

Certification Report

Forestry certification
(Audit to the Skal Forestry Standards)

Forest Management Unit(s)



**Gemeinde- und Städtebund
Rheinland-Pfalz
Germany
Skal 008560
11 September – 12 September 2000**

Certification report 008560 2000-1 WH (4. January 2001)

15 Summary-sheet(s) per audit

15.1 Summary sheet of first Audit

1. Introduction

The six communities of the evaluation didn't apply for membership. The 15 communities applied for membership in fall 1999 are not mentioned in the evaluation report. Thus basic informations about this communities and the circumstances of the inspected FMU's are necessary at this place.

The communities applied for membership as they are interested in their forest and want to improve

- the estate of the forests,
- the benefits of the forest to eco-system
- the gaining of money
- their image by using FSC-certification in context of Agenda 21 and off product information about the community.

Soil, topography, climate and forest types

The most common soil-types are different kinds of brown soils, developed over sandstone and slate . A smaller area is covered by rich brown soils over limestone or loam. There are areas with very sensitive clay-soils along the little rivers and creeks. Topography varies from almost table-form over moderate slopes to steep slopes and canyons.

The climate varies in temperature and precipitation between an average of the year of 6 to 9 ° C and 700 to more than 900 mm precipitation. Differences occur according to elevation and local exposition.

Land use history

The most forests are exist since a long time. In many cases the forests were pasturegrounds until the beginning of the 20th century. Impacts were after World War II. ("Reparationshiebe") and the following replanting with spruce (FA Schneifel). In the last 30 years the forest area is growing in case of reducing agricultural activities on poor sites or at higher elevation and steep slopes.

Virgin forests or old growth do not occur in the areas visited. This is normal for the region and for Germany.

Environmental aspects

Places with very sensitive soils, endangered plant-communities, very steep slopes and belts along creeks normally are managed in a very extensive way or no harvesting takes place.

Monitoring and inventory of dead trees shall be implemented in the next inventory. Anyway the rangers/members are requested to document their deadwood-policy and activities according the document "Merkblatt zum Biotopholz-Konzept nach den FSC-Richtlinien"

Social aspects

In the forests of all visited communities mainly municipal employees are working.

Beside a small amount of work is done by local contractors.

The municipal employees are educated in the same way as state-employees. Beside official courses of the education-centers for example in forest office (Forstamt)

Bitburg local courses are conducted.

The forest offices shall use standard-contracts according the AGB-U of state forest Rhineland-Palatinate and explicit items laid down under No. 3 "Besondere Hinweise zur Umsetzung der FSC-Richtlinien". That means, that contractors have to guarantee an adequate education of the employees and have to meet the security standards and the standards to prevent accidents.

The management of the forests allows the communities to earn money. This money is spend within the community for buildings, improvement of recreation and other tasks. That means, the forest improves the financial situation of the rural communities and the life-quality of the inhabitants.

Products produced

The main products are logs of spruce and beech, beside a certain amount of Douglas fir, oak and Scotts pine. In future the amount of other species as beech and mountain ash will rise.

A different situation is there for Forstamt Bitburg, Revier Röhl. The main products are beech logs, beside a certain amount of maple, ash, spruce and Scotts-pine.

The timber of the first and second thinning mainly is cut in short logs of 2 to 4 m length.

Beside timber also Christmas trees and branches for decoration are sold in small scale. Only Niederscheidweiler has Abies-procera-stands with intensive management and raising of decoration-material. Producing decoration-material means good gaining for the community.

Timber for burning is only a little financial aspect. The people of the communities can buy fuel-wood or can make it themselves in the forest, after buying a permission.

The forests in neighbouring areas produce a lot of game and sometimes high quality "bonsai"-trees. That also means, the forests produce a lot of low quality timber and only little regeneration of deciduous trees without fencing.

2. Proces

Before the assessment, GStB supplied the certification body with the main information about each of the 15 communities. GStB sent the main information of the definitely participating 15 communities to the team leader. This documents contend information about size, tree-species, annual increment and planned harvesting amounts. Also included are the application-form with information about game-

situation, general information about the FMU and the community, silvicultural treatment and targets

The assessment was carried out November 03. to 05.1999.

Meeting point on each day of assessment was the local forest office (Forstamt) where the documentation was checked and discussion and information took place. After this, the participants went into different forest sites.

2.1 Schedule

November 03.1999 Forstamt Schneifel at Prüm
Gemeindewald Ormont
Gemeindewald Wallersheim

November 04. 1999 Forstamt Manderscheid
Gemeindewald Niederscheidweiler
Gemeindewald Oberscheidweiler
Gemeindewald Hasborn

November 05.1999 Forstamt Bitburg
Gemeindewald Idesheim
Gemeindewald Idenheim
Gemeindewald Trimport,
Gemeindewald Dahlem,
Gemeindewald Sülm,
Gemeindewald Röhl,
Gemeindewald Gondorf,
Gemeindewald Metterich.

