

FSC Digital Audit Report Template - Forest Management (v1.5.4)

Report Setup	
Licence Code	FSC-C006014
Language	EN
Default Area Units	ha
Default Wood Volume Units	m3
Default NTFP Volume Units	metric tonnes
Default Pesticide Volume Units	litres
Display / Print Level	Public Requirements
Sheet Integrity Complete	Yes

FSC Forest Management Audit

Public Summary Report

Audit Conducted By



KPMG Forest Certification Services Inc.
777 Dunsmuir Street

Vancouver
British Columbia
V7Y 1K3
Canada
www.kpmg.ca

Contact Person

Shawn Ellsworth

Report last updated on

02 March 2025

Certificate Holder



Mistik Management Ltd.
P.O. Box 9060

Meadow Lake
SK
S9X 1V7
Canada
www.mistik.ca

Contact Person

Kevin Gillis

Certified Forest Areas

1878499.00

FSC certificate
registration code

KF-FM/COC-001005

Certificate issue date
Certificate expiry date

13 November 2022
12 November 2027

Audit Sequence

2nd Surveillance

This forest has been certified by KPMG Forest Certification Services Inc. as meeting the requirements of FSC national forest standard of Canada: FSC-STD CAN-01-2018 V 1-0 EN.

Certificate Holder and Certification Body Details

Question	Inputs
Certificate Holder	
1.01 Certificate holder name *	Mistik Management Ltd.
1.01.1 Local company name	Meadow Lake
1.01.2 Trading name	Mistik
1.02.1 Street Address *	P.O. Box 9060
1.02.2 Address Line 2	
1.02.3 City *	Meadow Lake
1.02.4 State or Province	SK
1.02.5 Postal Code	S9X 1V7
1.03 Country *	Canada
1.04 Contact person full name *	Kevin Gillis
1.05 Email *	kevin.gillis@mistik.ca
1.06 Telephone *	1-306-240-8908
1.07 Website *	www.mistik.ca
Certificate Parameters	
1.08 FSC licence code *	FSC-C006014
1.09 Certificate code *	KF-FM/COC-001005
1.10 Former certificate code (if any)	
1.11 Certificate type *	FM/COC
1.12 Group certificate *	No
1.13.1 Initial certification date *	2007-11-16
1.13.2 Most recent certification date *	2022-11-13
1.13.3 Certificate expiry date *	2027-11-12
1.14 Total number of MUs in the scope of certificate *	1
1.15 Total area certified *	1,878,498.0 ha
1.16 Certificate scope	
1.16.2 Current certificate scope *	<p>(1) Forest harvesting by Mistik Management Ltd. of approximately 1,734,852 m3 per year of jack pine, white spruce, black spruce, balsam fir, aspen, balsam poplar and tamarack logs from the Mistik and L&M Forest Management Agreement (FMA) areas.</p> <p>(2) Chain of custody within the Mistik and L&M FMA areas up to the point of scale at either of the following sites: (1) NorSask sawmill scale site, or (2) Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp scale site, or (3) NorthWind Forest Products scale site.</p>
1.16.3 Change of scope since previous audit *	No
1.16.1 Nature of scope change	
1.17 Ecosystem services (ES) in the scope *	No
1.26 Continuous Improvement Procedure being followed *	No
1.25 Name and/or location of the certified forest area(s)	Mistik Management Ltd., Meadow Lake

Question	Inputs
Certification Body	
1.18 Certification body name *	KPMG Forest Certification Services Inc.
1.19.1 Street Address *	777 Dunsmuir Street
1.19.2 Address Line 2	
1.19.3 City *	Vancouver
1.19.4 State	British Columbia
1.19.5 Postal Code	V7Y 1K3
1.20 Country *	Canada
1.21 Contact person full name *	Shawn Ellsworth
1.22 Email *	sellsworth@kpmg.ca
1.23 Telephone *	+1 604 691-3390
1.24 Website *	www.kpmg.ca

The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
Audit Parameters	
2.01 Audit type *	Surveillance
2.01.1 Audit sequence *	2nd Surveillance
2.01.2 Audit location *	On-site
2.01.3 Justification for remote audit	NA
2.01.4 Methods used for remote audit	NA
2.02 Audit start date *	2024-06-11
2.16 First stakeholder consultation date for this audit *	2024-04-30
2.03 Audit finish date *	2024-06-14
2.04 Total person days on-site *	18.0
2.04.1 Justification for audit time *	The audit duration is calculated based on employee numbers and risk as per KPMG A-30 procedure. This was an integrated audit with the CSA Z809 Sustainable Forest Management Standard.
2.05 Date of report *	2025-03-02
Normative Documents	
2.07 Evaluated international normative document(s) *	
2.07.1 Trademark standard FSC-STD-50-001 *	Yes
2.07.2 Group standard FSC-STD-30-005 *	No
2.07.3 CoC standard FSC-STD-40-004 *	No
2.07.4 ES procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 *	No
2.07.5 Excision Policy FSC-POL-20-003 *	Yes
2.07.6 Pesticides Policy FSC-POL-30-001 *	Yes
2.07.7 Applicable NTFP Standard *	No
2.07.8 CIP FSC PRO 30-011 *	No
2.08 Code(s) of NFSS or IFSS used *	of Canada: FSC-STD CAN-01-2018 V 1-0 EN
2.09 Web link to the standard used *	https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/223
2.10 If applicable, the adaptation process of CB interim standard	NA

The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
Certification Decision	
2.20 Conditions associated with the certification decision *	
2.20.1 No specific condition *	No
2.20.2 Correction of minor NCRs issued within required timelines *	Yes
2.20.3 Correction of major NCRs issued within required timelines *	No
2.20.4 Correction of the pre-conditions to certification identified *	No
2.20.5 Other	
2.32 Conditions assessed and subsequent actions taken prior to the certification decision to correct major or minor non-conformities that were identified *	<p>No major non-conformities were identified during the current evaluation. Action plans were provided for seven minor non-conformities and five opportunities for improvement identified during the current evaluation and are to be implemented as per the identified timeline in the corrective action request form.</p> <p>All previous non-conformities from the 2023 audit have been verified, determined effective, and closed.</p>
2.22 Auditor's recommendation *	
2.22.1 The organization is in conformity with the certification requirements *	Yes
2.22.2 The organization needs to take corrective actions *	Yes
2.28 Resolution of alleged non-conformities	A minor nonconformity shall be corrected within the maximum period of one (1) year (under exceptional and justified circumstances the timeline may be extended to two (2) years).
2.29 Potential infringements of the FSC Policy for Association *	No
2.24 Other details relevant to the decision	The audit concluded that the certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to correction of the identified non-conformities, that the described management system is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the certificate's scope.
2.23 Certification decision *	
2.23 Certification decision *	Maintain
2.25 Decision date *	2025-03-02
2.26 Decision making entity *	Marcelo Levy

