

Annex E

(Technical)

Specifications for the application of the standard at the regional level and at the group level

1 Introduction

The Portuguese Standard (NP) 4406:2003 is applicable to any forest management unit, whether it be defined at the level of a forest region, of a group of forest explorations or of an individual forest exploration. The present annex describes specifications for application of the normative requirements at the regional level and at the group level. This annex is binding.

2 Application of the Standard in a Region

2.1 Framework

A system of sustainable forest management may be established at the regional scale whenever there is cumulative verification of the following conditions:

- There is one individual responsible for the forest management unit who congregates all of the interests involved in forest management at the regional scale;
- The evaluation of the indicators of sustainable forest management is founded on regional base information, according to the guidelines defined in Annex D of the present standard;

- A forest policy is defined for the region, that takes into account the principles of the national forest policy and the contributions of the parties interested in forest management in the region;
- A geographic region is established according to the administrative delimitation of the national territory;
- The technical guidelines to be adopted by the region are defined.

In each of the regions corresponding to NTU III units, there shall be an entity responsible for soliciting certification of the system(s) of forest management established at the regional scale.

2.1.1 Entity responsible for the regional forest management unit

The entity that is constituted as being responsible for the regional forest management unit should have as its exclusive scope of activity the implementation of the present National Standard NP 4406:2003. It should be open to all whom, in the region, are interested in participating in sustainable forest management and should reflect in a balanced way the whole set of economic, social and environmental interests associated with the forest in the region. In conformity with that which is defined in the standard, this entity is responsible for definition of the forest policy, planning, operationalisation and verification and corrective and preventive actions.

2.1.2 Evaluation of the indicators of sustainable forest management

The evaluation of the indicators of sustainable forest management in the region is also the responsibility of the entity responsible for the regional forest management unit, which should thus effect all the compilation of basic information and its processing. In case the information necessary for the evaluation is not available or does not exist, it is also the responsibility of this entity to ensure its production, whenever the sustainable forest management system thus obliges.

2.1.3 Regional Forest Policy

Sustainable forest management is grounded on the evaluation of forestry activity in the light of economic, social and environmental aspects to be attained in the forest and on their management. It is based upon the definition of a regional forest policy in respect of the requirements of the present standard and on processes of ample public consultation, so as to receive the contributions of all those who wish to participate. It is thereby guaranteed that the management is adequate to the regional interests.

It is up to the entity responsible for the regional forest management unit to initiate definition of the regional forest policy. The entity shall identify, on the basis of evaluation of the state of the forest in that region, the functional areas that need developing in light of forest management performance and the continuous improvement of the sustainable forest management system in the region.

The entity responsible for the forest management unit is also responsible for the effective dissemination of the regional forest policy.

The basis for the procurement of the regional forest policy is the formulation of regional technical guidelines, to be defined by the entity responsible for the regional forest management unit. These guidelines, taking as a reference the code of good practices for sustainable forest management and other reference documents for forest management in the region, technically tie in the management so it is adequate to the regional forest production systems and the nature of the parties involved.

2.1.4 Territorial delimitation of the regions

In consideration of the level of information established in “Guidelines for the application of the Pan-European criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management at the regional level”, the minimum and maximum dimensions of a region are those that correspond, respectively, to the areas of NTU III territorial units and of administrative councils.

2.1.5 Subscribers

Those entities apt to take part in a forest management system are the public or private entities entitled with the management of forest areas that fulfil the following conditions:

- Take part in the regional forest management system, making a commitment to the regional forest policy;
- Subscribe to and act in conformity with the regional technical reference;
- Declare the forest area that they are responsible for the management of, identifying and delineating it clearly;
- Establish planning of the forestry operations for their forest area, for a period adequate to the particular forest production system, and communicate this to the entity responsible for the regional forest management unit;
- Guarantee an effective management of their patrimony, communicating and justifying any alterations to the delineated planning to the entity responsible for the regional forest management unit;
- Guarantee the generic duty of supporting the entity responsible for the regional forest management unit, whether by their actions or by making available relevant information.

2.1.6 Regional technical guidelines

The Technical Commission CT 145 is responsible for constructing regional technical guidelines.

3 Application of the Standard for a Group

3.1 Framework

A system of sustainable forest management may be defined for a group of forest owners when the following conditions are verified:

- There is a person or entity, designated by the group, responsible for the forest management unit;
- The evaluation of the indicators of sustainable forest management is done according to the guidelines defined in Annex B of the present standard;
- The definition of the group's forest policy takes into account the individual objectives of the whole set of those who are integrated in the group;
- The forest management unit is established for the whole set of properties of the group;
- The group technical reference guidelines are defined.

3.1.1 Entity responsible for the group FMU

The entity responsible for the group forest management unit takes the responsibility of co-ordinating and maintaining operational the requirements of the sustainable forest management system, with the exception of those that result from forest management in itself, which will have to be taken on by the members of the group.

3.1.2 Evaluation of the indicators of group sustainable forest management

The evaluation of the indicators of sustainable forest management for the group is the responsibility of the entity responsible for the group forest management unit, who to that effect shall promote the gathering of basic information and its processing.

3.1.3 Forestry policy of the group

The group's forestry policy, objectives and goals, are defined by all its members and expressed in a document drawn up by the entity responsible for the group forest management unit, on the basis of an evaluation of the state of the forest for all the properties integrated in the group.

It is up to the entity responsible for the forest management unit to identify the functional areas that need developing in the light of performance of forest management and the continuous improvement of the group's sustainable forest management system, ensuring that the individual plans of each subscriber contribute effectively to the objectives and goals of the forest management plan established for the group.

To that end, the entity responsible for the group forest management unit proceeds with formulation of the technical reference guidelines for the group. These, taking as a reference the code of good practices for sustainable forest management and other reference documents for the group, technically tie in the forest management so it is adequate to the group's management plans, according to their forest production systems and the nature of the parties involved.

3.1.4 *Subscribers to the group*

Those entities apt to take part in a group sustainable forest management system are the public or private entities entitled with the management of forest areas that fulfil the following conditions:

- Subscribe to the group's forestry policy, ensuring that their individual forest management plans are adequate to the objectives of the group;
- Subscribe to the group forest management plan and the respective technical reference guidelines;
- Guarantee management of their patrimony in accordance with the group forest management plan, communicating and justifying to the entity responsible for the group forest management unit any alterations in relation to what is planned;
- Declare the forest area that they are responsible for the management of, identifying and delimiting it in the terms required by the entity responsible for the group forest management unit.

3.1.5 Group Technical Reference Guidelines

The CT 145 is responsible for defining guides for the construction of group technical references.

4 Application of the Portuguese National Standard at the Individual Level

A system of sustainable forest management is established at the individual scale when a single individual or entity responds for the set of requirements of application of the standard in a forest property or group of properties. The evaluation of the indicators of sustainable forest management should be done according to the guidelines defined in Annex B of the present standard.

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