2.2 Audit Team

- Mr. Wolfgang Herzog, Forstassessor
Curricula vitae is available from the Skal office.

2.3 Sampling and field visits

In the region Trier now 15 communities signed the participant agreement. This 15 communities can become the first members of the group in this region. In fact of this, the audit-team did try to visit as many municipal forests as possible.

13 of the 15 community forests were visited. this 13 municipal forests cover 2732 ha. Two municipal forests with together 32 ha were not visited.

Specified:

November 03. 8.00 a.m. -11.30 a.m.: Local forest office (Forstamt) Schneiffel. Inspection of forest-inventory, forest-management plan, documentation, activities of forest service and communities concerning safety, education, PR-activities.

11.30 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. field-inspection municipal forest Ormont. 2.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. field-inspection municipal forest Wallersheim.

4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Local forest office, discussion game-problem, looking for additional inventory-dates according development of stock.

November 04., 9.00 a.m.-11.30 a.m.: Local forest office (Forstamt) Manderscheid, forest-inventory, forest-management plan, documentation, activities of forest service and communities concerning safety, education, PR-activities, annual planning of harvest and other activities, bookkeeping concerning timber and used material.

- 11.30 a.m. –4.00 p.m. field-inspection of the municipal forests Niederschneifel, Oberschneifel and Hasborn

November 05., 8.00 a.m. -10.30 a.m.: Local forest office (Forstamt) Bitburg, forest-inventory, forest-management plan, documentation, activities of forest service and communities concerning safety, education, PR-activities, annual planning of harvest and other activities, bookkeeping (EDPN) concerning harvesting, timber-selling and transport of timber.

10.30 a.m. –15.30 p.m. The visitation began in the south at Idesheim, further to Idenheim, Trimport, Dahlem, Sülm, Röhl, Gondorf and Metterich.

3. Results

3.1 Changes of management system and relevant normative documents

The general management objectives and the planning process are laid down in the report of the evaluation and the general silvicultural guidelines of the Ministry. Beside the “Regeln für eine gute Managementpraxis” and the “Leitfaden FSC-Gruppenzertifizierung” für die Forstämter, issued by GStB, it contains more detailed declaration concerning establishing of tree species, developing of mixed stands, treatment of even-aged stands, implementation of required information into next forest inventory and medium-term planning.

Group entity developed an improved and adequate manual. Group entity supplies members with documents, information and advises how to improve the management of their forests and how to meet FSC principles and criteria (See Appendix A).

The main target of the also visited communities is to gain money with forestry. Second target are stable stands and the development of mixed stands. In case of a high percentage of spruce, for example in Ormont and Wallesheim, raising the part of beech, birch and other deciduous-trees is an important silvi-cultural objective.

The annual planning for harvesting and other work is prepared by the ranger according the harvest-rates of the medium-term-planning and normally it do not exceed the increment in a year or a period. The plan must be approved by the community. The plan also has to fulfill the requirements of the “Freiwillige Selbstverpflichtung”.

The annual plans are available for the group-entity.

In the case of the visited communities the management system changes according to the silvi-cultural situation and the percentage of spruce.

The management system is the same for all communities in a ranger-district.

No ranger-district is working with clearcuts.

FA Schneifel (Prüm)

In young spruce-stands in Ormont and Wallesheim the broadleave-trees like beech, birch and mountain-ash are promoted. This policy shall continue, so that an estimated percentage of 15 to 30 % can be reached in this stands.

Beside beech also birch and mountain-ash shall reach the rotation-age. The deciduous trees also have a function as future seed-trees. That is the way to rise the amount of deciduous trees in this stands and in the forests at all in the far future.

This policy is not fixed in writing as yet.

Older spruce-stand are thinned in a way, that long crowns can be established, stability of the stand and stability of most of the individuals of the stand is conserved and improved. Additionally the situation of the soil is improved by getting more sunlight at the ground as well as more vegetation. This policy also improves the possibility, that deciduous trees can be established naturally in the next generation.

For reducing damage by deer and hunting, in Ormont the community and the local forest office (Forstamt) were already successfull together with the licensee for hunting. So the percentage of peeling could be reduced down to 2 %. Also natural regeneration is more and more possible without fencing. On the other hand, the situation is not fully sufficient as yet. Further efforts for reducing the population of deer is necessary.

Pretty different is the situation at Wallesheim. There are a lot of efforts done by the municipal council, the head of the community (mayor) and the "Forstamt". But hunting-rights are rented for another 6 years. In one case there are good chances to convince the game-tenant to rise hunting-rate. In the other case, there is almost no chance to convince the game-tenant. So it is planned, to find an other game-tenant, or the Forstamt will do the hunting for a couple years to reduce game-population.

Trees must be protected against peeling.

