe
Sarmatic mixed forests
Western European broadleaf forests

Railway lines

The borders and the names of Forest Districts

1:10 000 000

1:10 000 000 1:1 000 000

Forest Districts of unspecified risk managed by State Forest
(Regional Directorate of State forest in Krosno)

Uspecified risk areas managed by State Forest in southeastern part of Poland

As a part of Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment for Poland

WGS84

The borders of Regional Directorates of State Forest

The borders of chosen ecoregions (WWF)

Atlantic mixed forests
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Pannonian mixed forests
Pontic steppe
Sarmatic mixed forests
Western European broadleaf forests

Railway lines

The borders and the names of Forest Districts

1:10 000 000

1:10 000 000 1:1 000 000

Forest Districts of unspecified risk managed by State Forest
(Regional Directorate of State forest in Krosno)
Annex No 4 of Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment for Poland
The map of unspecified risk region of Białowieża, Browsk and Hajnówka Forest Districts (available from: http://mapa.bialystok.lasy.gov.pl/; the last access: 02.11.2012).

(please print the map as a separate document to keep the scale)
Interaktywna mapa RDLP w Białymstoku

The interactive map of Regional Directorate of State Forest in Białystok