



# Supply Base Report: Avoti SWF SIA

Third Surveillance Audit

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## Completed in accordance with the Supply Base Report Template Version 1.4

*For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see [www.sbp-cert.org](http://www.sbp-cert.org)*

### *Document history*

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# 1 Overview

**Producer name:** Avoti SWF SIA

**Producer address:** Avoti Lizuma pagasts, LV-4425 Gulbenes novads, Latvia

**SBP Certificate Code:** SBP-04-35

**Geographic position:** 57.192300, 26.368700

**Primary contact:** Arnita Apine, +371 64471180, arnita.apine@avoti.lv

**Company website:** www.avoti.lv

**Date report finalised:** 21 Jan 2021

**Close of last CB audit:** 17 Feb 2021

**Name of CB:** SCS Global Services

**SBP Standard(s) used:** SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance Standard, SBP Standard 2: Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock, SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody, SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data Instruction, Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon Data 1.3

**Weblink to Standard(s) used:** <https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/standards>

**SBP Endorsed Regional Risk Assessment:** Latvia

**Weblink to SBR on Company website:** <https://www.avoti.lv/uploads/2021/>

Indicate how the current evaluation fits within the cycle of Supply Base Evaluations					
Main (Initial) Evaluation	First Surveillance	Second Surveillance	Third Surveillance	Fourth Surveillance	Re-assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 2 Description of the Supply Base

### 2.1 General description

**Feedstock types:** Primary, Secondary, Tertiary

**Includes Supply Base evaluation (SBE):** Yes

**Feedstock origin (countries):** Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden, Poland, Russia

### 2.2 Description of countries included in the Supply Base

**Country:** Latvia

**Area/Region:** All regions

**Exclusions:** No

Forests in Latvia cover 3,04 million ha (the State Forest Service, 2020). According to the data of the State Forest Service (concerning the surveyed area allocated to management activities regulated by the Forest Law), forest land amounts to 52 % (the ratio of the forest land to the entire territory of the country). The Latvian State owns 49% of the total forest area (1 495 616 ha), while the other 51% (1 560 961 ha) belong to other owners. The number of private forest land owners in Latvia is about 144 thousand.

The area covered by forests is increasing. The expansion happens both naturally and by afforestation of infertile land unsuitable for agriculture.

In the last decade, the timber production in Latvia has fluctuated between 9 to 13 million cubic meters.

Forest land consists of:

- forests: 3,04 million ha (90,6 %);
- marshes: 0,17 million ha (5,1 %);
- glades (forest meadows): 0,031 million ha (0,9 %);
- flooded areas: 0,017 million ha (0,5 %);
- infrastructure facilities: 0,081 million ha (2,4 %);
- other forest land: 0,017 million ha (0,5%).

(the State Forest Service, 2019)

Distribution of forests by dominant species:

- Pine: 32,95 %
- Spruce: 18,68 %
- Birch: 29,63 %
- Black alder: 3,29 %
- Grey alder: 7,07 %
- Aspen: 7,25 %
- Oak: 0,32 %
- Ash: 0,42 %
- Other species: 0,39 %

(the State Forest Service, Public report, 2019)

Share of species used in reforestation, by planting area:

- Pine: 15 %
- Spruce: 20 %
- Birch: 29 %
- White alder: 14 %
- Aspen: 18 %
- Other species: 4 %

(the State Forest Service, 2018)

Timber production by types of cutting, by volume produced:

- Final cuts: 82,94 %
- Thinning: 10,84 %
- Sanitary cuts: 3,05 %
- Deforestation cuts: 1,55 %
- Other types of cuts: 1,62 %

(the State Forest Service, 2019)

The net turnover of forestry and logging makes up 28% of the total turnover of the forest sector (Manufacture of wood and wood products – 64,46%, manufacture of furniture – 7,54%).

## Forestry production

Area	Element	Item	Year	Unit	Value
Latvia	Production	Roundwood	2018	m3	12942170
Latvia	Production	Wood chips, particles and residues	2018	m3	4740200
Latvia	Production	Wood pellets and other agglomerates	2018	tonnes	1622000
Latvia	Production	Sawnwood	2018	m3	3775000
Latvia	Production	Wood-based panels	2018	m3	1363583
Latvia	Production	Fibreboard	2018	m3	0
Latvia	Production	Total fibre furnish	2018	tonnes	70000
Latvia	Production	Pulp for paper	2018	tonnes	0
Latvia	Production	Paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	16000
Latvia	Production	Paper and paperboard, excluding newsprint	2018	tonnes	16000
Latvia	Production	Packaging paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	16000
Source: FAOSTAT - Forestry database					

## Forestry sector

The forestry sector in Latvia is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, which in cooperation with the sector interest groups develops forest policy, development strategy as well as forest management, forest resource use, nature conservation and hunting draft regulatory enactments.

Implementation of the regulatory requirements included in the Latvian laws and the Cabinet of Ministers regulations in the management of forests, regardless of the type of property, is controlled by the State Forest Service under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Management of the state-owned forests is performed by the Joint Stock Company "Latvia's State Forests", established in 1999. The company ensures implementation of the best interests of the state by preserving value of the forest and increasing the share of forest in the national economy.

## Biological diversity

Historically, extensive use of Latvian forests for economic purposes began relatively later than in many other European countries, therefore, greater biological diversity has been preserved in Latvia.

For the sake of conservation of nature values, 655 specially protected nature territories have been created (Nature Conservation Agency, 2017). Part of these territories is included in the Natura 2000, unified network of protected territories of European importance. The most part of the protected territories are in State ownership.

In order to ensure the protection of a specially protected species or a biotope outside specially protected nature territories, micro-reserves are created, if any of the functional zones does not provide it. According to the Nature Conservation Agency, the total area of the micro-reserves until September 1, 2019 was 45

789 ha. The identification of biologically valuable forest stands and the implementation of protective measures are performed continuously.

On the other hand, for preservation of biological diversity during forest management activities, general nature protection requirements binding to all forest managers have been developed. They stipulate that at felling selected old and large trees, dead wood, underwood trees and shrubs, land cover around wet micro-lowlands (terrain depressions) are to be preserved, thus providing habitat for many organisms.

Latvia has been a signatory of the CITES Convention (since 1997). CITES requirements are respected in forest management, although there are no species included in the CITES lists in Latvia.

### Conservation CITES or IUCN species

Species	CITES status	IUCN classification
Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
Oak ( <i>Quercus petraea</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
	Accession 1997	
	<a href="https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp/country/LV">https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp/country/LV</a>	Common Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ) – Near Threatened
	Other CITES species are present but do not include softwood or deciduous trees which are threatened.	<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/203367/67807718">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/203367/67807718</a>

### Other CITES / IUCN registrations

Full list:	Full list
<a href="http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country_ids%5B%5D=196&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=I&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=II&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=III&amp;output_layout=alphabetical&amp;level_of_listing=0&amp;show_synonyms=1&amp;show_author=1&amp;show_english=1&amp;show_spanish=1&amp;show_french=1&amp;scientific_name=Plantae&amp;page=1&amp;per_page=20">http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country_ids%5B%5D=196&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=I&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=II&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=III&amp;output_layout=alphabetical&amp;level_of_listing=0&amp;show_synonyms=1&amp;show_author=1&amp;show_english=1&amp;show_spanish=1&amp;show_french=1&amp;scientific_name=Plantae&amp;page=1&amp;per_page=20</a>	<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?l=LV&amp;searchType=species">https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?l=LV&amp;searchType=species</a>

### Forest and community



Forest territories in which provision of recreation is one of the main objectives of forest management account for up to 8 % of the total forest area (State Forest Service, 2018). Sight towers, cognitive trails, cultural heritage natural sites and recreational areas – these are just a few of the recreational infrastructure facilities available in forests that can be used by anyone. Special attention is devoted to creation of such areas in state-owned forests. Recreational forest areas include national parks (excluding strictly protected areas), nature parks, protected landscape areas, protected dendrological objects, protected geological and geomorphologic objects, nature parks of local significance, the Baltic Sea dune protection zone, protective zones around cities and towns, forests within administrative territory of cities and towns. Management and governance of specially protected natural areas in Latvia is coordinated by the Nature Conservation Agency under the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Regional Development.

**Country:**Estonia

**Area/Region:** All regions

**Exclusions:** No

Estonia is a member of the European Union since 2004. The Estonian legislation is in compliance with the EU's legislative framework and directives. National legislative acts make references to the international framework. All legislation is drawn up within a democratic system, subject to free comment by all stakeholders. The Estonian legislation provides strict outlines in respect to the usage of forestry land and the Estonian Forestry Development Plan 2020 has clear objectives and strategies in place to ensure the forestland is protected up to the standards of sustainable forest management techniques. The Ministry of the Environment coordinates the fulfilment of state duties in forestry. The implementation of environmental policies and its supervision are carried out by two separate entities operating under its governance. The Estonian Environmental Board monitors all of the work carried out in Estonia's forests whereas the Environmental Inspectorate exercises supervision in all areas of environmental protection.

The forest is defined in the Forest Act. There are three main forest categories are described in this legislation: commercial forest, protection forest and protected forests. According to the ownership, forests are also divided into private forests, municipality forests and state owned forests. The state owned forest represent approximately 40% of the total forest area and is certified according to FSC and PEFC forest management and chain of custody standard in which the indicators related to forest management planning, maps and availability of forest inventory records are being constantly evaluated and addressed. The state forest is managed by State Forest Management Centre (RMK) which is a profit-making state agency founded on the basis of the Forest Act and its main duty lies in a sustainable and efficient management of state forest.

Currently more than 2 230 000 ha, equal to 51% of the Estonian land territory, is covered by forest as indicated in Figure 1 and the share of forest land is growing. According to FAO data, during 2000 - 2005, average annual change in the forest cover was +0.4 %. Forestry Development Plan 2012-2020 and Yearbook Forest 2013, that gives annual reports and facts about the forest in Estonia, state that during last decade the cutting rate in Estonian forests is from 7 to 11 mill m<sup>3</sup> per year. The amount is in line with

sustainable development principle when the cutting rate doesn't exceeds the annual increment and gives the potential to meet the long-term the economic, social and environmental needs. According to the Forestry Development Plan 2012-2020 the sustainable cutting rate is 12-15 mil ha per year.