Audit itinerary

4.01 Audit Itinerary Item Start Date *	4.02 Hours *	4.03 MUs or members *	4.04 Activities *	4.05 Site detail *
	7.50	Mistik FMA/L&M FMA	Initiate Stakeholder Interviews	Remote
2024-04-30	26.25	Mistik FMA/L&M FMA	Stakeholder Interviews	Remote
2024-06-03	10.00	Mistik FMA/L&M FMA	Document Review / Checklist Preparation	Remote
2024-06-11	58.00	Mistik FMA/L&M FMA	Opening Meeting, Field Review Planning/Site Selection, Review previous audit non-conformances for Sustainable Forest Management, Audit indicators in office: Interviews/Checklist	Mistik Office
2024-06-12	62.50	Mistik FMA/L&M FMA	Field Review	Canoe Lake Shop, Cowan Group Shop, Canoe Lake
2024-06-14	15.00	Mistik FMA/L&M FMA	Follow-up, complete checklist Preparation for closing meeting Closing Meeting	Mistik Office
2024-06-14	97.50	Mistik FMA/L&M FMA	Reporting and quality review	KPMG Offices

Forest management enterprise information

Question	Inputs
Forest Area	
5.02 Brief description of any area of forest over which the certificate holder has some responsibility, whether as owner (including shared or partial ownership), manager, consultant or other responsibility) which the certificate holder has chosen to exclude from the scope of the certificate, together with an explanation of the reason. *	No forest areas over which the certificate holder has some responsibility has been excluded from the scope of the certificate.
5.03 Area of forest owned/managed but excluded from MUs in the scope of certification *	
5.03.1 According to FSC-POL-20-003 *	0.00 ha
5.03.2 Other reasons	0.00 ha

Management Units

Management Units												Area Units: ha
7.01 MU name *	7.23 Cadastral identifier *	7.02 Forest zone *	7.03 SLIMF type *	7.04 Tenure-ownership *	7.05 Tenure-management *	7.24 Recognised as Community Forest	7.25 SLIMF or Community	7.06 Centroid Latitude *	7.07 Centroid Longitude *	7.08 Total production forest area *	7.09 Total non-production forest area *	7.10 Total area of MU *
Number of Valid Entries:		1						Area Totals		878,510.00	999,988.00	1,878,498.00
												0.00
Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA		Boreal	Non-SLIMF	Public/State	Indigenous Peoples	No	No	55.30000000	-108.30000000	878,510.00	999,988.00	1,878,498.00

Commercial timber species - Data on this sheet is confidential

8.01 Species *	8.02 Product code *	8.03 Trade name *	8.04 Harvested quantity in previous calendar year *	8.04.1 Units *	8.05 Remarks	8.06 Sold with FSC Claim in previous calendar year *	8.06.1 Units *
Abies balsamea	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Balsam fir	817,444.00	m3	Volumes on this line are applicable to the product group.	814,444.00	m3
Populus balsamifera	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Balsam poplar	0.00	m3		0.00	m3
Picea mariana	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Black spruce	0.00	m3		0.00	m3
Pinus banksiana	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Jack pine	0.00	m3		0.00	m3
Populus tremuloides	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Trembling aspen	0.00	m3		0.00	m3
Picea glauca	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	White spruce	0.00	m3		0.00	m3
Larix laricina	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Tamarack	0.00	m3		0.00	m3
Betula papyrifera	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	White birch	0.00	m3		0.00	m3

Pesticide use since previous audit/year

10.01.1 Trade name *	10.01 Active ingredient *	10.03 Applied area *	10.04 Reason for use *	10.04.1 Location used *	10.04.2 Period of use *	10.04.3 Number of applications *	10.04.4 Frequency of application *	10.05 Quantity of Ingredient *	10.06 Summary of ESRA
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Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.28 Description of the forest	<p>The Mid Boreal Upland Ecoregion comprises the area immediately south of the Shield in central and western Saskatchewan, plus in several large more or less isolated upland areas, such as the Thickwood and Pasquia Hills. It is bordered on the south by the Boreal Transition Ecoregion which, as the name implies, corresponds to the area of transition between the boreal forest region to the north and the prairies to the south. On the east it is bordered by the Mid Boreal Lowland. The Mistik MU area occurs almost entirely within the Mid-Boreal Upland Ecoregion.</p> <p>Physiographically, this ecoregion comprises a series of rolling uplands characterized by an ascending sequence of steeply sloping eroded escarpments, hummocky glacial till plains and level plateau-like tops; surrounded by undulating plains often dominated by undulating glaciofluvial and glaciolactrine deposits. The forests for the most part grow taller here than on the Shield to the north and account for the bulk of the province's merchantable timber. Aspen occurs throughout the ecoregion and is dominant on the south-facing slopes of the major uplands. Where moisture conditions are more favorable, white spruce is often mixed with aspen. Pine assumes its usual dominance in sandy areas. Black spruce and tamarack dominate the low-lying peatland areas. In the Mistik FMP area, the Mid Boreal Upland is divided into 10 Landscape Areas as described in the Forest Management Plan.</p> <p>A brief description of the land use history and regional context is provided from Wyatt S, Dumoe J. Meadow Lake: Looking back on 30 years of Aboriginal forest management and manufacturing. PROTEST AND PARTNERSHIP. 2018:189: "Since 1988, the nine First Nations of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) in Saskatchewan have been engaged in forest management, harvesting and forest product manufacturing to an extent not equalled by any other First Nation in Canada. This model is centered around the action of Mistik Management Ltd. (Mistik, a forest management company), NorSask Forest Products Inc. (NorSask, a sawmill) and Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp (MLMP, a pulp mill), but has expanded to include a range of other businesses and operations. It has enabled the MLTC nations to exercise self-determination and accrue economic benefits from forestry operations occurring in their traditional territories." A timeline of the development of the forest management structure is presented in Annex 2.</p>
11.29 Description of the management system	<p>Mistik utilizes a clearcut with reserves harvest system with residual patches of mature forest retained throughout harvest units. On average, 7% of a gross cutblock volume is retained in in-block patch retention. Where possible, Mistik plans harvesting areas as disturbance events using a single-pass system. Employing a diversity of cutblock sizes and shapes, Mistik maintains a proportion of overstory structure and immature trees within harvested areas in an attempt to emulate the natural disturbance patterns imposed on the landscape by forest fires. Mistik attempts to renew harvested forest stands to either their pre-harvest tree species composition or to a successional phase suitable to the harvested forest ecosite. Due to short fire return intervals and relatively large areas burned in the MU area each year, Mistik has tailored its renewal program to minimize risk to silvicultural investment and maximize future forest management and timber product options. In general, Mistik attempts to maximize the area of mixedwood renewal, minimize investment per hectare (e.g., plant less trees per hectare while planting more total hectares) and accept natural forest succession dynamics as the preferred mode of minimizing risk and maximizing future forest management and timber product options.</p>

Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.01 Legislative, administrative and land use context in which the Organization operates	The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment regulates forest use on Crown Land, including work-camp standards. The Forest Resources Management Act (FRMA) in Saskatchewan requires the holder of a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) to develop a Forest Management Plan (FMP) that covers a period of 20 years and revise the (Twenty Year) plan every 10 years. Mistik report their progress meeting FMP requirement to the public annually based on the FRMA and regulations. Health and Safety requirements are outlined in the Saskatchewan Employment Act and Occupational Health and Safety Regulations. Compliance is under the jurisdiction of The Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety.
11.02 Roles of responsible government agencies involved in aspects of forest management	<p>Government agencies play a crucial role in regulating the forest industry in Saskatchewan. They are responsible for ensuring sustainable forest management, protecting biodiversity, and enforcing laws and regulations related to forestry.</p> <p>1) Sustainable Forest Management: The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's Forest Service Branch is responsible for managing the province's forest resources. They ensure that forest activities are conducted in a manner that is sustainable and respects the ecological integrity of the forest. This includes planning and implementing forest management strategies, issuing permits for forest activities, and monitoring the health of the forest.</p> <p>2) Protecting Biodiversity: The Ministry of Environment also works to protect the biodiversity of Saskatchewan's forests. This includes implementing strategies to protect endangered species, managing wildlife habitats, and conducting research on forest ecosystems.</p> <p>3) Enforcement of Laws and Regulations: Government agencies are responsible for enforcing laws and regulations related to forestry. This includes ensuring compliance with the Forest Resources Management Act and other relevant legislation. They also enforce regulations related to forest fire prevention and control.</p> <p>4) Indigenous Consultation: The government also has a duty to consult with Indigenous communities about forest activities that may affect their rights and interests. This includes consulting on forest management plans, permit applications, and other decisions that may impact the forest.</p> <p>5) Education and Outreach: Government agencies also play a role in educating the public about the importance of forests and sustainable forest management. This includes providing information and resources to schools, community groups, and the general public.</p> <p>6) Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment has a significant role in administering the commercial uses of all non-timber forest products through permitting and compliance.</p>
11.03 Ownership and use-rights (both legal and customary) of lands and forest of external parties other than the certificate holder	<p>Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 explicitly recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal rights and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.</p> <p>There are no recognized customary rights in Canada.</p>
11.04 Non-forestry activities being undertaken within the area evaluated, whether they are undertaken by the certificate holder or by some other party (e.g. mining, industrial operations, agriculture, hunting, commercial tourism, etc.)	
11.04.1 mining	No

Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.04.2 industrial operation	Yes
11.04.3 agriculture	Yes
11.04.4 hunting	Yes
11.04.6 other, please specify	collection of non-timber forest products, recreation.
11.05 Forest management objectives	
	<p>Forest Management Objectives are outlined in the Government of Saskatchewan Forest Management Planning Standard - Saskatchewan Environmental Code. This manual describes requirements for a Forest Management Plan, and requires the plan author to develop values, objectives, indicators, and targets (VOITs). A framework for these are given in the CSA Z809 standard. VOITs are expected to be achieved at year 10. The following objectives are specified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1.1 Conservation of the biological diversity of Saskatchewan's forests. 1.2.1.1 Maintain habitat for identified forest dwelling species. 1.3.1.1 No loss of natural tree genetic diversity through forest management activities. 2.1.1.1 Maintain the stability, resilience and rates of biological production in forest ecosystem. 3.1.1.1 Maintain and/or enhance the quantity and quality of soil and water. 4.1.1.1 Mitigate the impact of the forest and forest activities on the productive landbase. 5.1.1.1 Maximize the economic benefits without compromising the productive capacity of forest ecosystem. 5.2.1.1 Minimize injury, loss and damage caused by wildfire. 5.2.1.1 To ensure that other forest uses are addressed. 5.3.1.1 Maintain or enhance benefits. 6.1.1.1 To ensure that Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are respected while planning and implementing forestry activities. 6.2.1.1 To avoid impacting culturally important sites. 6.2.1.2 To protect forest based traditional ecological knowledge of the Aboriginal communities. 6.3.1.1 To contribute to the resiliency of communities. 6.4.1.1 Improve the engagement and information sharing of stakeholders in FMP development and implementation.

Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.06 Land use and ownership status of the forest resource	<p>Under the Forest Resources Management Act, Mistik has a responsibility to identify other land values and uses within its FMP (MU) area and how those values and uses are accommodated and maintained.</p> <p>Mistik has no regulatory mandate to directly manage other forest use values. Mistik's primary focus, in relation to other ecological and socioeconomic forest values, is to attempt to minimize forestry-related impacts to other forest values. Where possible, and appropriate, Mistik attempts to integrate and enhance other forest values.</p> <p>Hunting (including subsistence, traditional use, recreational and guided outfitting), trapping, ranching (grazing), fishing, berry-picking, mushroom-picking, firewood gathering, nature and scenic appreciation (birding, camping, hiking, photography, ecotourism), recreational use (snowmobiling and ATV use), medicinal-plant use and wild rice harvesting are common non-timber forest product uses conducted for business, recreation and subsistence purposes in the MU area. There are significant heritage values (sites of archaeological significance) throughout the MU. The primary industrial use, other than forestry, within the Mistik FMP area is oil and gas exploration and development. Oil and gas related activity is coordinated by MoE and is concentrated in the southern portion of the Mistik FMP area. Assessment of timber dues for timber removal related to oil and gas exploration is calculated according to terms outlined within the Mistik Forest Management Agreement. Where practical, Mistik accepts salvaged timber from well sites, seismic, and pipeline right-of-ways.</p>
11.07 Socio-economic conditions of the forest management	<p>Economic development has been one of the primary objectives of Mistik. This is a common theme in Indigenous forestry, leading to benefits such as employment, skills, income and autonomy, but also associated with challenges, especially in reconciling traditional values and non-Indigenous business models.</p> <p>Mistik reports annually on progress in socio-economic development of the local communities in indicators that include "contributions to co-mangement boards", "% of total annual vendor / contractor payments made to local businesses," and "percent of 'within-FMA area' communities represented in the workforce." Monitoring results are available to the public (https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#!/categories/4260).</p>
11.08 Brief description of forest composition	<p>Hardwood-leading (primarily trembling aspen) forests are the dominant (32%) forest types within the potentially productive forest land base of the MU area. Jack pine-dominated forest stands are the subsequent most extensive, followed by black spruce, the leading forest type. Cumulatively, mixedwood forests comprise approximately 18% of the potentially productive forest land base. The least abundant forest types are other hardwoods (primarily balsam poplar) and white spruce forest types. Approximately a third (36%) of the provincial forest types are dominated by mature or old stands.</p>
11.09 Profile of adjacent lands	
11.09.1 urban	Yes
11.09.2 agriculture	Yes
11.09.3 wetland	Yes
11.09.4 mining	Yes

Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.09.5 desert	No
11.09.6 pasture	Yes
11.09.7 orchards	No
11.09.8 other, please specify	
11.23.1 Description of segregation controls implemented *	A timber mark is a unique identifier that must be applied to all timber harvested under a Forest Product Permit in Saskatchewan. The timber mark must be clearly visible on the end of each piece of timber." This is a common method used to track timber products from the harvest location to the mill and prevents the risk of mixing.
11.27.1 log yard *	Yes
11.27.2 road side *	No
11.27.3 other, please specify	The forest gate is the log yard where scaling of logs occurs.
11.31 Major changes to management plan *	There were no changes to the management plan since the previous audit.

Stakeholder feedback

12.01 Stakeholder group *	12.02 Stakeholder description *	12.03 Stakeholder’s comment	12.06 CB’s follow up
Environmental interests	Public Advisory Group and ENGO	Relationship with Mistik is good. Confirmed compliance with some of the Criteria of Principles 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9.	None required.
National and state forest agencies	Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment	Confirmed compliance with some of the Criteria of Principles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. Some regulatory requirements have not been completed in required timeframes, or not met. Corrective actions have been implemented and verified.	KPMG reviewed Mistik meeting government requirements and confirmed corrective actions are in progress or completed.
National and state forest agencies	Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment	Confirmed compliance with some of the Criteria of Principles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Some regulatory requirements have not been met. There is turnover in public advisory group and need to continuously instruct members. Deviations to block boundaries in advance of operations would be useful to government.	KPMG reviewed Mistik meeting government requirements and confirmed corrective actions are in progress or completed. 2024-OFI-05 given which addresses the concern about understanding of Public Advisory Group members.
Local communities, residents	Trapper	Confirmed compliance with some of the Criteria of Principles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10. There is turnover in public advisory group and need to continuously instruct members. Mistik is good in involving local communities in resource planning and management. Various general comments about road buffers, retention trees, snowbanks for snowmobiles.	2024-OFI-05 given which addresses the concern about understanding of Public Advisory Group members. KPMG auditors did not identify any concerns related to rentention trees or road buffers. The safety of snowbanks could not be reviewed during the audit season.
Environmental interests	Outfitter	Confirmed compliance with some of the Criteria of Principles 4, 5, 6, 7. Employees meet regularly with the stakeholder and this is positive.	None required.
Local communities, residents	Member of Co-Management Team	Confirmed compliance with some of the Criteria of Principles 3, 5, 7, 10. There is turnover in public advisory group (PAG) and need to continuously instruct members. Concerns with using Alberta based contractors, harvesting of caribou habitat, harvesting around a trapper cabin.	<p>2024-OFI-05 given which addresses the concern about understanding of Public Advisory Group members.</p> <p>KPMG reviewed using Alberta contractors and harvest at a trapper cabin and identified that this was done by another license holder, not Mistik.</p> <p>Mistik has implemented conservation measures for Caribou expected to assist in recovery. KPMG reviewed in the context of the Caribou amendment for the FMA. The location of the caribou, as well as economic considerations, were taken into account when determining that the northern part of the FMA is more appropriate for harvest deferrals concentrating the harvesting in the southern portion of the FMA.</p>

Stakeholder feedback

12.01 Stakeholder group *	12.02 Stakeholder description *	12.03 Stakeholder’s comment	12.06 CB’s follow up
Indigenous Peoples	Representative of a First Nation	Confirmed compliance with some of the Criteria of Principles 5, 6. Concerns about ground disturbance, harvesting too close to riparian areas, and caribou conservation.	KPMG did not identify issues with ground disturbance or riparian buffers in the current field review. Mistik has implemented conservation measures for Caribou expected to assist in recovery. Reviewed in the context of the Caribou amendment for the FMA. The location of the caribou, as well as economic considerations, were taken into account when determining that the northern part of the FMA is more appropriate for harvest deferrals concentrating the harvesting in the southern portion of the FMA.
Indigenous Peoples	Representative of a First Nation	Concerns expressed regarding pomoting local employment, level of stakeholder consultation.	KPMG confirmed Mistik contrbutes to extensive local employment and is involved in substantial community consultation.
Indigenous Peoples	Representative of a First Nation	Confirmed compliance with some of the Criteria of Principles 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9. Harvesting is concentrated in the southern portion of the FMA.	Mistik has implemented conservation measures for Caribou expected to assist in recovery. Reviewed in the context of the Caribou amendment for the FMA. The location of the caribou, as well as economic considerations, were taken into account when determining that the northern part of the FMA is more appropriate for harvest deferrals concentrating the harvesting in the southern portion of the FMA.