It is no solution and also no possibility to fence great areas of 30 to 40 ha in this FMU because of costs and because the browsing will rise in the areas not fenced.

In this context it is important that the single community can be successfull only if the forest owners in the neighborhood have the same target. So the efforts of the local forest office (Forstamt) and the ranger (Revierleiter) and the communities to convince the other forest owners must be continued. One result is, that recently a "Hegegemeinschaft" could be founded. "Hegegemeinschaft" means, that the hunting-rates are fixed for a greater area and that there are targets for game-shooting and game-populations which are binding for all hunting-ground within the scope of the "Hegegemeinschaft".

FA Manderscheid

One forester (Revierleiter) is in charge of the forest management units of the three communities. He is working there already for 15 years, also the head of the local forest office (Forstamt). So the silvi-cultural treatment in the three forest-units is the same. Differences between the three forests are

- sites in Hasborn are better
- there are less hunting-efforts in Hasborn
- there are more delicious trees in Hasborn

Thinning in the young spruce stands is done to reduce the number of spruce and/or to promote beech, birch and mountain-ash. Beside there is sometimes a lot of broom in this young stands, established after the storm in 1990. It is scheduled to continue this silvi-cultural treatment in the future, and to keep the percentage of deciduous trees in the stands as high as possible. This trees are also important for producing seeds for the next generation.

In the young stands of Douglas fir the treatment is almost the same. The amount of Douglas-trees is reduced on 1.000 to 1.200 per ha, the existing birch and other deciduous trees are promoted by removal of Douglas fir. On th long run the deciduous trees in Douglas-stand have only little meaning for harvesting, but a big meaning for the next generation and in terms of ecology, e.g. for birds, beetles etc..

In middle-aged stands there is almost no way to rise the percentage of beech or birch in the next 20 to 40 years. In this stands the Douglas fir normally has about 95 % canopy. The treatment will reach about 50 to 80 future-trees (Z-Stämme) which are stable for themselves. So in the future the trees between this "Z-Stämme" can be harvested without any danger for the stability of the "Z-Stämme". In this way the stands can be prepared for natural regeneration of beech and other species or for planting beech under the shelter of Douglas-fir.

Deadwood is left in the forest as crowns of trees. More important is standing dead-wood or trees, which will become standing dead-wood in the future.

Regeneration of spruce is no problem, in future also Douglas will regenerate naturally.

The amount of beech and mountain-ash in the regeneration under spruce actually is low because of roe-deer. For increasing the percentage of beech, the amount of roe-deer must be reduced or fencing is necessary.

Natural regeneration in beech-stands should be possible without fencing in long term.

Planting of Douglas fir is planned in future at sites, where actually spruce is growing, but where the site is not suitable for spruce. Further planting of Douglas fir will be combined with planting of beech or complement of natural regeneration.

FA Bitburg

There is a very good identification of staff with FSC.

There is only little percentage of stands which have no trees of PNV.

The percentage of natural regeneration of deciduous trees is high, even without fencing. Fencing is only necessary for getting a higher percentage of oak in regeneration.

It is planned to quit harvest in some areas with old trees and more or less minor quality.

Forest workers / employees can take courses in silvi-cultural treatment etc. The forest-workers are informed about FSC.

3.2 Progress of national and regional FSC standard

The inspection is performed according to the Skal forestry standards version 7.1. Standards are available at Skal on request. The German FSC Standards "Richtlinien nachhaltiger Forstwirtschaft", (date August 08.1999, not yet approved by FSC) were taken into account. Also the FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies: Group Certification (Doc. 3.6.1, date Juli 31. 1998) and the Skal document "Group certification Version 1", (Dec 1998) were taken into account.

There are some important changes between the draft of the German FSC Standards version 1998 and version August 1999 e.g. percentage of non endemic trees and trees which don't belong to the natural forest communities. This also is a reason, why in 1999 the certification decision may be different from the certification decision in 1998.

3.3 Harvest

The harvest is done by employees of the communities motor-manual (chain-saw). In case of steep slopes it is appropriate to work additional with cables (Seil-Linienverfahren). Cabel-yarder are not used in the visited forest sites.

Before harvesting, the ranger (Revierleiter) sings the trees which shall be harvested. The ranger also sings the skidding-trails by marking trees.

Only small amount of work is done by contractors. Contractors only work in intermediate thinnings. Thinnings in deciduous stands and in older stands in general is not done by contractors.

Most harvest is done motor-manual. In fact of steep slopes the potential part of harvesters is pretty small.

Branches and crown-timber are normally left in the stands.

3.4 Outcome of monitoring procedures and inventories

Inventories take place every ten years.

The actual inventory results and medium term management plan is not sufficient in some points. There still planting of pure stands is planned in some cases. The role of mountain-ash and beech for getting mixed stands is not documented and probably also it was not seen as a target.