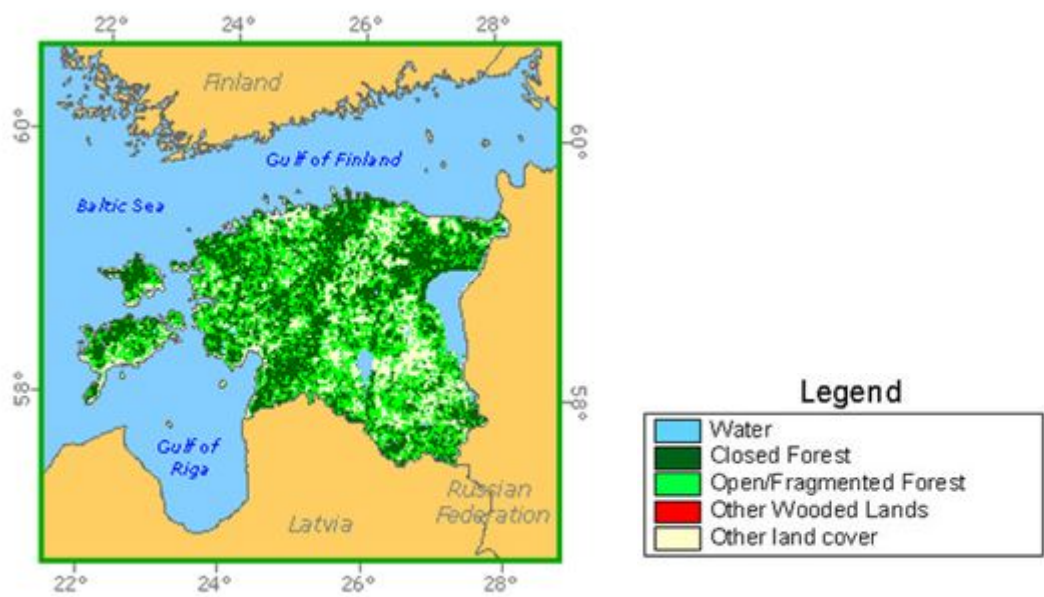


Figure 1. Forest cover of Estonia

The distribution of growing stock by tree species in Estonia is shown in Figure 2.

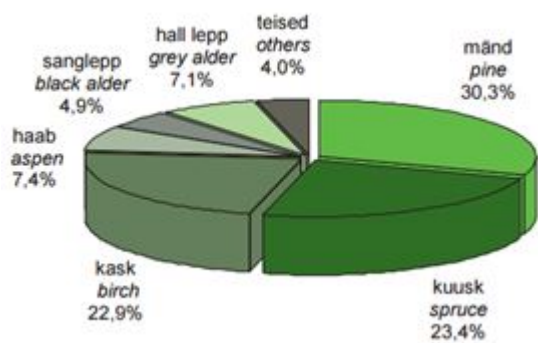


Figure 2. The distribution of growing stock by tree species (Yearbook Forest 2013).

For logging in any type of forest, it is required that a valid forest inventory or forest management plan, along with a felling permit issued by the Environmental Board, is available. All issued felling permits and forest inventory data is available in the public forest registry online database.

Area of protected forests accounts to 25.3% of the total forest area whereas 10% is considered to be under strict protection. The majority of protected forests is located on state property. The main regulation governing the preservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources is the Nature Conservation Act. Estonia has signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1992 and joined the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2007. There are no CITES or IUCN protected tree species naturally growing in Estonia.

### Conservation CITES or IUCN species

Species	CITES status	IUCN classification
Birch ( <i>Betula pubescens</i> )	Not on the list Accession 1992	Least concern (LC)

[https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php  
/component/cp/country/EE](https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp/country/EE)

Other CITES species are present but do not include softwood or deciduous trees which are threatened.

Full list

### Other CITES / IUCN registrations

Full list:

[https://www.iucnredlist.org/se  
arch?l  
andRegions=EE&searchTyp  
e=specie s](https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?larch?l andRegions=EE&searchType=species)  
[http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/cou  
ntry\\_ids%5B%5D=11&cites\\_appendices%  
5B%5D=I&cites\\_appendices%5B%5D=II  
&cites\\_appendices%5B%5D=III&output  
layout=alphabetical&level\\_of\\_listing=0&s  
how\\_synonyms=1&show\\_author=1&sho  
w\\_english=1&show\\_spanish=1&show\\_fr  
ench=1&scientific\\_name=Plantae&page  
=1&per\\_page=20](http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country_ids%5B%5D=11&cites_appendices%5B%5D=I&cites_appendices%5B%5D=II&cites_appendices%5B%5D=III&output_layout=alphabetical&level_of_listing=0&show_synonyms=1&show_author=1&show_english=1&show_spanish=1&show_french=1&scientific_name=Plantae&page=1&per_page=20)

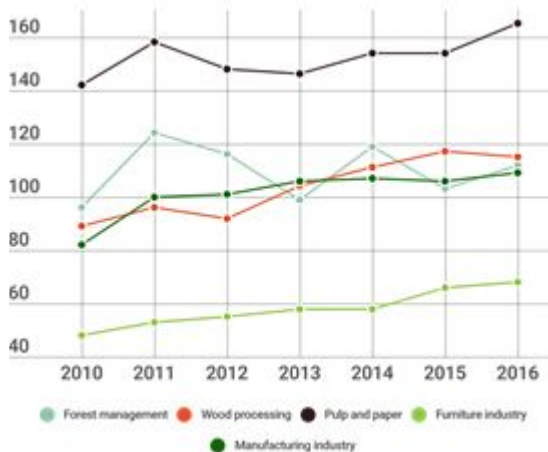
According to the Forestry Yearbook 2014 the wood, paper and furniture industry (646,4 million euro) contributed 23,7% to the total sector providing 3,8% of the total value added. Forestry accounted for 1,5% of the value added.

In Estonia, it is permitted to access natural and cultural landscapes on foot, by bicycle, skis, boat or on horseback. Unmarked and unrestricted private property may be accessed any time and pick berries,

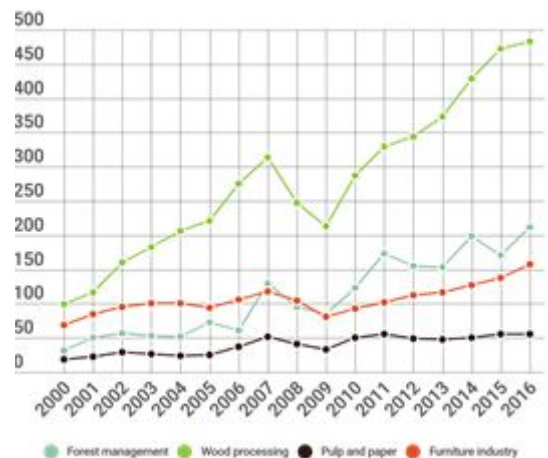
mushrooms, medicinal plants, fallen or dried branches, unless the owner forbids it. On unmarked and unrestricted private property camping is allowed for 24 hours. State forest management center (RMK) creates exercising and recreational opportunities in nature and in recreational and protection zones and provides education about the natural environment which are free to access.

## Comparison of the scale of harvesting compared to other forest based industries in Estonia (2010-2016)

Labor productivity per person employed on the basis of  
sales revenue



Added value in forest and wood industries



## Forestry production

Area	Element	Item	Year	Unft	Value
Estonia	Production	Roundwood	2018	m3	11452000
Estonia	Production	Wood chips, particles and residues	2018	m3	3000000
Estonia	Production	Wood pellets and other agglomerates	2018	tonnes	1335300
Estonia	Production	Sawnwood	2018	m3	1920000
Estonia	Production	Wood-based panels	2018	m3	395000
Estonia	Production	Fibreboard	2018	m3	75000
Estonia	Production	Total fibre furnish	2018	tonnes	326000
Estonia	Production	Pulp for paper	2018	tonnes	236000
Estonia	Production	Paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	76300
Estonia	Production	Paper and paperboard, excluding newsprint	2018	tonnes	76300
Estonia	Production	Packaging paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	76000

Source: FAOSTAT - Forestry database

**Country:**Lithuania

**Area/Region:** All regions

**Exclusions:** No

According to 2018 forest statistics, the total forest land area was 2 195 600 ha, covering 33,6 % of the country's territory. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003, the forest land area has increased by 150 300 ha corresponding to 2,3 % of the total forest cover. During the same period, forest stands expanded by 105 100 ha to 2 056 100 ha. Occupying 1 144 100 ha, coniferous stands prevail in Lithuania, covering 55,6 % of the forest area. They are followed by softwood deciduous forests (843 900 ha, 41,0 %). Hardwood deciduous forests occupy 68 100 ha (3,3 %). The total area of softwood deciduous forest land increased by 145 500 ha over the last fifteen years. The area of hardwood deciduous has decreased by 24 600 ha (mainly due to dieback of ash stands) and coniferous forest by 15 800 ha. Scots pine occupies the biggest share in Lithuanian forests – 711 900 ha. Compared to 2003, the area of pine expanded by 400 ha. Norway spruce stands covers 429 800 ha, with a reduction of 15 400 ha. Birch stands covers the largest area among deciduous trees. Since 2003, it increased by 61 400 ha and reached 453 600 ha by the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Area of black alder increased by 40 100 ha, to 159 600 ha. The area of grey alder decreased by 200 ha reaching 121 800 ha. The area of aspen stands expanded by 38 400 to 95 800 ha. The area of oak stands increased from 35 700 ha to 46 700 ha. The average forest area per capita increased to 0,78 ha. Since 2003, total growing stock volume increased from 453,4 million m<sup>3</sup> up to 546,9 million m<sup>3</sup>. The average growing stock volume in all forests since 2003 increased by 31 m<sup>3</sup>/ha up to 257 m<sup>3</sup>/ha.