Nonconformities/Observations raised

14.01 Unique Finding number *	14.02 CB Non-conformity Ref *	14.06 Grading *	14.07 Open / Closed *	14.08 Standard *	14.09 Clause *	14.03 Issue date *	14.04 Due date *	14.05 Close date *	14.10 Requirement *	14.11 Description of audit finding *	14.15 Corrective action requested *	14.14 MU Applicability	14.12 Corrective action taken by the auditee *	14.13 CB's review of corrective actions
2024-C006014	2024-NC-02	Minor	Open	NFSS	Main 10.12.1 Associated 10.9.4	2024-14-06	2025-14-06	NA	10.12.1 Operational procedures related to handling of chemicals, liquid and solid non-organic waste materials, including fuel, oil, batteries and containers are in place and are implemented. At a minimum, the procedures address: ...3. Measures to prevent spills... 10.9.4 Management activities are modified and/or measures are developed and implemented that reduce the identified risks.	Two graders parked at East-West and Muskeg road intersections. One grader had all required EMS spill/fire kit but the other missing wildfire control and spill kit.	Mistik has provided corrective action plans for this non-conformity.	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	A minor nonconformity shall be correct within the maximum period of one (1) year (under exceptional and justified circumstances the timeline may be extended to two (2) years).	
2024-C006014	2024-NC-03	Minor	Open	NFSS	2.3.2	2024-14-06	2025-14-06	NA	2.3.2 A worker health & safety program for all workers that meets the requirements of Annex C is developed, implemented and reviewed periodically.	Summer student was not wearing PPE while inspecting culverts/ cross drainage at Muskeg Lake Road km 6. Tree planters at Little Raspberry site were not wearing hard hats; meanwhile they confirmed occasional entry into the unharvested cut block to rest under shade.	Mistik has provided corrective action plans for this non-conformity.	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	A minor nonconformity shall be correct within the maximum period of one (1) year (under exceptional and justified circumstances the timeline may be extended to two (2) years).	
2024-C006014	2024-NC-04	Minor	Open	NFSS	1.3.1	2024-14-06	2025-14-06	NA	1.3.1 Forest management activities in the Management Unit, planned and ongoing, are carried out in compliance with: 1. Applicable laws and regulations...	Aggregate pit km 79 E_W road, set back to tree line and pit face not sloped to angle of repose. This is outside new conditions for approval (Crown Resource Land Lease April 2023).	Mistik has provided corrective action plans for this non-conformity.	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	A minor nonconformity shall be correct within the maximum period of one (1) year (under exceptional and justified circumstances the timeline may be extended to two (2) years).	
2024-C006014	2024-NC-05	Minor	Open	NFSS	2.3.1	2024-14-06	2025-14-06	NA	2.3.1 Compliance with relevant occupational health and safety regulations as specified in Annex A is demonstrated.	One large potentially hazardous snag left standing at roadside in blk 02-032-005	Mistik has provided corrective action plans for this non-conformity.	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	A minor nonconformity shall be correct within the maximum period of one (1) year (under exceptional and justified circumstances the timeline may be extended to two (2) years).	
2024-C006014	2024-NC-06	Minor	Open	NFSS	1.4.2	2024-14-06	2025-14-06	NA	1.4.2 Where protection is the legal responsibility of regulatory bodies, a system is implemented to work with these regulatory bodies to identify, report, discourage, control and address unauthorized or illegal activities.	A burnt vehicle was spotted at the Lavigne stockpile site and no record of report to the responsible government agency was available from Mistik.	Mistik has provided corrective action plans for this non-conformity.	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	A minor nonconformity shall be correct within the maximum period of one (1) year (under exceptional and justified circumstances the timeline may be extended to two (2) years).	

Nonconformities/Observations raised

14.01 Unique Finding number *	14.02 CB Non-conformity Ref *	14.06 Grading *	14.07 Open / Closed *	14.08 Standard *	14.09 Clause *	14.03 Issue date *	14.04 Due date *	14.05 Close date *	14.10 Requirement *	14.11 Description of audit finding *	14.15 Corrective action requested *	14.14 MU Applicability	14.12 Corrective action taken by the auditee *	14.13 CB's review of corrective actions
2024-C006014	2024-NC-07	Minor	Open	NFSS	10.12.1 (1)	2024-14-06	2025-14-06	NA	10.12.1 (1) Collection, storage, and disposal of waste in an environmentally appropriate manner.	An empty plastic container and three water bottles were seen at Waterhen Cut-Across stockpile site. It was evident that this garbage was created by contractors.	Mistik has provided corrective action plans for this non-conformity.	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	A minor nonconformity shall be correct within the maximum period of one (1) year (under exceptional and justified circumstances the timeline may be extended to two (2) years).	
2024-C006014	2024-NC-08	Minor	Open	NFSS	Associated: 6.1.2 Associated: 6.2.2 Main: 6.3.1 Main: 6.3.2	2024-14-06	2025-14-06	NA	6.1.2 Best available information is used to identify and define the state and condition of stand- and site-scale environmental values within the Management Unit. Consistent with the scale, intensity and risk of the operation, best available information includes: ... 1. Sensitive sites, including steep slopes, shallow soils, moist soils, wetlands, and soils subject to compaction (e.g. structured clay) (mapped information)... 6.2.2 Impacts on stand level values are assessed prior to implementing management activities. Appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk of the operations, assessments identify impacts on stand and site qualities including: ... 1. Environmental values identified in Indicator 6.1.2. 6.3.1 Appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk of the forest management activities, management plans or associated documents (e.g. Ground Rules, Standard Operating Procedures, etc.) identify means to protect soils from physical damage and prevent negative impacts, based on best management practices. The best management practices related to protection of soils from physical damage address the following: 1. Prior identification of unstable soils and ground surfaces, and sites sensitive to compaction, rutting, and erosion...	There were a series of blocks that were harvested at the end of the season, the final block being 85-005-017. This block had been identified in the PHSP as having a moderate rating for compaction, while the other blocks had been rated as low. When the scarification of this block was completed there were some areas of compaction, particularly in the low lying areas, which were specifically noted on the PHSP. It was noted that the results of the PHSP could have been used to ensure that this block had a higher priority level for operations with frozen ground conditions.	Mistik has provided corrective action plans for this non-conformity.	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	A minor nonconformity shall be correct within the maximum period of one (1) year (under exceptional and justified circumstances the timeline may be extended to two (2) years).	
2024-C006014	2024-OFI-04	Obs	Open	NFSS	6.6.3	2024-14-06	Observation have no due date.	NA	6.6.3 Management activities maintain regionally uncommon stand- and site-scale ecological elements and important habitat features, including: ...10. Super-canopy trees...	Super-canopy trees represented by accident rather than by design. (FSC 6.6.3); not in VOITs FMP or SOPs but training is for one large tree per hectare.	NA	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	Opportunities for improvement have no timeline for conformance.	
2024-C006014	2024-OFI-05	Obs	Open	NFSS	3.2	2024-14-06	Observations have no due date.	NA	3.2 The Organization shall recognize and uphold the legal and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources and lands and territories. Delegation by Indigenous Peoples of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent. 3.2.2 Culturally appropriate support for Indigenous Peoples participation in management planning is provided. Annex F: Culturally Appropriate Engagement	Interviews with Northern Village of Beauval: elders don't understand the maps, there's too many layers. The community suggests hiring interpreters to translate information from planning documents and map products.	NA	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	Opportunities for improvement have no timeline for conformance.	
2024-C006014	2024-OFI-07	Obs	Open	NFSS	6.3.5 6.3.6	2024-14-06	Observations have no due date.	NA	6.3.5 Appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk (SIR) of the forest management activities, management plans or associated documents (e.g. Ground Rules, Standard Operating Procedures, etc.) identify means to avoid or minimize loss of productive forest area based on best management practices. The best management practices related to loss of productive forest area address the following: 1. Slash management (e.g. burning, piling, re-distribution)... 6.3.6 The means identified in Indicator 6.3.5 to avoid or minimize the loss of productive forest area and prevent negative impacts are effectively implemented.	Piling had been indicated as completed in cutblock 07-013-072; however, during the audit review it was noted that further piling is needed.	NA	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	Opportunities for improvement have no timeline for conformance.	