Therefore it is necessary to document the actual silvicultural treatment in written form.

The next medium-term inventory has to meet the requirements for an applicable inventory and management-plan according to the changed targets of the forest-management units.

The yearly harvest is documented. All the time the comparison between scheduled harvest and realized harvest during the period is possible.

All activities are documented, including sale of timber and purchase of material. So the basic conditions are set for internal monitoring of the group entity and the audits of the accredited certification-bodies.

In some cases, for example in Wallesheim, the realized harvest in the last 10 year-period did exceed the planned harvest. This occurred due to the heavy storms in 1989/1990, when many stands were destroyed.

The work of the employees doing the harvest and other forest-work, as well as the work of the contractors is monitored by the local ranger.

The ranger is present in the forest. So he can see failings and has to enforce the people to changes in their activities.

Beside this, the people of the communities and the representatives of the communities do passive monitoring by walking through their forest.

Also the group entity will conduct internal audits according the manual of GStB and every year an audit of the certification body will take place.

The following table will show some key points of last forest-inventory and the percentage of the different tree species in the municipal forests.

Table 1: Main results of last forest inventory

Community	forest-land in ha	elevation	Average anual precipitation	extensiv e forest area ¹ in ha	% spruce	% Douglas fir	% Scotts-pine	% beech	% oak	average annual incremen t	planne d harvest
FA Schneiffel	1010										
Ormont	459	500-650	750-950	2	68	3	1	27	1	7,1	5,4
Wallenheim	551	450-650	750-950	20	61	4	2	27	6	7,5	5,6
FA Manderscheid	738										
Oberscheidweiler	138	300-450	675-950	30	21	32	6	9	32	8,4	2,9
Niederscheidweiler	349	300-450	675-750		24	24	8	20	2323	8,4	3,6
Hasborn	251	300-450	750-950	28	28	20	15	23	14	7,8	4,8
FA Bitburg	1042										
Dahlem	96	250-350	675-750		36	3	9	47	5	6,3	3,4
Dudeldorf	9	250-350	675-750	9						(4,0)	(0,8)
Gondorf	86	250-350	675-750		10		20	70		6,0	4,0
Hüttingen	23	250-350	675-750		12		3	79	6	6,0	4,5
Idenheim	125	250-350	675-750		17	1	9	50	23	5,0	2,7

¹ this are forest areas, where timber production is not the main target. This areas normally are covered by oak or scots pine and represent pretty dry and/or rocky soils. In some cases this are also gley-soils.

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Idesheim	105	250-350	675-750		9	1	5	63	22	4,4	3,8
Metterich	46	250-350	675-750		16	6	24	40	14	7,8	4,4
Röhl	315	250-350	675-750	1	20	1	15	56	8	5,3	5,0
Sülm	144	250-350	675-750	1	18	3	17	53	9	6,0	2,8
Trimport	117	250-350	675-750	1	16	2	9	62	11	4,7	2,7
Summe:	2790										

3.5 Environmental aspects

Places with very sensitive soils, endangered plant-communities, very steep slopes and belts along creeks normally are managed in an very extensive way or no harvesting takes place. For example: Spruce is removed along creeks (Ormont, Wallesheim), only cutting down of trees for thinning and no skidding of trees on a "Gley"-soil (Ormont), removal of trees around small swamps (Idesheim).

Monitoring and inventory of dead trees shall be implemented in the next inventory. Dead old trees are visible only in small amount. But there are older trees, which are not planned to harvest until they die. So it will take some time, until big dead trees will be seen. In some cases (see above) the timber is left in the stands at all or the branches and crown-wood is left over in the stands.

The forests of the communities covered by FA Bitburg represent natural forest association pretty well.

There are also areas with pioneer and developing phases, created after storm in the municipal forest areas.

Deadwood

Communities Ormont, Wallersheim, Niederscheidweiler, Oberscheidweiler and Hasborn:

The old trees wick are not planned for harvesting in the future are marked in the stand before harvesting. This are normally trees wick
are expected to have a big red or black core,
have damage caused by former felling,
have holes made by woodpeckers or developed because of rotting branches
have little economic meaning.

There is no written deadwood policy yet.

Communities covered by FA. Bitburg, district Röhl.

There is a written deadwood-policy. Also there is documented that special smaller areas with old trees will not be harvested any more (Altholzinseln).

Soil-protection

For protection of soils skidding trails are marked in general in the young stands, but sometimes missing in the older stands.

Skidding on sensitive soils is only allowed in winter, when the soil is frozen or when forwarding is done by cable..

Improving of the areas along brooks by removing spruce and promoting alder and ash is visible at different places.

Extensive harvesting takes place at sensitive sites, that means Gley-soils or very steep and slopes with A-C soils.

Communities of Niederschweiler, Oberschweiler, and Hasborn:

To avoid soil damage by "Selbstwerber" looking for fuelwood, the crowns of harvested trees are skidded to the forest roads in some cases.