In the beginning of 2018, the distribution of forests by functional groups was as follows:

- Group I (strict nature reserves): 25 300 ha (1,2 %);
- Group II (ecosystem protection and recreational): 257 800 ha (11,7 %);
- Group III (protective): 292 300 ha (13,3 %);
- Group IV (commercial): 1 620 100 ha (73,8 %).

Changes of forest land area distribution by forest groups based on the decisions of forest management schemes.

By 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, around a half of all forest land in Lithuania was of State importance – 1 102 000 ha. 854 200 ha of private forests were registered in the State Enterprise Centre of Registers. After intersection of layers of all forests and private holdings the estimated area of private forests was 888 300 ha. The number of private forest owners amounted to almost 250 100, a forest estate averaging 3,4 ha.

Statistical information on the wood manufacturing sector is very limited in Lithuania. The wood products industry is adverse to sharing information or promoting its potential and business opportunities. Publicly data available is usually old and does not present the current market picture. The furniture and paper

industries are the fastest developing segments within the industry. Forest and wood processing sector's share of total national value added reached 4,5%, with forestry adding about 0,6%. The biggest share of the value added in the sector was generated by the furniture industry, some 2%. The number of companies in forestry, logging and the forest industry diminished while their average size increased in recent years. The furniture and wood processing industries provide over 30% of the jobs available in the whole Lithuanian manufacturing industry. In recent times the furniture industry developed mostly due to foreign investments.

## Forestry production

Area	Element	Item	Year	Unit	Value
Lithuania	Production	Roundwood	2018	m3	6982000
Lithuania	Production	Wood chips, particles and residues	2018	m3	1934000
Lithuania	Production	Wood pellets and other agglomerates	2018	tonnes	510000
Lithuania	Production	Sawnwood	2018	m3	1280000
Lithuania	Production	Wood-based panels	2018	m3	856500
Lithuania	Production	Fibreboard	2018	m3	65800
Lithuania	Production	Total fibre furnish	2018	tonnes	207000
Lithuania	Production	Pulp for paper	2018	tonnes	0
Lithuania	Production	Paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	156700
Lithuania	Production	Paper and paperboard, excluding newsprint	2018	tonnes	152000
Lithuania	Production	Packaging paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	137200
Source: FAOSTAT - Forestry database					

National network of protected areas covered 1 026 200 ha or 15,7 % of the total Lithuanian territory by 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2018. The largest part of this area was occupied by regional parks – 44 %, biosphere polygons– 23 %, state and municipal reserves – 15 %, national parks – 14 %, reserves and biosphere reserve – 1,8 % each. Since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 new 157 protected natural heritage sites were established. Areas of Natura 2000 network (without marine areas) covered 846,5 ha at the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018. It composes 13,0 % of the country's territory.

Various forest protection measures were applied by the state forest enterprises on 27 200 ha of forest land in 2017. Biological treatment was applied on 300 ha. Foresters from 900 ha removed 27 100 m3 trees damaged by wind and snow. Chemical protection measures were used on area 2 600 ha. For sanitary protection, state forest enterprises set up 11 700 new nesting-boxes.

Lithuania has signed the CITES Convention in 2001. CITES requirements are respected in forest management, although there are no species included in the CITES lists in Lithuania.

Current harvest has reached some 3.0 million m3 u.b.per year. The consumption of industrial wood in the domestic forest industry, including export of industrial wood, is estimated to be less than 2.0 million m3. The remainder is used for fuel or stored in the forests, with a deteriorating quality as a result.

The potential future annual cut is calculated at 5,2 million m3, of which 2,4 million m3 is made up of sawn timber and the remaining 2,8 million m3 of small dimension wood for pulp or board production, or for fuel. The figures refer to the nearest 10-year period.

The national laws on the conservation of protected species and measures available (breeding, reintroduction, management of habitats) are inadequate for the protection of species. Lithuania has about 20 protected species that require immediate special measures for their conservation. Plans and documents on the conservation of protected species for implementing measures to conserve specific protected species are not in place. In addition, in the decision making process on economic activities Lithuania makes insufficient use of the Protected Species Information System. Regulations on the conservation of location and habitat sites of strictly protected species have not been drawn up, and the evaluation of protected species in accordance with the categories established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has not been carried out.

## Conservation CITES or IUCN species

Species	CITES status	IUCN classification
Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
Oak ( <i>Quercus petraea</i> )	Not on the list	Rare - status is rare because Lithuania is the edge of its growing range
	Accession 2001	
	<a href="https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp/country/LT">https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp/country/LT</a>	Common Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ) – Near Threatened
	Other CITES species are present but do not include softwood or deciduous trees which are threatened.	<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/203367/67807718">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/203367/67807718</a>

## Other CITES / IUCN registrations

Full list:	Full list
<a href="http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country_ids%5B%5D=154&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=I&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=II&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=III&amp;output_layout=alphabetical&amp;level_of_listing=0&amp;show_synonyms=1&amp;show_author=1&amp;show_english=1&amp;show_spanish=1&amp;show_french=1&amp;scientific_name=&amp;page=1&amp;per_page=20">http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country_ids%5B%5D=154&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=I&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=II&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=III&amp;output_layout=alphabetical&amp;level_of_listing=0&amp;show_synonyms=1&amp;show_author=1&amp;show_english=1&amp;show_spanish=1&amp;show_french=1&amp;scientific_name=&amp;page=1&amp;per_page=20</a>	<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?l=LT&amp;searchType=species">https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?l=LT&amp;searchType=species</a>

Country: Sweden

**Area/Region:** All regions

**Exclusions:** No

Sweden is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy that joined the EU in 1995.

The Swedish Forest Agency is the national authority responsible for matters relating to the forests. It strives to ensure that the nation's forests are managed in such a way as to yield an abundant and sustainable harvest while at the same time preserving biodiversity. The Agency also strives to increase awareness of the forest's significance, including its value for outdoor recreation. The Agency has offices throughout the country. Its most important tasks are to give advice on forest-related matters, supervise compliance with the Forest Act, provide services to the forest industry, support nature conservation efforts and conduct inventories.

According to the latest forest inventory "Riksskogstakseringen" from 2018 the total area of Sweden is 40,7 million ha (100%). Of these 28,1 million ha (69%) are forest area and 23,5 million ha (58%) of these are defined as productive forests.

In Sweden there are at least 3 layers of tenure regimes influencing forest use and forestry: private land tenure, rights to use the land held by the Sami people in the northern parts of Sweden and the right of public access. While the private ownership of forest is based on possession rights, the two other forms relate to user rights. Private ownership has been important, first and foremost as a basis for sustainable land use and longterm planning and investments in the regeneration of forests. About half of all forest land in Sweden is owned by private enterprises. There are some 200 000 families with forests area bigger than 5 ha and most farms are passed on from one generation to the next. The average holding is 50 ha. Some 90 000 family forest entities are members of a forest cooperative. All the cooperatives together form a National Federation of Family Forest Owners, who seeks to influence national and international forest policies. A small number of large private sector industrial forest enterprises own approximately 25 % of all forest land in Sweden. Most of the State forest belongs to the state-owned company Sveaskog, which accounts for 14 % of all forest land. Sveaskog is Sweden's largest single forest owner and supply logs, pulp wood and biofuel.

The main intention of the Swedish National Forest Policy is to ensure sustainable forest management and it focuses on three major objectives, one for production, one for environmental concerns and one for social concerns. To obtain a long-term sustainable flow of timber from the forests, an even age-class distribution on the regional level is a longterm target in forest policy. The legal demands on forestry are mainly set by the Forestry Act and the Environmental Code. The forest sector is considered a commercial sector which should be economically self-sustained and not subsidized. There are, however some state subsidies to enhance the forest sector's environmental value. The National Forest Policy is influenced by several international regulations and agreements:

- EU Timber Regulation
- The Habitat Directive
- The Water Framework Directive
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



- United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) are the dominant tree species in all Sweden. Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and the deciduous species Birch (*Betula pendula*), Aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) are used to some extent in northern Sweden. European larch (*Larix decidua*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and oak (*Quercus robur*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is used in the south. The main part of the deciduous forest cover is naturally regenerated.

The Swedish forest products industry provides direct employment for almost 60 000 people. Together with subcontractors and the forest operations, including transportation the sector source about 200 000 jobs. In several counties, the forest products industry accounts for 20 % or more of industrial employment.

The primary focus for conservation of Swedish forests are to protect high conservation forests and include sufficient biodiversity measures in all forest. Of Sweden's 28 million ha of forestland, approximately 2 millions are protected for conservation purposes, mostly in national parks and nature reserves. In these areas, timber extraction is not allowed unless it is to specifically improve the value of the land or nature and/or for cultural conservation. Unproductive forestland which accounts for some 4 million ha are protected through the Forestry Act. On the remaining land the forests are managed with equal respect to biomass production and environmental and social goals.

Sweden has a number of IUCN categories mapped and registered:

- Strict nature reserves;
- National parks;
- Habitat/species management areas;
- Protected landscapes;
- Habitat Directive sites and Bird Directive sites.

The system of red List categories and criteria has been developed by the IUCN to measure the conservation status of individual species. It strictly evaluates the risk of going extinct in Sweden, without any other considerations such as attractiveness or usefulness/harmfulness to man. The Red List is a powerful tool for making conservation prioritizations, but it has no juridical status. It is produced by the SLU Swedish Species Information Centre SLU, and ratified by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Agency for marine and Water Management.