Nonconformities/Observations raised

14.01 Unique Finding number *	14.02 CB Non-conformity Ref *	14.06 Grading *	14.07 Open / Closed *	14.08 Standard *	14.09 Clause *	14.03 Issue date *	14.04 Due date *	14.05 Close date *	14.10 Requirement *	14.11 Description of audit finding *	14.15 Corrective action requested *	14.14 MU Applicability	14.12 Corrective action taken by the auditee *	14.13 CB's review of corrective actions
2024-C006014	2024-OFI-08	Obs	Open	NFSS	2.3.2 Annex C: 2	2024-14-06	Observations have no due date.	NA	2.3.2 A worker health & safety program for all workers that meets the requirements of Annex C is developed, implemented and reviewed periodically. Annex C: Worker's Health & Safety Program A worker's Health & Safety Program includes: 2. Identification of danger, and measures to control or to minimize the danger...	The Safety and Emergency Preparedness Manual includes a section that describes the typical workplace hazards that Mistik staff are exposed to. There is no mention of monitoring of the worksite for new tasks or hazards, and how hazards associated with these will be controlled. There was discussion during an interview that the Safety Committee is aware of this and has informally started a process of doing more regular hazard assessments such as a daily hazard assessment.	NA	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	Opportunities for improvement have no timeline for conformance.	
2024-C006014	2024-OFI-09	Obs	Open	NFSS	2.3.2 Annex C: 5	2024-14-06	Observations have no due date.	NA	2.3.2 A worker health & safety program for all workers that meets the requirements of Annex C is developed, implemented and reviewed periodically. Annex C: Worker's Health & Safety Program A worker's Health & Safety Program includes: 5. Regular monitoring of the condition and functionality of safety features on equipment.	The Safety and Emergency Preparedness Manual does not include a section describing the need for inspections of equipment owned by Mistik.	NA	Mistik Forest Mangement Agreement (FMA) / L&M FMA	Opportunities for improvement have no timeline for conformance.	

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
The Organization shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and nationally- ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements.		Principle 1
The Organization shall be a legally defined entity with clear, documented and unchallenged legal registration, with written authorization from the legally competent authority for specific activities.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall demonstrate that the legal status of the Management Unit, including tenure and use rights, and its boundaries, are clearly defined.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall have legal rights to operate in the Management Unit, which fit the legal status of The Organization and of the Management Unit, and shall comply with the associated legal obligations in applicable national and local laws and regulations and administrative requirements. The legal rights shall provide for harvest of products and/or supply of ecosystem services from within the Management Unit. The Organization shall pay the legally prescribed charges associated with such rights and obligations.	1	Not in focus 2024 for the office review, however 2024-NC-04 was identified during a field review.
The Organization shall develop and implement measures, and/or shall engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the Management Unit from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.	1	Mistik has Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place to prevent illegal activities and resource use. Mistik provides training on their SOPs to their field staff and contractors to limit/curtail illegalities. Additionally, field supervisors have copies of Forest Management Plan (FMP) to restrict field operations within their boundaries. In the case of private lands, Mistik undertakes land title search to unveil real owners before commencing land acquisition and subsequent harvesting actions. Other controls in place include GPS on field machines to guide navigations, blocking access roads/routes that could potentially facilitate unauthorized entry, and spot checks by the certification coordinator to identify infractions in the FMA. Mistik also erects anti-hunting posts at relevant positions in the FMA and junctions to discourage illegal hunting. Mistik staff also report illegal incidents using their internal form and/or report to the provincial government depending on the category and severity of the incident. Non-conformity 2024-NC-06 was identified in relation to this criteria.
The Organization shall comply with the applicable national laws, local laws, ratified international conventions and obligatory codes of practice, relating to the transportation and trade of forest products within and from the Management Unit, and/or up to the point of first sale.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall identify, prevent and resolve disputes over issues of statutory or customary law, which can be settled out of court in a timely manner, through engagement with affected stakeholders.	0	Mistik's SOPs indicate that they will respond to complaints in two weeks of receipt. Mistik has publicly available contact information (email, phone, mailing address, physical address) on their website for interested parties to lodge their complaints as required by this standard. Mistik also announces in newspapers for the public to provide any complaints they have regarding their operations.
The Organization shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, The Organization shall implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the scale and intensity of management activities and the risk of corruption.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria in the Management Unit, and to related FSC Policies and Standards. A statement of this commitment shall be contained in a publicly available document made freely available.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall maintain or enhance the social and economic wellbeing of workers.		Principle 2
The Organization shall uphold the principles and rights at work as defined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) based on the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall promote gender equality in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement and management activities.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall implement health and safety practices to protect workers from occupational safety and health hazards. These practices shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of management activities, meet or exceed the recommendations of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.	2	Mistik maintains a Safety Policies and Procedures Manual which is guidance for all Operational Health and Safety (OHS). Observations made during the audit support that staff and contractors are knowledgeable of, and follow, this guidance. Mistik completes annual EMS reviews, including updating several OHS documents such as health care, vacation time, and harassment policies. The OHS committee meets regularly. In November of 2023 the Government of Saskatchewan – Occupational Health and Safety, visited Mistik and submitted an Officer Report. No contraventions were noted during this inspection. 2024-NC-03 and 2024-NC-05 were identified in relation to this criteria.

