



Tool Number 4: Conservation Management Plan



The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and associated operational procedures / guidelines are the central documents to manage and control the conservation project area. Management plans are site specific, as each area will have unique elements to manage and control. GCS has provided a general outline of critical elements that are expected to be included in the CMP and associated procedures. The management plan and procedures are to be developed and or revised by project proponent(s) based on the PIN Assessment Report against the GCS Principles & Criteria.

Forest Conservation Management Plan – Long / Medium Term

This document is the central planning document that must adequately describe the forest resources, environmental and social issues associated with the area and define all critical activities of forestry operations within the planning period. The CMP is effective for 10-years and reviewed every 5-years to address new regulations or information from monitoring activities.

Relevant Information on the Organization

- Organization Information – general information on the project proponent(s) (including organizational structure)
- Identification of all forest areas being managed by the organization within the host country
- Management control and responsibility of companies in each area inclusive of partnerships with other companies.
- Identification of forest areas being managed internationally

Policy Statement

- Clear statement of commitment of the company towards good forest stewardship, environmental protection and provision of social benefits. The statement shall be publicly available and communicated to staff and contractors working within the concession area.

Example: Project proponent(s) is committed to comply with government regulations and to sustainable management of the forest resources within the Organization Name concession area in line with GCS Principles & Criteria. Project proponent(s) shall strive to protect environmental and high conservation values the forest provides and strive to reduce impacts of our operations on the environment. Project proponent(s) shall provide social benefits to local and indigenous communities in line with our scope of operations and identified needs of the communities significantly affected by our operations.

Description of Area

- Location(s) and size(s) of forest concession area(s)
- Legal Information:
 - Forest license(s) / title etc. to show legal rights to manage the resource and expiry period
 - List of relevant regulations for all forestry operations (as an appendix)
 - General description of area - Forest type(s), soils, climate, distinct wet/dry seasons, topography, rivers, etc.
 - Historical Information of the forest relevant to the current structure (logging history, encroachment, social issues, etc.)
 - Adjoining land uses

Forest Resources

- Assessment of forest resources
 - Methods to evaluate forest resources
 - Aerial survey / satellite
 - Ground verification sampling etc. (% inventory)
- Description of forest types and classify quality (strata)
- List dominate species in each forest type
- Evaluate total volume of trees greater than 10cm DBH within each forest type and quality strata per ha

Environmental Attributes and Mitigation Measures

- Environmental assessment of the project
- Identification of environmental elements
- Stakeholder participation in defining conservation values (HCVF) within the
- Define conservation areas based on topography, critical habitat, etc.
- Identification of Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species (flora & fauna)
- Defining mitigation measure for protection of environmental elements and RTE
- Monitoring system to verify mitigation measures are adequate

Chemicals & Waste

- Chemicals Used relation to WHO categories
- Waste management and disposal

Social Issues and Mitigation Measures

Communities:

- Social assessment of local communities associated with the project area (are the local communities indigenous (Native Customary Rights) or recently established). Methods of assessment,
- Identification of social activities of each community (Area under cultivation, collection, hunting, harvesting, clearing of forest land within and adjacent to the project area, cultural & religious sites, etc.)
- Identification of critical social needs (health care, education, market access, transportation, etc.)
- Define means for communication with communities and identification of conservation values related to social needs (HCVF)
- Identification level of impact between each community and the project based on dependence of forest resources and pressure for encroachment
- Defining mitigation measure such as social development programs as needed for each community
- Define / reference system to identify and resolve conflicts between the community and the company

Staff and Contractors:

- Worker health & safety and working conditions
- Employment and living conditions
- Training and opportunities for employment and promotion

Forest Zoning:

Conservation & Social Areas defined for Project Conservation Area

- Compilation of forest resource, environmental and social assessment results
- Define forest areas for protection within the project area
- Define areas of social significance
 - Agricultural areas,
 - Collection of non timber forest products,
 - Hunting, fishing
 - Watershed,
 - Cultural, religious, etc.
 - Areas defined for specific forestry programs (such as community forestry)
- Mapping of all areas for protection (environmental and social)
- Mapping of forest types and strata within conservation areas
- Mapping of proposed main access routes throughout the project area

Forestry Operations

Forest Engineering

- Road construction guidelines, defining standard for road construction
- Bridges and water crossings
- Canal / rail construction
- Equipment to be used for various construction activities
- Define prescriptions for maintenance of roads bridges, canals and rails
- Mapping of proposed main access within the project area identification of major engineering work such as bridges, significant hill cutting areas, quarries, etc.

Monitoring Operations, Environmental & Social Aspects

Forestry Operations

- Identification of monitoring activities required to verify forestry operations are in accordance to guidelines / procedures
- System for monitoring road construction meets guidelines
- System to monitor bridges and water crossings
- System to monitor canal / rail construction meets guidelines
- System to monitor conditions of main roads and operational roads bridges etc. and define priority for repair

Forest Resources

- System for monitoring protection of forest resources against encroachment & illegal harvesting
- System for monitoring fire risk, detection and suppression
- System to monitor forest resources by forest type through development and analysis of Permanent Sample Plots (PSP)

Environmental Elements

- System for monitoring protection of environmental elements
- System for monitoring biodiversity, stand structure, (species richness, stand distribution)
- System to monitor RTE, wildlife, habitat protection
- System to monitor protection of soil and stream / water quality
- System to monitor hunting or poaching

Social Elements

- System to record communication and concerns of local communities
- System for monitoring social programs are progressing as scheduled
- System to monitor forest resource usage by communities (collection, hunting, timber use, etc.)
- System to records and monitor disputes

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