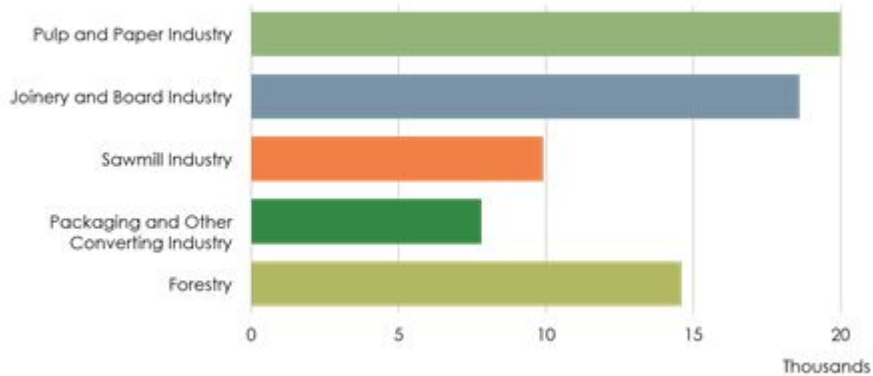
The 2015 Red List of Swedish Species, published on April 28 2015, is the fourth Swedish Red List based on the international IUCN criteria.

## **Conservation CITES or IUCN species**

Species	CITES status	IUCN classification
Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> , <i>Quercus petraea</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
Oak ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
Birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> , <i>Betula pubescens</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
Beech ( <i>Fagus silvatica</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
		Near threatened (NT)
Common Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	Not on the list	Reason: The Ash dieback is an infectious disease that has caused severe dieback of Common Ash throughout much of its range
Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> )	Not on the list	Region: Sweden: <b>Endangered</b>
Pine ( <i>Pinus Sylvestris</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
Spruce ( <i>Picea abies</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
	Ratification 1974	Least concern (LC)
	<a href="https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp/country/SE">https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp/country/SE</a>	Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum) – vulnerable
Other CITES / IUCN registrations	Other CITES species are present but do not include softwood or deciduous trees which are threatened.	<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/202914/122961065#conservationactions">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/202914/122961065#conservationactions</a>
	Full list:	Full list:
	<a href="http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country_ids%5B%5D=77&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=I&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=II&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=III&amp;output_layout=alphabetical&amp;level_of_listing=0&amp;show_synonyms=1&amp;show_author=1&amp;show_english=1&amp;show_spanish=1&amp;show_fren">http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country_ids%5B%5D=77&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=I&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=II&amp;cites_appendices%5B%5D=III&amp;output_layout=alphabetical&amp;level_of_listing=0&amp;show_synonyms=1&amp;show_author=1&amp;show_english=1&amp;show_spanish=1&amp;show_fren</a>	<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?l">https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?l</a>

ch=1&scientific\_name=&page=1&per\_page=20 andRegions=SE&searchType=species

## Employment in Forestry and Forest Industry Sector



Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business, figures 2017

## Forestry production

Area	Element	Item	Year	Unit	Value
Sweden	Production	Roundwood	2018	m3	73028000
Sweden	Production	Wood chips, particles and residues	2018	m3	20519000
Sweden	Production	Wood pellets and other agglomerates	2018	tonnes	2135000
Sweden	Production	Sawnwood	2018	m3	18373000
Sweden	Production	Wood-based panels	2018	m3	635000
Sweden	Production	Fibreboard	2018	m3	0
Sweden	Production	Total fibre furnish	2018	tonnes	12612000
Sweden	Production	Pulp for paper	2018	tonnes	11464000
Sweden	Production	Paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	10140999
Sweden	Production	Paper and paperboard, excluding newsprint	2018	tonnes	9163999
Sweden	Production	Packaging paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	6224000

Source: FAOS TAT - Forestry database

Country:Finland

Area/Region: All regions

**Exclusions: No**

Finland is a Parliamentary Republic that is a member of the EU since 1995.

Forests cover more than 70 % of the land area of Finland. Measured by the proportional share of forest land, Finland is the most forested country in Europe. A total of 20.3 million ha is available for wood production, 61 % of this is privately owned.

In the past decades the volume of wood harvested has been clearly below the growth, which means that the wood resources keep growing. Today they are about 2.3 billion cubic metres. Finland has the fifth largest wood resources in Europe, after Russia, France, Sweden and Germany.

Three million hectares of the Finnish forests are protected or under restricted use, which represents 13 % of the forest area. This is the highest share in Europe.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry directs and develops forest policy and legislation in Finland and participates EU decision-making through the Government. Metsähallitus (State Forests), the Natural Resources institute and the Finnish Forest Centre operate under the guidance Ministry.

About 60 % of productive forest land in Finland is owned by private people. There are about 620,000 forest owners in Finland; this figure includes the owners and their spouses, as well as the shareholders of consortia and death estates, with holdings larger than two hectares. This means that almost 14 % of the population are forest owners.

The state owns 26 %, companies (including forest industry) 9 % and other entities 5 % of productive forest land. State forests are managed by the state forest company Metsähallitus.

A typical Finnish forest holding is small in size. The number of holdings over two hectares in size is about 344,000, and the average size is 30.5 hectares. The share of forest holdings over a hundred hectares in size is only five percent. The structure of forest ownership is polarized in that the number of both small and large holdings is increasing.

The share of productive forest land owned by families and individuals is higher than that owned by other groups, because lands owned by the state and partly also those owned by companies are mainly located in less productive areas in north and east Finland. As a result, the share of harvesting of private lands is clearly greater than their share of the ownership, or about 80 percent.

A significant share of the living species in Finland are directly or indirectly dependent on the forests. About 36 % of all threatened species live in mineral soil forests. However, only about 10 % of the assessed mineral soil species are threatened. This means that Finnish forests still contain most of the species that naturally occur there. In addition, a few percent of all threatened species live in forested peatlands.

According to the NFI, the annual increment of growing stock was 107 million m<sup>3</sup>. The annual increment has exceeded the annual fellings by about 30%. The amount of harvested volume since the mid-1970s equals to the current volume of the tree stock. The allowable sustainable felling potential of Finnish forests is estimated as 84 million m<sup>3</sup> per year for the years 2015 to 2024.

Finnish forestry is based on the management of native tree species. The management of forests seeks to respect their natural growth and mimic the natural cycle of boreal forests. The objective is to secure the production of high-quality timber, and to preserve the biological diversity of forests as well as the preconditions for the multiple use of forest.

Maintenance and enhancement of biological diversity of forests is an integral element of the Finnish forest policy, legislation and practices. In Finland certification systems (PEFC, FSC) drawn up in participatory processes which are independent of any public authorities are widely used on a voluntary basis to ensure the sustainability of forest management.

The backbone of forest biodiversity conservation is the network of protected areas. These are supplemented by voluntary forest protection and biodiversity conservation in commercial forests. Majority of national parks and strict nature reserves are located in northern Finland, thus voluntary forest protection is very important and promoted by the State in southern part of the country.

The vast majority of Finland is situated in the boreal coniferous zone. In the boreal coniferous zone the soil is poor and acid and there are only few forest tree species. Almost half of the volume of the timber stock consists of pine (*Pinus Sylvestris*). Pine predominates on 67% of forest land, spruce (*Picea Abies*) on 22% and broadleaves (*Betula pubescens*, *Betula Pendula*) on 11%. Broadleaves, which are important to forest biodiversity and the soil and grow mostly in mixed stands, account for 20% of the total volume of growing stock, which is clearly more than the total area of predominantly deciduous stands.

Public access allows everyone to move freely in Finnish forests and pick berries and mushrooms. No specific permits are needed for this, not even on private lands. The use of forests for recreation is founded on the so-called everyman's right. Certain rules regarding the activities that are allowed are laid down by law. Most importantly, the exercise of everyman's right may not cause damage or disturbance to the environment or other people.

There are 40 national parks in Finland, with a total surface area of 10 002 square kilometres. Hiking areas on state lands offer excellent and diverse opportunities for camping and outdoor recreation. More challenging environments for experienced hikers can be found in the vast wilderness areas in Lapland. National parks and other hiking areas on state lands are managed by the Parks and Wildlife Finland, which is a unit of Metsähallitus.

Almost all Finns engage in some form of outdoor recreation and, for example, about two million Finns pick mushrooms. Relative to the total population, there are more hunters than in any other country in Europe (200000–300000). Recreational fishing is a national hobby, with almost every other Finn engaged in leisure fishing in one form or another.

A new assessment of threatened species indicates an increasing loss of biodiversity in Finnish nature. Of the 22,000 species evaluated, 11.9% were classified as threatened. The highest proportion of threatened species is found among birds and bryophytes (mosses). The primary threat is the decline and deterioration of natural habitat – urgent action is needed to stop this decline.

The threat status of Finnish species is evaluated every ten years; most recently in 2019. The results of the assessment are published in the Red List of Finnish Species, listing Regionally Extinct, Threatened, Near Threatened and Data Deficient species.

Experts in charge of the evaluation assess all species in Finland using the classification and criteria prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This assessment takes account of matters such as the size and development or decline of the species' population, the size of and changes in the natural range of the species, fragmentation in its occurrences, changes in the quality and quantity of its natural habitats, and its reproductive capacity. Note is also taken of the habitats, causes of threat and threat factors of all species.

The 2019 Red List of Finnish species can be considered to be one of the most comprehensive performed in the world, as sufficient data forming the basis for evaluation has been gathered on almost a half of the

approximately 48,000 species in Finland. Many more species than before have been included in this research, most of which are not threatened.

Finland joined CITES in 1976. Nowadays the national legislation for the implementation of CITES and relating EU regulations is the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996), which came into force in the 1st of January 1997. IUCN National Committee of Finland was approved by IUCN Council in 1999.

### Conservation CITES or IUCN species

Species	CITES status	IUCN classification
Spruce ( <i>Picea abies</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
Pine ( <i>Pinus Sylvestris</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
		Near threatened (NT)
		Reason: The Ash dieback is an
		infectious disease that has caused
		severe dieback of Common Ash
		throughout much of its range
Common Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )	Not on the list	
		Region: Finland: Regionally threatened
		in all areas where it occurs.
		<a href="http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/203367/0">http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/203367/0</a>
Oak ( <i>Quercus petraea/robur</i> )	Not on the list	Least concern (LC)
	Accession 1976	Horse Chestnut ( <i>Aesculus</i>
Other CITES / IUCN registrations		<i>hippocastanum</i> ) – vulnerable

<https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/c>

[omponent/cp/country/FI](#)

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/202914/122961065#conservationactions>

Other CITES species are present but do

Full list

not include softwood or deciduous trees

which are threatened.