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
The Organization shall pay wages that meet or exceed minimum forest industry standards or other recognized forest industry wage agreements or living wages, where these are higher than the legal minimum wages. When none of these exist, The Organization shall through engagement with workers develop mechanisms for determining living wages.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall demonstrate that workers have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the management plan and all management activities.	0	Not audited.
The Organization through engagement with workers shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation to workers for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases, or occupational injuries sustained while working for The Organization.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall identify and uphold Indigenous Peoples' legal and customary rights of ownership, use and management of land, territories and resources affected by management activities.		Principle 3
The Organization shall identify the Indigenous Peoples that exist within the Management Unit or those that are affected by management activities. The Organization shall then, through engagement with these Indigenous Peoples, identify their rights of tenure, their rights of access to and use of forest resources and ecosystem services, their customary rights and legal rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit. The Organization shall also identify areas where these rights are contested.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall recognize and uphold the legal and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources and lands and territories. Delegation by Indigenous Peoples of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent.	0	Interviews with Mistik and confidential interviews with community members found no evidence that the legal and/or customary rights Indigenous Peoples are being violated by Mistik. However, should this occur in the future, a formal dispute resolution process (which is in addition to that contained in CMB agreements) has been in place for several years. Operational controls are in place to protect culturally significant sites. FPIC is an ongoing process and Mistik has many elements in place.
In the event of delegation of control over management activities, a binding agreement between The Organization and the Indigenous Peoples shall be concluded through Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The agreement shall define its duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions. The agreement shall make provision for monitoring by Indigenous Peoples of The Organization's compliance with its terms and conditions.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall recognize and uphold the rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989).	0	Review of recent records of engagement Mistik and confidential interviews with members of Indigenous communities found that Mistik continues to devote considerable effort to engaging with local communities in order to explain its forest management plans, obtain community input regarding those plans and attempt to address any concerns raised. Co-management agreements appear to be working well. There is no evidence that rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 have been violated by The Organization.
The Organization, through engagement with Indigenous Peoples, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance and for which these Indigenous Peoples hold legal or customary rights. These sites shall be recognized by The Organization and their management, and/or protection shall be agreed through engagement with these Indigenous Peoples.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall uphold the right of Indigenous Peoples to protect and utilize their traditional knowledge and shall compensate local communities for the utilization of such knowledge and their intellectual property. A binding agreement as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between The Organization and the Indigenous Peoples for such utilization through Free, Prior and Informed Consent before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the protection of intellectual property rights.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall contribute to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of local communities.		Principle 4
The Organization shall identify the local communities that exist within the Management Unit and those that are affected by management activities. The Organization shall then, through engagement with these local communities, identify their rights of tenure, their rights of access to and use of forest resources and ecosystem services, their customary rights and legal rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit.	0	Not audited.

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
The Organization shall recognize and uphold the legal and customary rights of local communities to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories. Delegation by local communities of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall provide reasonable opportunities for employment, training and other services to local communities, contractors and suppliers proportionate to scale and intensity of its management activities.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall implement additional activities, through engagement with local communities, that contribute to their social and economic development, proportionate to the scale, intensity and socio-economic impact of its management activities.	0	Mistik is heavily engaged in local and social economic benefit activities in relation to the scale of its management activities that are presented and monitored in Mistik's Annual Report.
The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall take action to identify, avoid and mitigate significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts of its management activities on affected communities. The action taken shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of those activities and negative impacts.	0	Mistik is able to identify and avoid potential negative impact of their activities on local communities through the involvement of various stakeholder groups representing local communities' interest in the development of the Forest Management Plan (FMP) in line with their Public Engagement Plan. Mistik further solicits public and local communities' inputs via newspaper announcements during the preparation of AOP to prevent potential negative impacts during its implementation. Interviewed staff indicated that they try as much as possible to follow their SOPs to ensure their activities do not negatively affect local communities. Confidential stakeholder feedback confirmed that Mistik is open to discussions and modification of practices related to impacts on community values.
The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and providing fair compensation to local communities and individuals with regard to the impacts of management activities of The Organization.	0	Not audited.
The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these local communities hold legal or customary rights. These sites shall be recognized by The Organization, and their management and/or protection shall be agreed through engagement with these local communities.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall uphold the right of local communities to protect and utilize their traditional knowledge and shall compensate local communities for the utilization of such knowledge and their intellectual property. A binding agreement as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between The Organization and the local communities for such utilization through Free, Prior and Informed Consent before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the protection of intellectual property rights.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall efficiently manage the range of multiple products and services of the Management Unit to maintain or enhance long term economic viability and the range of environmental and social benefits.		Principle 5
The Organization shall identify, produce, or enable the production of, diversified benefits and/or products, based on the range of resources and ecosystem services existing in the Management Unit in order to strengthen and diversify the local economy proportionate to the scale and intensity of management activities.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall normally harvest products and services from the Management Unit at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.	0	The audit confirmed that harvesting is below the cut calculated in the Forest Management Plan. The forest inventory, growth, yield, cull assumptions in developing an allowable harvest calculation conform with all requirements of the FSC standard.
The Organization shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities of operation are included in the management plan.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of The Organization where these are available, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk. If these are not locally available, The Organization shall make reasonable attempts to help establish these services.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to scale, intensity and risk, its commitment to long-term economic viability.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall maintain, conserve and/or restore ecosystem services and environmental values of the Management Unit, and shall avoid, repair or mitigate negative environmental impacts.		Principle 6
The Organization shall assess environmental values in the Management Unit and those values outside the Management Unit potentially affected by management activities. This assessment shall be undertaken with a level of detail, scale and frequency that is proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, and is sufficient for the purpose of deciding the necessary conservation measures, and for detecting and monitoring possible negative impacts of those activities.	0	As demonstrated in the 2019 20-year Forest Management Plan, key environmental values are outlined with VOITS (values, objectives, indicators, and targets) for each. Additionally, mapping is done for specific environmental values. These are monitored in the Annual Report to determine if targets are met at a landscape and cutblock level.