District Röhl:

To keep "Selbstwerber" (in this case people harvesting fuel-wood) away from sensitive soils, "Selbstwerber" do not get a permission in this stands.

In dense younger stands, "Selbstwerber" stay at skidding-trails.

Game

Game-populations not only damage trees and select deciduous trees, but they also have negative impact on non forest-plants. High population, not adequate to the habitat, leads to loss of endangered species and to only small amount of herbal plants on ground.

Social aspects

In the forests of all visited communities mainly municipal employees are working.

Beside a small amount of work is done by local contractors.

The municipal employees are educated in the same way as state-employees. Beside official courses of the education-centers for example in forest office (Forstamt)

Bitburg local courses are conducted.

The forest offices shall use standard-contracts according the AGB-U of state forest Rhineland-Palatinate and explicite items laid down under No. 3 "Besondere Hinweise zur Umsetzung der FSC-Richtlinien". That means, that contractors have to guarantee an adequate education of the employees and have to meet the security standards and the standards to prevent accidents.

The management of the forests allows the communities to earn money. This money is spend within the community for buildings, improvement of recreation and other tasks. That means, the forest improves the financial situation of the rural communities and the life-quality of the inhabitants.

The forests of the visited communities have a function for recreation for the rural population. This function is guaranteed in all cases and will persist.

Special function has one special protection area in the forest area of Wallesheim. In this area there are special plant communities, lime-rocks and a brook, disappearing in the underground and coming to surface again some hundred meters away. In this areas, the community established a footpath around the rocks. The mayor himself is looking for implementing "soft" recreation in this area without damaging the nature and its inhabitants. In this way, the people of Wallesheim get aware of the beauty of nature and of their forests. In this way the people learn to feel responsible for forest and nature.

3.6 Complaints recieved



There are no complaints reviewed in the meantime.

4. Implementation of CAR's



In this chapter the CARs raised in the evaluation are laid down, if they are implemented yet.



Pre-Conditions



CAR # 1 	Agreements between GStB and the State Forest Service
Unit(s)	group entity
Deviation	Lack of formally documented agreements
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	Formally documented and clearly stated agreements between the State Forest Service and the GStB will have to be signed, including regulations on co-operation in : -data collection -data management -planning and implementation -monitoring and control communication
 tus	Pre-condition
Instruction	Agreements should be signed in contracts
Time frame	Before approval of first member
Implementation	state forest service signed the document "Bestätigung der Landesforstverwaltung Rhl.-Pfalz über die Dienstleistungsaufgaben für die an der Zertifizierung nach FSC teilnehmenden kommunalen Waldbesitzer" at February 2. 1999 document concerning the sale of timber, November 19. 1998


CAR # 2 	Skal approval group members
Unit(s)	group-entity
Deviation	Selection and acceptance of group members
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	The group entity and its members are still in a dynamic progress towards the group-certification. Skal requires to be closely informed on the progress and on the selection of each group-member. During the first year Skal requires extra monitoring, on the expectation of Group Members by the Group Entity.
 tus	(Pre-)condition/recommendation
Instruction	Inform Skal well in advance on new group members and send evaluation documents by GStB for the concerned group member and all connected documents such as management plan, working plans, evaluations, etc. The admission of a group member by the GE, should be well documented and the argumentation of the decision should be transparent. During the first year, group members can only be accepted after approval by Skal.
Time frame	Before approval of first member during the first year.
Implementation	Instruction was carried out in October and November, in November the first audit took place. 13 communities were visited.


Conditions concerning group entity


CAR # 1 	1. Authority
Unit(s)	Group entity
Deviation	Lack of well documented responsibilities between Group Entity and members.
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	The legal, technical and management authority and capacity of the Group Entity to implement all responsibilities now and in the future is not yet sufficiently documented
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Improve the documentation on the authorities and responsibilities of participants in group certification.
Time frame	Before approval of first member
Implementation	new version of manual "Handbuch Managementsystem zur Gruppensertifizierung Kommunalwald Rheinland-Pfalz nach FSC, Version Nov. 1999, section 1.1 and 1.2 and related sections and documents



CAR # 2 	Eligibility
Unit(s)	Group entity
Deviation	No documentation available regarding eligibility for membership
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	The rules and the decision body regarding eligibility for membership and especially for the removal of members are not yet sufficiently documented
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Produce a document with apparent rules on membership
Time frame	Before approval of first member.
Implementation	New version of manual "Handbuch Managementsystem zur Gruppensertifizierung Kommunalwald Rheinland-Pfalz nach FSC", Version Nov. 1999, Section 4 and related documents