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?language=FI&searchType=species>

Full list:

[http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/cites\\_appendices%5B%5D=I&cites\\_appendices%5B%5D=II&cites\\_appendices%5B%5D=III&output\\_layout=alphabetical&level\\_of\\_listing=0&show\\_synonyms=1&show\\_author=1&show\\_english=1&show\\_spanish=1&show\\_french=1&scientific\\_name=Plantae&page=1&per\\_page=20](http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/cites_appendices%5B%5D=I&cites_appendices%5B%5D=II&cites_appendices%5B%5D=III&output_layout=alphabetical&level_of_listing=0&show_synonyms=1&show_author=1&show_english=1&show_spanish=1&show_french=1&scientific_name=Plantae&page=1&per_page=20)

A group considered as an indigenous people in Finland is the Sámi. Their rights have been secured in many laws e.g. the Constitution, the Sámi Parliament Act, the Act on the Finnish Forest and Park Service and the Act on Reindeer Husbandry. The Sámi Parliament is the supreme political body of the Sámi in Finland. The Sámi Parliament represents the Sámi in national and international connections, and it attends to the issues concerning Sámi language, culture, and their position as an indigenous people. The Sámi Parliament can make initiatives, proposals and statements to the authorities. The Sámi Parliament Act also states that the authorities have an obligation to negotiate with the Sámi Parliament for all important measures that concern the Sámi people. These include for example the use of state land and conservation areas.

## Forestry production

Area	Element	Item	Year	Unit	Value
Finland	Production	Roundwood	2018	m3	68289165
Finland	Production	Wood chips, particles and residues	2018	m3	14138268
Finland	Production	Wood pellets and other agglomerates	2018	tonnes	407000
Finland	Production	Sawnwood	2018	m3	11840000
Finland	Production	Wood-based panels	2018	m3	1342000
Finland	Production	Fibreboard	2018	m3	20000
Finland	Production	Total fibre furnish	2018	tonnes	11900000
Finland	Production	Pulp for paper	2018	tonnes	11260000
Finland	Production	Paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	10544019
Finland	Production	Paper and paperboard, excluding newsprint	2018	tonnes	10239027
Finland	Production	Packaging paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	3819009
Source : FAOSTAT - Forestry database					

**Country:**Russia

**Area/Region:** Republic of Karelia

**Exclusions:** No

Sourcing area in Russia is the Republic of Karelia. The supply area is represented by semi-natural managed forests (southern boreal) with native tree species. Tree species sourced are Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Spruce (*Picea abies*). Other species (*Betula* sp, *Larix*, *Populus*, *Alnus*, *Salix*) are also present in the forests. The coniferous species make 68% of the forest area. No CITES listed forest tree species are represented in the sourcing.

Russia is home to nearly one-quarter of the planet's forests. However, around 65% of Russia's forests grow in severe climate conditions, which result in low productivity and a fragmentary nature of growing stock, as well as high harvesting and transportation costs. Around 76% of the country's forests are composed of coniferous species. Standing larch trees, which have limited applications in the timber industry, account for a considerable proportion of them. The annual allowable cut was established at 703 million cubic meters at the end of 2016 but no more than 30% of it is normally harvested. In accordance with Russia's Forest Sector Strategy until 2030, the proportion is projected to increase to 41% as harvesting is slated to rise to 286 million cubic meters to meet new demand from woodworking companies.

Harvesting volumes are lower than the allowable annual cut due to the following:

- No access to remote forests from main railway lines, motorways or rivers;
- Forest underutilization under forest parcel lease contracts;
- Lack of up-to-date data on forest resources;



- Inefficient forest regeneration to reproduce economically valuable species on the most productive and transport accessible forest land Areas of final felling have surpassed forest regeneration areas over the last decade.

Felled areas that were never replanted reached 1.4 million hectares in 2010-2016. The ratio of forest regeneration to areas of final felling dropped from 147% in 2000 to 74% in 2016.

Russia has around 11.47 million km<sup>2</sup> of forest land and other wooded land, which constitutes 49.8% of the total land area. The area of the forest land actually covered by forests is 7,95 million km<sup>2</sup>. Around 33.5% of the total forested area is composed of primary forests, 64.1% of otherwise naturally regenerated forests, and the remaining 2.4% of planted forest. 100% of the Russian forest land is publicly owned.

The Russian landscape is highly diverse, including polar deserts, arctic and sub-arctic tundra, boreal and semi-tundra larch forests, boreal and temperate coniferous forests, temperate broadleaf and mixed forests, forest-steppe and steppe (temperate grasslands, savannahs, and shrub-lands), semi-deserts and deserts.

With 7,7 million km<sup>2</sup>, Russian boreal forests (also known in Russia as the taiga) represent 67% of Russia's total forest land and is the largest forested region on Earth (larger than the Amazon). These forests have relatively few tree species, and are composed mainly of birch, pine, spruce, and fir, along with some other deciduous species. Mixed-in among the forests are bogs, fens, marshes, shallow lakes, rivers and wetlands, which hold vast amounts of water. These forests contain more than 55% of the world's conifers, and 11% of the world's biomass.

Many indigenous and local people in Russia's less developed regions rely heavily on the forest for timber harvesting, and non-timber forest product collection (e.g. berries, mushrooms, medicinal plants), traditional agriculture (e.g. grazing, hay making), and hunting. Almost all of the 45 officially registered indigenous nationalities depend on the use of forest and other wild natural resources (tundra, marine, freshwater) for their subsistence.

The forested area has been growing slightly, by 0.03% per year, mainly due to natural expansion, over the last 25 years. The main pressure on Russian forests is caused by timber extraction and other forestry activities. Demand for resources in world markets, such as timber in China and Southeast Asia, and pulp in Europe, is increasingly threatening Russian forests. Forest fires are also a major threat to the region. The forest loss due to fire ranges from one to three million hectares per year. Siberian forests are particularly at risk.

Russia has more than 12,000 national, regional, and local protected areas, covering 200 million hectares or 11.9% of the country. Federally-managed protected areas, including 102 strict nature reserves (*zapovedniks*), 47 national parks, 70 federal sanctuaries or wildlife refuges (*zakazniks*) and 28 reserved sites (natural monuments), cover 66 million hectares or about 3.9% of the country's territory. In addition to these protected areas, Russia has over 281 million hectares of protected forest (such as water protection zones, cedar nuts using zones etc.), 268 million hectares of reserve forest located in economically inaccessible territories, and many protected forest sites within exploitable forest. The share of protected forests is fluctuating from 3 to 60%, depending on the particular region and/or forest management unit. All of these categories of forests have different protection regimes and clear cutting is not allowed in most of them.

Most common production species in Russia are:

Coniferous:

- Pine (*Pinus spp.*)

- Spruce (*Picea spp.*)
- Fir (*Abies nephrolippis*)
- Larch (*Larix spp.*)
- Siberian pine (*Pinus siberica* – often mis-translated as Siberian cedar)

Deciduous:

- Oak (*Quercus spp.*)
- Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)
- Birch (*Betula spp.*)
- Aspen (*Populus tremula*)
- Ash (*Fraxinus spp.*)
- Elm (*Ulmus spp.*)
- Linden (*Tilia spp.*)

In 2013, the Russian Federation introduced an eight year plan, “The Development of Forestry 2013-2020”, aiming to reduce illegal logging and increase profits from the timber sector. The Criminal Code was also updated in 2014 to include stricter penalties for illegal logging, transport and sale. Timber labelling, traceability and monitoring system requirements were updated in the 2013 Federal Law “On Amendments to the Forest Code of the Russian Federation”. A new electronic system for recording timber related information, the Uniform State Automated Information System (EGAIS), was launched 1 January 2015. All organisations dealing in timber are required to submit information on the volume of timber harvested, labels used and timber sold. Forests are state owned and licences to harvest are issued to companies or individuals. The Russian Federation also maintains a list of tree and shrub species for which harvest is prohibited.

## **Forestry production**

Area	Element	Item	Year	Unit	Value
Russian Federation	Production	Roundwood	2018	m3	235999999
Russian Federation	Production	Wood chips, particles and residues	2018	m3	18356000
Russian Federation	Production	Wood pellets and other agglomerates	2018	tonnes	2450000
Russian Federation	Production	Sawnwood	2018	m3	42701000
Russian Federation	Production	Wood-based panels	2018	m3	17334000
Russian Federation	Production	Fibreboard	2018	m3	3565000
Russian Federation	Production	Total fibre furnish	2018	tonnes	12129000
Russian Federation	Production	Pulp for paper	2018	tonnes	8679000
Russian Federation	Production	Paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	9048000
Russian Federation	Production	Paper and paperboard, excluding newsprint	2018	tonnes	7521000
Russian Federation	Production	Packaging paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	5896000
Source: FAOSTAT - Forestry database					

There are 4 CITES listed timber species in Russia – *Taxus cuspidata* (Appendix II), *Fraxinus mandshurica*, *Pinus koraiensis* and *Quercus mongolica* (Appendix III).

### Conservation CITES or IUCN species

#### Species

Birch (*Betula pendula*)

Oak (*Quercus robur*, *Quercus petraea*)

#### CITES status

Not on the list

Not on the list

Continuation 1992

#### IUCN classification

Least concern (LC)

Least concern (LC)

Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) –

Near Threatened

<https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php>

[/component/cp/country/RU](#)

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/>

Several species

[203367/67807718](#)

Other CITES / IUCN registrations

Full list:

Full list:

[http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country\\_ids%5B%5D=208&cites\\_appendices%5B%5D=I&cites\\_appendices%5B%5D=II&cites\\_appendices](http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country_ids%5B%5D=208&cites_appendices%5B%5D=I&cites_appendices%5B%5D=II&cites_appendices)

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?l andRegions=RU&searchType=species>

[%5B%5D=III&output\\_layout=alphabetical&level\\_of\\_listing=0&show\\_synonyms=1&show\\_author=1&show\\_english=1&show\\_spanish=1&show\\_french=1&scientific\\_name=&page=1&per\\_page=20](#)

**Country:**Poland

**Area/Region:** All regions

**Exclusions:** No

The forest area in Poland is 9230 thousand ha (according to the Central Statistical Office, figure for 31 December 2016), which corresponds to forest cover of 29.5%. The forest cover is the highest in the Lubuskie province at 49.2%. According to the measurement standard adopted by the international assessment which also includes the lands associated with forest management, the forest area in Poland is 9435 thousand ha, as of 31 December 2016, and is close in size to the forest area of Ukraine and Italy. In six European countries (apart from Russia) this number was more than 10 million ha.