CAR # 3 	New group members
Unit(s)	Group entity
Deviation	No documentation available on new members joining the group
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	The GE has not yet developed a clearly documented procedure on how to deal with members coming into the group after certification has been awarded especially with regard to the use of the FSC logo.
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Produce documentation with an apparent procedure on new members joining the group certification.
Time frame	Immediately after GStB has been awarded certification
Implementation	new version of manual "Handbuch Managementsystem zur Gruppensertifizierung Kommunalwald Rheinland-Pfalz nach FSC", Version Nov. 1999, Section 4 and related documents



CAR # 4 	Authorization
Unit(s)	Group entity
Deviation	No contract available with an approval of the members to GStB, to act on their behalf as a group entity.
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	between the GE and the group member does not include the authorization of the GStB by the member to act on the members' behalf. (Group Certification, Skal Forestry Certification Program)
Condition	Condition
Instruction	Redact and sign a contract to settle the authority of GStB.
Time frame	Before approval of first member
Implementation	The content "Vereinbarung über die freiwillige Selbstverpflichtung..." was changed in the required way, # 1.

CAR # 5 	Guidelines
Unit(s)	Group entity
Deviation	The reflection of Skal Forestry Standards in the membership contract in not sufficient.
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	The group members' management responsibilities are outlined in the membership contract and in the GStB "Guidelines for Good Forest Management". These guidelines do not sufficiently reflect Skal Forestry Standards or the content and the interpretation of the German Standards in every aspect (e.g. selection of tree species, use of chemicals and the use of harvesting machines).
Condition	Condition
Instruction	Adjust the membership contract
Time frame	Before approval of first member
Implementation	GStB "Guidelines for Good Forest Management" Version Nov. 27. 1999, and "Leitfaden FSC-Gruppenzertifizierung für die Forstämter". # 17 of the membership contract says, that the German FSC-standards a part of the contract.

CAR # 6 	Penalties
Unit(s)	Group entity
Deviation	No graduated penalty system has been developed yet.
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	The GE has not yet developed a graduated penalty system for their members in case of deviations from the standards or guidelines (e.g. misuse of chemicals) or (pre-) conditions/recommendations (e.g. non implementation of corrective actions) by Skal
Condition	Condition
Instruction	This catalogue has to be worked out and presented to Skal for approval
Time frame	Before approval of first member
Implementation	New version of manual "Handbuch Managementsystem zur Gruppenzertifizierung Kommunalwald Rheinland-Pfalz nach FSC", Version Nov. 1999, Section 4.5

CAR # 7 	Objections
Unit(s)	Group entity
Deviation	No dispute resolution system available yet
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	The GE has not yet described and developed a dispute resolution system that enables members and stakeholders to object to decisions made by the GE or Skal.
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Develop a dispute resolution system
Time frame	Before approval of first member
Implementation	New version of manual "Handbuch Managementsystem zur Gruppensertifizierung Kommunalwald Rheinland-Pfalz nach FSC", Version Nov. 1999, Section 6.3



CAR # 8 	Reference areas
Unit(s)	Group entity
Deviation	No steps have been taken to encourage the identification of reference areas by group members.
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	The GE should encourage and support their members in identifying potential reference areas. These areas should be identified within their property first and subsequently outside their property (but still in the growth district), even if the forest area of the member is less than 1000 ha.
 tus	Condition
Instruction	The GE should make the actions taken to encourage members visible to Skal.
Time frame	Before next inspection
Implementation	Leitfaden "FSC Gruppensertifizierung" für die Forstämter, Section 3

CAR # 9 	Management system
Unit(s)	Group entity
Deviation	Some aspects in the Management system for the group certification system as set up by the GStB are missing.
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines
Elucidation	In order to explain the group certification system and to determine responsibilities, rights and obligations, the GStB has developed a comprehensive paper on the "Management system". Missing and insufficiently described aspects have to be added or corrected. These aspects are described in detail in the background to the report.
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Change or add the topics mentioned above
Time frame	Before approval of first member
Implementation	New version of manual "Handbuch Managementsystem zur Gruppensertifizierung Kommunalwald Rheinland-Pfalz nach FSC", Version Nov. 1999 and related documents

5. New/revise CARs



In this chapter the CAR's not implemented yet or not implemented in a sufficient way are listed as well as new CARs.

If no deviated declaration, the standards mentioned below refer to the German FSC-standards (draft, August 04.1999)