In the ownership structure of forests in Poland the public forests are predominant – 80.8%, of which 77.0% are under the administration of the State Forests National Forest Holding (the State Forests). In the post-war period the forest ownership structure was changing very slightly. In the years 1990–2016, the share of privately-owned forests increased by 2.2 percentage points to the current 19.2%. Concurrently, the share of publicly-owned forests decreased from 83.0% to 80.8%.

Forests in Poland mainly occur in the areas with the poorest soils which is reflected by the distribution of the forest habitat types. In the structure of forest sites, coniferous forests are predominant as they account for 50.5% of the forest area, while the broadleaved habitats account for 49.5%. In both groups there are upland sites accounting for 6.5% of the total forest area and montane sites occurring in 8.7% of forests.

Coniferous species are dominant in 68.5% of the area of Polish forests. Pine, which according to the National Forest Inventory accounts for 58.2% of the area of forests in all ownership categories, 60.1% of the area managed by the State Forests, and 55.0% in private forests, has found in Poland optimal climatic and site conditions within its Euro-Asian natural range. Owing to this, pine managed to produce many valuable ecotypes such as Taborska or Augustowska pine. In the years 1945–2016, the structure of species composition in Polish forests changed significantly, which is evident also in the increased share of stands with predominant deciduous species. In the State Forests, where it is possible to track these changes owing to the annual updates of the forest area and timber resources, the area of broadleaved stands increased from 13.0 to 23.8%.

Forest ecosystems in Poland are the most valuable and the most representative components of all nature protection forms. They account for 38.2% of the land area under legal protection. In relation to the total forest area, the share of protected forests accounts for 41.9%, but taking into account the area of forest reserves it amounts to 43.0%. The area of forests and the timber resources of the country are increasing steadily. At present, their area is 9230 million ha, including 7105 million ha in the State Forests, volume of gross merchantable timber – 2550 million m<sup>3</sup>, of which in the State Forests 2005 million m<sup>3</sup> and in private

forests 424 million m<sup>3</sup>. At present, the average growing stock amounts 277 m<sup>3</sup>/ha; in the State Forests, however, this indicator is higher than in private forests – 282 m<sup>3</sup>/ha and 240 m<sup>3</sup>/ha, respectively. The average age of stands is 59 years in the State Forests and 48 years in private forests.

Forests in Poland are one of the most valuable elements of the environment and are protected by a variety of nature and landscape protection forms. There are national parks, nature reserves, areas of protected landscape, Natura 2000 sites, areas of ecological utility, nature and landscape complexes and documentation sites. The highest form of nature protection are national parks which currently number 23 and cover an area 315.1 thousand ha. Forests comprise 194.8 thousand ha, i.e. 61.8% of the total area of national parks. Nature reserves, 1493 in number, cover an area of 168.3 thousand ha. Majority of reserves (1281) are located within administrative boundaries of the State Forests. The combined forest area in nature reserves is 96.1 thousand ha. There are 122 landscape parks, created through administrative orders of provincial governors, of a combined area 2604.7 thousand ha, out of which 1319.1 thousand ha (50.6%) are forests. The areas of protected landscape include 385 objects of nature with a total area of 7085.9 thousand ha, of which forests constitute 2305.9 thousand ha (32.5%). Both forms of nature conservation account for over 50.2% of the area of the State Forests. Within Natura 2000 network, at the end of 2016 there were designated 145 special protection areas (SPAs) for birds with a total land and sea area of 5575 thousand ha, and 849 sites of Community importance (awaiting to be designated by the Minister of the Environment as special areas of habitat conservation) with a total area of 3851 thousand ha. Currently, Natura 2000 sites cover 6853 thousand ha which is about 20% of the country's total area. In the areas administered by the State Forests, special protection areas for birds cover 2217 thousand ha (29.1%), and sites of Community importance 1678 thousand ha (21.8%). Following large extension of the Polish – Belarusian Bialowieza Forest World Heritage Site (inscribed in 2014) the entire Bialowieza Forest (a property of 141,885 ha with a buffer zone of 166,708 ha) is on the World Heritage List.

Poland's forests contain 968 million metric tons of carbon in living forest biomass. Biodiversity and Protected Areas: Poland has some 563 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles according to figures from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Of these, 0.4% are endemic, meaning they exist in no other country, and 4.3% are threatened. Poland is home to at least 2450 species of vascular plants, of which 0.1% are endemic. 11.0% of Poland is protected under IUCN categories I-V.

## Conservation CITES or IUCN species

Species	CITES status	IUCN classification
Oak ( <i>Quercus petraea/robur</i> )	Not on the list Ratification 1989	Least concern (LC) Common Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ) –  Near Threatened
Other CITES / IUCN registrations	<a href="https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp/country/PL">https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php /component/cp/country/PL</a>	<a href="https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/">https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/</a>

Other CITES species are present but [203367/67807718](#)

do not include softwood or deciduous

trees which are threatened.

Full list

Full list:

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?l>

[http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country\\_ids%5B%5D=75&cites\\_appendices%5B%5D=I&cites\\_appendices%5B%5D=II&cites\\_appendices%5B%5D=III&output\\_layout=alphabetical&level\\_of\\_listing=0&show\\_synonyms=1&show\\_author=1&show\\_english=1&show\\_spanish=1&show\\_french=1&scientific\\_name=&page=1&per\\_page=20](http://checklist.cites.org/#/en/search/country_ids%5B%5D=75&cites_appendices%5B%5D=I&cites_appendices%5B%5D=II&cites_appendices%5B%5D=III&output_layout=alphabetical&level_of_listing=0&show_synonyms=1&show_author=1&show_english=1&show_spanish=1&show_french=1&scientific_name=&page=1&per_page=20)

[andRegions=PL&searchType=species](#)

Foresters encourage everyone to rest in the bosom of nature. In the most attractive spots tourists may find forest sheds, tables and benches that are great for leisure or a picnic. Every spot, that is suitable for a fireplace or grill, is marked and secured in a way that prevents the uncontrolled spread of fire and the risk of conflagration.

## Forestry production

Area	Element	Item	Year	Unit	Value
Poland	Production	Roundwood	2018	m3	46586000
Poland	Production	Wood chips, particles and residues	2018	m3	10300000
Poland	Production	Wood pellets and other agglomerates	2018	tonnes	1550000
Poland	Production	Sawnwood	2018	m3	5190000
Poland	Production	Wood-based panels	2018	m3	11355000
Poland	Production	Fibreboard	2018	m3	4970000
Poland	Production	Total fibre furnish	2018	tonnes	4146000
Poland	Production	Pulp for paper	2018	tonnes	1346000
Poland	Production	Paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	4859000
Poland	Production	Paper and paperboard, excluding newsprint	2018	tonnes	4806000
Poland	Production	Packaging paper and paperboard	2018	tonnes	3260000
Source: FAOSTAT - Forestry database					

## 2.3 Actions taken to promote certification amongst feedstock supplier

For the production of SBP pellets, preference is given to suppliers certified according to FSC and PEFC systems and delivering certified material. In cooperation with suppliers of controlled wood, the company prefers those who undertake to mitigate the risks in accordance with the procedures developed by the company to obtain SBP compliant material. The effectiveness of the measures is evidenced by a significant increase in SBP-compliant material in recent years: before certification started SBP-compliant primary feedstock has increased from 20.46% (2017) to 99.38% (2020), secondary feedstock has increased from 35.98% (2017) to 90.42% (2020). The company policy is to give a preference to certified suppliers. Raw material (sawdust, chips) consists of wood waste from main production of suppliers. Therefore, uncertified and new suppliers are invited to certify their base production and get benefit from residues.

## 2.4 Quantification of the Supply Base

### Supply Base

- a. **Total Supply Base area (million ha):** 882,51
- b. **Tenure by type (million ha):** 48.89 (Privately owned), 83.36 (Community concession)
- c. **Forest by type (million ha):** 76.51 (Boreal), 11.74 (Temperate)
- d. **Forest by management type (million ha):** 882.54 (Managed natural)
- e. **Certified forest by scheme (million ha):** 74.68 (FSC), 74.65 (PEFC)

**Describe the harvesting type which best describes how your material is sourced:** Mix of the above

**Explanation:** The proportion of biomass quantity as primary raw material after final fellings is about 55,68 % compared to quantity of other raw material assortment. The primary raw material has been procured from the Supply Base area and it consists of round wood/firewood.

**Was the forest in the Supply Base managed for a purpose other than for energy markets?** Yes - Majority

**Explanation:** The primary raw material has been procured from the Supply Base area and it consists of round wood/firewood. The raw materials are procured in well developed, free and open market with competition of other customers. Different assortments of raw materials are obtained from the logging. All companies of forest industry have public price lists for the assortments. The price lists reflect the solvency of the industry for different assortments. The price lists clearly indicate that logs and veneer logs are the most valuable assortments while firewood (e.g. for pellet production) is less valuable assortment. This information is derived from the documents and data submitted by suppliers and forest developers.