CAR #10 	FSC awareness
Unit(s)	Group entity
Deviation	Low awareness of FSC P&C among group members
Standard	Skal Group certification guidelines and FSC P&C
Elucidation	Natural forest management depends on the responsibility of every single person who is involved in the system. Thus, every community should carry out a training course for their workers and employees, introducing the philosophy, the goals and the measures of natural forest management in the framework of the FSC-certification.
 tus	Condition
Instruction	The GStB should encourage and support these courses and is responsible for the implementation at the members' level within 3 months after a community has signed the participation contract. First steps towards more FSC awareness are included in the documents mentioned below. Additional requested is at least a documentation that information of the employees and workers did take place.
Time frame	Next inspection
Implementation	partly, "Leitfaden FSC Gruppenzertifizierung für die Forstämter" and "Themenvorschläge für die Erörterung im Gemeinde/Stadtrat"



new CARs



Group entity



CAR # 11 	FSC awareness
Unit(s)	GStB, Forest service
Deviation	FSC awareness among parts of the forest service staff.
Standard	1
Elucidation	For implementing a forest management system meeting the requirements of the international and the German FSC standards FSC awareness is necessary
 tus	Condition
Instruction	GStB or state forest service or a commissioner (e.g. consulting) shall offer appropriate courses. At least head of lower forest office (FAL) and rangers (Revierleiter) managing group members have to document FSC-awareness by joining a appropriate course
Time frame	before next audit



Group-members


CAR # 12 	Use of fertilizers or chemical biocides
Unit(s)	Niederscheidweiler
Deviation	Use of fertilizers in <i>Abies-nobilis</i> stand for gaining high-quality decoration green
Standard	6.6
Elucidation	Fertilizers are still used for getting well colored needles
 tus	Precondition
Instruction	Written decision of the community, that no longer fertilizers will be applied. Written information to local ranger (Revierleiter) that fertilizers are no longer allowed.
Time frame	Before becoming member of the group.

CAR # 13 	No or only small and weak documents of site appropriate silvi-cultural treatment of even-aged spruce-stands
Unit(s)	Wallesheim, Ormont, Oberscheidweiler, Niederscheidweiler, Hasborn
Deviation	No document available or document not sufficient, how to improve deciduous trees in even-aged spruce stands and how to convert even-aged pure stands of spruce.
Standard	6.1, Leitfaden "FSC-Gruppenzertifizierung" für die Forstämter, No. 3
Elucidation	Even-aged spruce stand
 tus	Condition
Instruction	written document must be available at group entity. Ranger (Revierleiter) and community have to agree to this document.
Time frame	Before next audit

CAR # 14 	Game / Hunting
Unit(s)	Ormont, Wallesheim, Oberscheidweiler, Niederscheidweiler, Hasborn
Deviation	Population of game is to high, natural regeneration without fences is not possible or not sufficient
Standard	6.1
Elucidation	Population of roe-deer and red-deer pretty high. So regeneration of all trees of the natural forest association without using technical aid is not possible
 tus	Condition
Instruction	for new lean-contracts the model-contract of GStB has to be used
Time frame	end of running contract

CAR # 15 	Game
Unit(s)	Ormont, Wallesheim, Oberscheidweiler, Niederscheidweiler, Hasborn
Deviation	Population of game is to high, natural regeneration without fence is not possible or not sufficient
Standard	6.1
Elucidation	Population of roe-deer and red-deer pretty high. So regeneration of all trees of the natural forest association without using technical aid is not possible
 tus	Condition
Instruction	Hunting licensee has to be forced to fulfill planned shooting-rate. For prove he has to show the shot deer to the forester (körperlicher Nachweis)
Time frame	Next audit

CAR # 16 	Game
Unit(s)	Ormont, Wallesheim
Deviation	Population of red deer is to high, stable stands can not be developed, promotion of deciduous species endangered
Standard	6.1
Elucidation	Red deer is peeling the bark of spruce and also beech, mountain ash and young oak. Developing of stable stands with deciduous trees within the spruce stands is endangered
 tus	Condition
Instruction	reducing red deer to a population, that no more peeling of beech and oak occurs
Time frame	next evaluation

CAR # 17	Control of contractors
Unit(s)	Ormont, Wallesheim
Deviation	requirements concerning "Selbstwerber" is not guaranteed
Standard	4.7 and 6.5
Elucidation	contractors with status "Selbstwerber" are not allowed to be controlled by the rangers. So there is no guarantee, that "Selbstwerber" meet standard 4.7 and 6.5
 tus	Condition
Instruction	also in contracts with "Selbstwerbern" the requirements to meet FSC-Standards 4.7 and 6.5 must be implemented. Otherwise no more contracts with "Selbstwerber".
Time frame	next audit

CAR # 18	Soil-protection
Unit(s)	All visited community FMUs
Deviation	soil-protection is not sufficient in some cases
Standard	6.5
Elucidation	In some older stands marked skidding-trails are missing
✉ Status	Condition
✉ Instruction	marking skidding-trails before next harvest-actions
Time frame	before next harvest-action

CAR # 19	Soil-protection
Unit(s)	All visited community FMUs
Deviation	soil-protection is not sufficient in some cases
Standard	6.5
Elucidation	in some cases people looking for fuel wood, drive through the stands
✉ Status	Condition
✉ Instruction	a) explain the people, what driving through the stands will effect, b) no more permission for harvesting fuel wood in endangered stands
Time frame	a) next audit b) next evaluation

CAR # 20	Deadwood-policy
Unit(s)	Ormont, Wallesheim, Oberscheidweiler, Niederscheidweiler, Hasborn
Deviation	no written form of deadwood policy available
Standard	6.3
Elucidation	for improving habitat-quality of forests, a certain number of old trees should be not harvested. The way how to reach this target and how to protect deadwood from harvest is necessary to be fixed in a document
✉ Status	Condition
✉ Instruction	establish a deadwood policy
Time frame	next audit

CAR # 21	Reference areas
Unit(s)	all visited municipal forests
Deviation	no reference areas available yet
Standard	6.4
Elucidation	These areas should be identified within the communities property first and subsequently outside their property (but still in the growth district), even if the forest area of the member is less than 1000 ha.
✉ Status	Condition
✉ Instruction	establish reference areas and adequate documentation
Time frame	within two years

CAR # 22	Previously harvested material
Unit(s)	All visited community FMUs
Deviation	advice concerning previously harvested timber is not correct (Handbuch 4.2 point 6) or missing (Handbuch, Anhang 1 und 8)
Standard	Guideline for Certification bodys part 2
Elucidation	<p>The regulation existing in the past was not sufficient and clear. To avoid a misuse of the FSC logo and/or a negative image of the FSC logo the following aspects must be fulfilled to sell forest products harvested prior to the issuance of certificate:</p> <p>Harvested forest products must be legally in the possession of and physically within the FMU at the time the certificate is issued</p> <p>The forest products were not harvested while there were still outstanding pre-conditions</p> <p>The amount of harvest should reflect that of a reasonable amount for the region, and not exceed the least of harvest from one harvest cycle or one year.</p>
Issue	Condition
Instruction	a) add the above mentioned issues in the manual and the related documents and b) inform the communities before issuing "binding membership confirmation" (Verbindliche Teilnahmebestätigung)
Time frame	next inspection
Implementation	

Recommendations

CAR # 23	Information of the public
Unit(s)	GStB and communities
Deviation	
Standard	4,8
Elucidation	Information of the public and the inhabitants of the communities will help to promote consciousness concerning sustainable forestry and forest in general. This also will help to force game-tenant to fulfill the requested shooting of deer.
Issue	Recommendation
Instruction	communities and rangers (Revierleiter) may use newspapers and the Agenda 21 process for information of the public, also "forest walks" are appropriate
Time frame	
Implementation	

6. Certification decision

The first assessment took place almost a year ago. Beside some problems concerning the group-entity and the group members(conditions) there were two pre-conditions (PC)

PC1 Agreement between GStB and state forest service. This agreement is signed by the state forest service 09.02.1999. So the pre-condition is implemented.

PC2 Skal approval group members. There were no municipalities at that time, which applied definitely for participation in the group-certification. Now 15 communities signed the contract " Vereinbarung über die freiwillige Selbstverpflichtung" and can become definite members of the group, if they in line with the applicable standards.

There are no new pre-conditions concerning the group entity. **So GStB is recommended for the award of the certificate.**

The foresters responsible for the visited communities presented convincing forest management concepts concerning the Skal Standards and the FSC Standards as well as the "Deutsche FSC-Standards".

For the municipal forests covered by district Röhl a written medium- and long-term management strategy is available.

There is a lack of written documents concerning the lokal silvicultural treatment, the targets of the forest management units and the way how to reach the targets.

The foresters responsible for Ormont, Wallesheim, Oberscheidweiler, Niederscheidweiler, Hasborn shall appropriately document their long-term management strategy and the way of meeting the silvicultural targets according to CAR # 13. This is also necessary to implement this targets in the next medium-term management-plan.

The concept has to be approved by the community (Gemeinderat).

The hunting-situation is a serious problem in some areas. The communities, the lower forest district and the rangers make efforts to improve the situation, but the existing leaning-contracts in some cases run several years.

In this context it is important that the single community can be successfull only if the forest owners in the neighborhood have the same target. So the efforts of the lower forest office (Forstamt), the ranger (Revierleiter) and the communitiys to convince the other forest owners, must be continued. One result is, that recently a Hegegemeinschaft could be founded. Hegegemeinschaft means, that the hunting-rates are fixed for a greater area and that there are targets for game-stands which are binding for all hunting-ground within the scope of the Hegegemeinschaft.

The communities Ormont, Wallesheim, Oberscheidweiler, Hasborn, Dahlem, Dudeldorf, Gondorf, Hüttingen, Idenheim, Idesheim, Metterich, Röhl, Sülme and Trimport can be recommended for becoming group-members also there are some conditions to fulfill within the next time.

The communities of Neiderscheidweiler can not be recommended for becoming a group-member in fact of using fertilizers for getting high quality decorative-green.

The communities inspected in November 1998 did not apply for membership in the FSC-group certification scheme. So it makes no sense to list the conditions concerning this communities anywhere in this report.