**For the forests in the Supply Base, is there an intention to retain, restock or encourage natural regeneration within 5 years of felling?** Yes - Majority

**Explanation:** The primary raw material consists of round wood/firewood and wood chips from forest residues from Latvia. The Law on Forests stipulates that a forest owner or legal possessor is obliged to restore a forest stand after felling or other factors, if the cross-sectional area of the forest stand has become smaller than the critical cross-sectional area, as well as to ensure maintenance of the restored or planted forest stand. In accordance with the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers on Forest Restoration,

Reforestation and Plantation Forestry after the influence of felling or other factors, if due to them the cross-sectional area of the forest stand has become smaller than the critical cross-sectional area, depending on the type of forest, the forest shall be restored within the following term: - within five calendar years after the year of felling or the year of the influence of other factors - silage, moor, lynx, dahlia, ox, goose, green, wet mint, wet dam, wet beet, wet goose, heather, mint, broadleaf, narrow-leaved arena, heather peat, mint peat, narrow-leaved peat, broad-leaved peat; - within 10 calendar years after the year of felling or the year of the influence of other factors - in the bog, reed, bog and curve.

**Was the feedstock used in the biomass removed from a forest as part of a pest/disease control measure or a salvage operation?** Yes - Minority

**Explanation:** If the forest stand has not yet reached the main felling parameters, but has suffered from wind, snow and fire damage, or the destruction of trees or pests or diseases caused by loss of viability, felled and dead trees are felled in sanitary felling. According to Latvian Law of Forests, if the cross-sectional area of the growing trees of the forest stand is smaller than the critical cross-sectional area, the forest stand may be felled in sanitary felling after receipt of the sanitary opinion of the State Forest Service. The provisions of this section shall not apply to specially protected nature territories, the individual protection and use regulations of which do not allow sanitary felling after receipt of a sanitary opinion of the State Forest Service or sanitary felling in a random manner.

## Feedstock

**Reporting period from:** 01 Jan 2020

**Reporting period to:** 31 Dec 2020

- a. **Total volume of Feedstock:** 200,000-400,000 tonnes
- b. **Volume of primary feedstock:** 1-200,000 tonnes
- c. **List percentage of primary feedstock, by the following categories.**
  - Certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 20% - 39%
  - Not certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: 1% - 19%
- d. **List of all the species in primary feedstock, including scientific name:** Alnus glutinosa (Black alder); Alnus incana (Grey alder); Betula pendula (Silver birch); Betula pubescens (Downy birch); Fraxinus excelsior (Ash); Picea abies (Norway spruce); Pinus sylvestris (Scots pine); Populus tremula (Aspen); Quercus robur (Oak);
- e. **Is any of the feedstock used likely to have come from protected or threatened species?** No
  - Name of species: N/A
  - Biomass proportion, by weight, that is likely to be composed of that species (%): N/A
- f. **Hardwood (i.e. broadleaf trees): specify proportion of biomass from (%):** 53,00
- g. **Softwood (i.e. coniferous trees): specify proportion of biomass from (%):** 47,00
- h. **Proportion of biomass composed of or derived from saw logs (%):** 0,00
- i. **Specify the local regulations or industry standards that define saw logs:** All companies of forest industry have public price lists for the assortments. The price lists reflect the solvency of the industry for different assortments. The price lists clearly indicate that logs and veneer logs are the most valuable assortments while firewood (e.g. for pellet production) is less valuable assortment. This information is derived from the documents and data submitted by suppliers and forest developers.
- j. **Roundwood from final fellings from forests with > 40 yr rotation times - Average % volume of fellings delivered to BP (%):** 55,68
- k. **Volume of primary feedstock from primary forest:** 0 N/A
- l. **List percentage of primary feedstock from primary forest, by the following categories. Subdivide by SBP-approved Forest Management Schemes:**



- Primary feedstock from primary forest certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: N/A
- Primary feedstock from primary forest not certified to an SBP-approved Forest Management Scheme: N/A

**m. Volume of secondary feedstock:** 1-200,000 tonnes

- Physical form of the feedstock: Chips, Sawdust

**n. Volume of tertiary feedstock:** 1-200,000 tonnes

- Physical form of the feedstock: Sawdust (dry)

Proportion of feedstock sourced per type of claim during the reporting period				
Feedstock type	Sourced by using Supply Base Evaluation (SBE) %	FSC %	PEFC %	SFI %
Primary	67,34	32,66	0,00	0,00
Secondary	0,00	81,45	18,55	0,00
Tertiary	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Other	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00

### 3 Requirement for a Supply Base Evaluation

**Is Supply Base Evaluation (SBE) is completed? Yes**

The basis of the provisions of agreements concluded by “AVOTI SWF” SIA with pellets buyers in 2017 is the supply of SBP-compliant products. Therefore, the decision of the company management is to design SBE risk minimisation measures, cooperate with suppliers, attract independent environmental specialists and experts to exclude the purchase of wood that does not meet the SBP-certified product status.

## 4 Supply Base Evaluation

### 4.1 Scope

**Feedstock types included in SBE:** Primary

**SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used:** Latvia

**List of countries and regions included in the SBE:**

**Country:** Latvia

**Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:**

2.1.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that forests and other areas with high conservation value in the Supply Base are identified and mapped.

**Specific risk description:**

Substantial areas of high conservation value (HCV) for nature in Latvian forests have been identified, are known and mapped. An active examination and identification of EU protected habitats and Woodland Key Habitats (WKHs) is taking place in state forests and FSC-certified forests. However, there is not enough information about the location of HCV forest, and major gaps in knowledge about HCV forest, in non-certified, primarily privately-owned, forest.

Information on the geographical distribution of major concentrations of large-scale nature conservation areas is sufficient and there are no major gaps for this aspect. Many of the important forest areas are designated as protected/nature conservation areas on national or EU level (Natura 2000 sites). Given the lack of information on HCV forests – WKHs and/or EU protected habitats in non-certified forests, particularly in private forests, this category is assigned “specified risk” status.

See more information: <https://sbp-cert.org/docs/SBP-endorsed-Regional-Risk-Assessment-for-Latvia.pdf>

**Country:** Latvia

**Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:**

2.1.2 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures to identify and address potential threats to forests and other areas with high conservation values from forest management activities.

**Specific risk description:**

Representative samples of natural forest habitats and valuable ecosystems in Latvia are surveyed, identified and protected under the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) and designated as Natura 2000 sites. Parcels of semi-natural

forests with high biodiversity value concentrations are identified as EU Protected habitats and/or Woodland key habitats (WKH). Aggregations of WKHs and EU protected habitats are designated as protected territories at a national level or as Natura 2000 sites in EU level. However, part of the high conservation value areas such as WKHs and EU protected habitats remain outside protected areas. Based on different sources of information, such as reports, databases and statistical data it is evident that HCV forest – WKHs and EU protected habitats - have only a partial level of protection, either by falling inside Natura 2000 site or through voluntary protection by certified forest managers. However, significant areas of HCV forest, which are part of private, municipal and other forest properties, do not have any protection.

For detailed findings, please see: <https://sbp-cert.org/docs/SBP-endorsed-Regional-Risk-Assessment-for-Latvia.pdf>

**Country:** Latvia

**Indicator with specified risk in the risk assessment used:**

2.8.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate safeguards are put in place to protect the health and safety of forest workers (CPET S12).

**Specific risk description:**

Logging companies that are working in FSC FM/COC certified forest operations (for example, state forest enterprise, certified forest owners and managers) based on subcontracting agreements, are monitored not only by the forest managers who require fulfilment of FSC requirements set in P4 (P2 in FSSTD-01-001 v 5-0), but also by the accredited FSC certification bodies that do field observations of such companies during certification audits. However, there are concerns regarding contractors working in noncertified forests because of periodically occurring death and serious injuries at the work places. In addition, there are not enough efficient measures implemented to ensure that contractors working in non-certified forests follow the health and safety requirements. Therefore, it was proposed to designate this criterion with “specified risk” for contractors working in non-certified forests.

All major forest harvesting companies have solid health and safety procedures in place. Major timber harvesting companies have improved their H&S procedures and performance in the last 10 years by introducing modern and advanced harvesting techniques and equipment. Most of the harvesting work (80%) are done in a mechanised way. High standards with regard to the health and safety issues are maintained in the manual felling/harvesting work through good specialised professional education and solid regulatory legislation frameworks. Official labour protection statistics showing a decreasing trend in accidents in the forestry sector. According to outcome of the forestry sector company survey regarding occupational health and safety issues, and the opinion of professional Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) institutions, the risk level cannot be specified overall as “low risk”. Information from the consulted enforcement and professional institutions shows that the level of OH&S performance may vary among the companies working in the forestry sector. There are companies with very good OH&S performance records as well as companies who are working as subcontractors for certified forest managers and who are routinely checked for OH&S issues, such are considered as a low risk group. On the other hand, it is generally acknowledged that self-employed persons working in the forest sector generally have worse OH&S performance records, which is why they can be considered as a specific risk group. The risk level for this indicator is therefore designated as “specified risk”, since the risk level may vary depending on the biomass feedstock supply base. More information: <https://sbp-cert.org/docs/SBP-endorsed-Regional-Risk-Assessment-for-Latvia.pdf>

## 4.2 Justification

The basis of the provisions of agreements concluded by “AVOTI SWF” SIA with pellets buyers in 2017 is the supply of SBP-compliant products. Therefore, the decision of the company management is to design SBE risk minimisation measures, cooperate with suppliers, attract independent environmental specialists and experts to exclude the purchase of wood that does not meet the SBP-certified product status.

SBP endorsed SBP Regional Risks Assessments have been developed in accordance with SBP standard Nr.1 version 1.0 of March 2015 and SBP standard Nr.2 version 1.0 of March 2015, assessing the risk category for each SBP indicator. Through reviewing and assessing the risk, the company acquired an in-depth understanding of the wood supply risks that could affect the acceptance of SBP non-compliant material for biomass production.

“AVOTI SWF” SIA, by attracting independent biotope experts, professional logging company experts and nature conservation specialists, has designed a risk minimisation and control mechanism to assess and approve those biomass supplies and suppliers whose products supplied meet the SBP-compliant biomass status.

## 4.3 Results of risk assessment and Supplier Verification Programme

The risk assessment analysis includes the requirements provided for by the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia, regulatory activities of the State legislation and laws and regulations for primary and secondary wood supply from the Latvian forest properties.

Considering the specific nature of Latvia and expert recommendations, “Specified risk” was applied with regard to biotope conservation (HCV category 3), occupational safety, bird habitat preservation (HCV category 1), and historical and cultural objects (HCV category 6).

### **Feedstock supplies from Latvian forest properties**

SBP risk minimisation and supplier audits and results described below and related to specified risks are available to third and interested parties as documental evidence of the audits performed. Information, the database of assessments performed includes property names, cadastres, plots, notes on indicators of biological diversity, independent expert reports, recommendations, decisions made regarding biomass suppliers.

Information obtained during risk assessment and field testing of the information for all SBE risk categories confirmed that for 4 categories – biotope conservation (HCV category 3), occupational safety, bird habitat preservation (HCV category 1), and historical and cultural objects (HCV category 6) – a specified risk is applicable, whereas for the other categories the risk is low.

Risk assessment and risk minimisation mechanism in primary wood audits before logging confirm that specified risks are urgent in logging.

Secondary wood approval is possible only for those processors who have an “AVOTI SWF” SIA SBE-approved supplier and who have agreed to cooperation to assess and minimise risks before logging (biological and historical and cultural values), or during logging (occupational safety) at the wood procurement site.

## **4.4 Conclusion**

### **Feedstock supplies from Latvian forest properties**

Since January 2018, by introducing the SBE system and reviewing cooperation with wood suppliers, effective information exchange has been achieved, obtaining information on forest properties before logging, during and after logging. This is significant for effective implementation of corrective or preventive activities in case of possible risks to preserve biological diversity, study and initiate the implementation of occupational safety measures in the logging process, and to decline suppliers or materials supplied which may threaten the effectiveness of the SBE system where risks have been identified.

“AVOTI SWF” SIA can overall conclude that cooperation is effective with suppliers who take fair risk minimisation measures. All the information required for risk survey and prevention and the conservation of nature values is provided, in keeping with the recommendations of the experts invited.

Risk minimisation measures are implemented for wood processors (secondary raw material suppliers) for approved SBE suppliers. The system is based on primary raw material control and SBP-compliant material registration, registration of processed material in credit systems calculation.

## 5 Supply Base Evaluation process

The system of risk minimisation measures, supplier audits, property plot visiting criteria, registers, assessment forms, expert involvement process, occupational safety assessment procedure, are defined in the general SBE system procedures.

SBE system effectiveness summary report and risk assessment results were achieved by performing forest plot risk assessment, physical audits with or without the presence of logging companies. Additional consultation took place with experts, other forestry and logging companies, and the results and experience gained were discussed at the company management level, the results are submitted to the auditor company.

For confirming the fulfilment of SBE risk minimisation requirements and assessing the competency of suppliers, logging companies, processors, and experts in occupational safety and biotope and bird nest surveys, as well as identification of possible historical and cultural objects were invited.

For SBE system design and supply assessment, the risk minimisation measures, audits, and communication with approved suppliers and experts is implemented by "AVOTI SWF" SIA quality manager with 15 years of experience in wood industry, many years of experience in FSC system maintenance and wood origin assessment in forestry, and 14 years of experience and knowledge in forestry and the field of wood supply, procurement and Legislation.

As the basis for the SBP SBE risk minimisation system, an audit programme has been designed and FSC CRN minimisation measures programme guidelines, FSC supply and FSC Forest certification system experience and knowledge in forestry and in the field of wood supply legislation have been used.

## 6 Stakeholder consultation

The company, on 6 March 2018, published an SBP risk assessment on its website. An informative letter on the risk assessment designed in accordance with SBP Standard was e-mailed to the interested parties. The list of interested parties was created so as to include a maximum number of recipients who represent the economic, social, and environmental interests of society, and the local governments. The total number of recipients is approximately 86 correspondents.

SBP risk assessment is available on SBP website:

<https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/latvia/>

“AVOTI SWF” SIA quality manager has performed and performs consultations with interested parties in person, by phone, by attending seminars on biotope identification, logging processes and conservation of biological values of nature in logging, on the assessment of effects on the environment, on occupational safety in logging.

Responses to the comments received from interested parties.

An e-mail from the Nature Conservation Agency was received with recommendations for specifying the text of SBR report.

### 6.1 Response to stakeholder comments

**Description:** The Nature Conservation Agency

**Comment:** The Agency appreciates that in January – March 2018 biotope monitoring risk audits were initiated in Vidzeme and Latgale and that logging companies will not supply wood from forests with high biological value.

**Response:** N/A



## 7 Mitigation measures

### 7.1 Mitigation measures

**Country:** Latvia

**Specified risk indicator:** 2.1.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that forests and other areas with high conservation value in the Supply Base are identified and mapped.

**Specific risk description:**

Substantial areas of high conservation value (HCV) for nature in Latvian forests have been identified, are known and mapped. An active examination and identification of EU protected habitats and Woodland Key Habitats (WKHs) is taking place in state forests and FSC-certified forests. However, there is not enough information about the location of HCV forest, and major gaps in knowledge about HCV forest, in non-certified, primarily privately-owned, forest.

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**Mitigation measure:**

- Inspection of felling areas in Latbio database ([http://latbio.lv/MBI/search\\_db](http://latbio.lv/MBI/search_db))
- Potential WKH field audit using WHK assessment questionnaire
- Request of habitat expert evaluation

**Country:** Latvia

**Specified risk indicator:** 2.1.2 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures

to identify and address potential threats to forests and other areas with high conservation values from forest management activities.

**Specific risk description:**

Representative samples of natural forest habitats and valuable ecosystems in Latvia are surveyed, identified and protected under the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) and designated as Natura 2000 sites. Parcels of semi-natural forests with high biodiversity value concentrations are identified as EU Protected habitats and/or Woodland key habitats (WKH). Aggregations of WKHs and EU protected habitats are designated as protected territories at a national level or as Natura 2000 sites in EU level. However, part of the high conservation value areas such as WKHs and EU protected habitats remain outside protected areas. Based on different sources of information, such as reports, databases and statistical data it is evident that HCV forest – WKHs and EU protected habitats - have only a partial level of protection, either by falling inside Natura 2000 site or through voluntary protection by certified forest managers. However, significant areas of HCV forest, which are part of private, municipal and other forest properties, do not have any protection.

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**Mitigation measure:**

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- Request of habitat expert evaluation

**Country:**

Latvia

**Specified risk indicator:**

2.8.1 The BP has implemented appropriate control systems and procedures for verifying that appropriate safeguards are put in place to protect the health and safety of forest workers (CPET S12).

**Specific risk description:**

Logging companies that are working in FSC FM/COC certified forest operations (for example, state forest enterprise, certified forest owners and managers) based on subcontracting agreements, are monitored not only by the forest managers who require fulfilment of FSC requirements set in P4 (P2 in FSSTD-01-001 v 5-0), but also by the accredited FSC certification bodies that do field observations of such companies during certification audits. However, there are concerns regarding contractors

working in noncertified forests because of periodically occurring death and serious injuries at the work places. In addition, there are not enough efficient measures implemented to ensure that contractors working in non-certified forests follow the health and safety requirements. Therefore, it was proposed to designate this criterion with “specified risk” for contractors working in non-certified forests.

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**Mitigation measure:**

· The system of field tests has been developed. Representative of SIA “Avoti SWF” perform a field audit to evaluate compliance with work safety requirements in logging operations.

- The questionnaire is used for the evaluation. It is based on requirements of Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.310 “Labor protection requirements in forestry” (09.05.2012.)
- Emphasis is placed on loggers who use hand saws.

## **7.2 Monitoring and outcomes**

After on-site surveillance audits when the risks of possible biotopes and occupational safety were assessed, the management of the company has made a decision to perform additional audits for suppliers who failed to meet the criteria for permissible results of company's risk mitigation program.

Supply regions — Vidzeme, Latgale.

Detailed findings for every indicator are given in risk assessment.

Risk assessment: <https://sbp-cert.org/documents/risk-assessments/latvia>.

## 8 Detailed findings for indicators

Detailed findings for each Indicator are given in Annex 1 in case the Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) is not used.

**Is RRA used?** Yes

## 9 Review of report

### 9.1 Peer review

The final version of the report was sent to the specialists in the wood industry, forestry and forest environment processes. The report was sent for review to: Jānis Rozītis – CEO and Forest Programme Manager, Pasaules Dabas Fonds (WWF associated partner in Latvia) – experience in sustainable forestry practice, assessment: The base supply report includes a general description of the base supply forest management, offering an insight into the governance of the forest sector, and describes the measures implemented to ensure biological diversity and social needs in the forest. The information provided in the report is current and corresponds to the information sources used. The company's decision to configure a procurement of timber raw materials originating from forest managed in accordance with the requirements of the FSC forest management certification standard is commendable. It is recommended that the company should increase the proportion of procurements of timber raw materials sourced from forest managed in this way. Realizing the huge degree to which protection of biological diversity and social needs are relevant to forest management in Latvia, the employees responsible within the company need to develop their knowledge of environmentally friendly and socially responsible forest management, which is also required through the introduction at the earliest opportunity of the SBE system, as well as developing a supervisory system and conducting audits at site where the timber resources of raw materials suppliers are produced.

### 9.2 Public or additional reviews

The public version of the supply base report in the Latvian and English languages is publicly available at <https://www.avoti.lv/en/wood-pellets> for interested parties. After familiarization with the report, comments and clarifications can be sent to [arnita.apine@avoti.lv](mailto:arnita.apine@avoti.lv)

## 10 Approval of report

Approval of Supply Base Report by senior management			
Report Prepared by:	Arnita Apine	Quality manager	21 Jan 2021
	Name	Title	Date
The undersigned persons confirm that I/we are members of the organisation's senior management and do hereby affirm that the contents of this evaluation report were duly acknowledged by senior management as being accurate prior to approval and finalisation of the report.			
Report approved by:	Uldis Misiņš	Chairman of the board	21 Jan 2021
	Name	Title	Date
Report approved by:	Jānis Misiņš	Key Account manager	21 Jan 2021
	Name	Title	Date

**Annex 1: Detailed findings for Supply Base Evaluation indicators**

N/A