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
Prior to the start of site-disturbing activities, The Organization shall identify and assess the scale, intensity and risk of potential impacts of management activities on the identified environmental values.	0	The list of values are indicated in the 2019 20-year Forest Management Plan include natural range of variation, natural ecosystem processes, minimize loss of quantity or quality of soil and water etc. Targets are set for each indicator of values, and the values are tracked in the annual report.
The Organization shall identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of management activities on the environmental values, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of these impacts.	1	No unstable soils in the Management Units. Identification of sensitive sites is done during the pre-harvest site prescription. Section on soil degradation protection assesses compaction, rutting, erosion (L-M-H). The assessment are as per government ecosite guide. Very little soil variability. Non-conformity 2024-NC-08 was identified in relation to this criteria.
The Organization shall protect rare species and threatened species and their habitats in the Management Unit through conservation zones, protection areas, connectivity and/or (where necessary) other direct measures for their survival and viability. These measures shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities and to the conservation status and ecological requirements of the rare and threatened species. The Organization shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of rare and threatened species beyond the boundary of the Management Unit, when determining the measures to be taken inside the Management Unit.	0	Mistik develops an annual list of expected Species at Risk that may be encountered on the licence area. The list is modified into a presentation which is communicated to staff and contractors each operating year so that they can be identified and reported when observed by trainees. Habitats of Species at Risk are also identified and communicated to staff and contractors. Mistik also collects species at risk data in the field which includes species sighted, locations, habitat features and measures of protection (nest buffers, den buffers etc.). A Forest Management Plan update in 2023 added a caribou range update which aligns with the Range Plan for Woodland Caribou in Saskatchewan, SK2 West Caribou Administration Unit. Mistik also amended their silviculture ground rules to allow for additional treatments options and refined several FMP indicators and targets. The range plan meets FSC requirements for 6.5.4(c).
The Organization shall identify and protect representative sample areas of native ecosystems and/or restore them to more natural conditions. Where representative sample areas do not exist or are insufficient, The Organization shall restore a proportion of the Management Unit to more natural conditions. The size of the areas and the measures taken for their protection or restoration, including within plantations, shall be proportionate to the conservation status and value of the ecosystems at the landscape level, and the scale, intensity and risk of management activities.	0	A shared gap analysis protected areas strategy has been completed on a landscape scale (with ALPAC). This analysis scope covered a large area of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Previous to the gap analysis there was a voluntary deferral by Mistik which was put in place in 2009, and was not supported by the province. The deferral area was 1/3 the size of the current deferral areas. The new conservation area increased the deferral area from 12% to 37.4% of the Forest Management Agreement area.
The Organization shall effectively maintain the continued existence of naturally occurring native species and genotypes, and prevent losses of biological diversity, especially through habitat management in the Management Unit. The Organization shall demonstrate that effective measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.	0	Green tree retention patches must be retained as inblock stand structure within all harvest blocks (total retention will be an average of 9% made up of at least 4% in insular retention). Mistik Forest Management Plan VOITS for residual stand structure follow principles of landscape and stand level biodiversity and sensitive site protection with significant input from Dr Andisson through the Healthy Landscape project through Foothills research Institute. SOPS, preharvest inspection procedures, and annual training materials and handout booklets helps further protect species and habitat that may not be mapped in the FMP and operation plan scales.
The Organization shall protect or restore natural watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity. The Organization shall avoid negative impacts on water quality and quantity and mitigate and remedy those that occur.	0	SOPs set out requirements for riparian mangement. These are based on SK Forest Management Planning Standard. Field reviews did not identify any concerns with riparian mangement.
The Organization shall manage the landscape in the Management Unit to maintain and/or restore a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales and regeneration cycles appropriate for the landscape values in that region, and for enhancing environmental and economic resilience.	0	Requirements outlined in the management plan. These are supported by current research by Government of Saskatchewan and Foothills Research Institute Healthy Landscapes Group. The group focuses on natural pattern based distribution of forest patches ages and species composition.
The Organization shall not convert natural forest to plantations, nor natural forests or plantations on sites directly converted from natural forest to non-forest land use, except when the conversion: a) Affects a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit, and b) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit, and c) Does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values.	0	Mistik does not practice plantation forestry or conversions. This was confirmed by field reviews.
Management Units containing plantations that were established on areas converted from natural forest after November 1994 shall not qualify for certification, except where: a) Clear and sufficient evidence is provided that The Organization was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or b) The conversion affected a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit.	0	6.10 and 6.11: Mistik does not practice plantation forestry or conversions. This was confirmed by field reviews.
The Organization shall have a management plan consistent with its policies and objectives and proportionate to scale, intensity and risks of its management activities. The management plan shall be implemented and kept up to date based on monitoring information in order to promote adaptive management. The associated planning and procedural documentation shall be sufficient to guide staff, inform affected stakeholders and interested stakeholders and to justify management decisions.		Principle 7
The Organization shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of its management activities, set policies (visions and values) and objectives for management, which are environmentally sound, socially beneficial and	0	Not audited.

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
The Organization shall have and implement a management plan for the Management Unit which is fully consistent with the policies and management objectives as established according to Criterion 7.1. The management plan shall describe the natural resources that exist in the Management Unit and explain how the plan will meet the FSC certification requirements. The management plan shall cover forest management planning and social management planning proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of the planned activities.	0	Not audited.
The management plan shall include verifiable targets by which progress towards each of the prescribed management objectives can be assessed.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall update and revise periodically the management planning and procedural documentation to incorporate the results of monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the management plan free of charge. Excluding confidential information, other relevant components of the management plan shall be made available to affected stakeholders on request, and at cost of reproduction and handling.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of management activities, proactively and transparently engage affected stakeholders in its management planning and monitoring processes, and shall engage interested stakeholders on request.	0	Mistik uses a Geograpic linformation System (GIS) to overlay affected stakeholder (trappers, outfitters, grazing, recreational, wildrice, cabin owners) locations and contact information to develop commitments (wildlife corridors, bait sites). Various methods are used for communication. Indigenous engagement involves sharing of information of maps to gain input. Mistik has awareness of indigenous peoples overlapping interests and values, they are proficient in observing protocols (such as tobacco pouches give away). Indigenous people may want independent or group engagements. Mistik engages as is preferred. Mistik understands rights holder is different than stakeholder.
The Organization shall demonstrate that, progress towards achieving the management objectives, the impacts of management activities and the condition of the Management Unit, are monitored and evaluated proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, in order to implement adaptive management.		Principle 8
The Organization shall monitor the implementation of its Management Plan, including its policies and management objectives, its progress with the activities planned, and the achievement of its verifiable targets.	0	Mistik implements its management objectives set out in the Forest Management Plan with a procedure for annual tracking of progress in the form of annual reports.
The Organization shall monitor and evaluate the environmental and social impacts of the activities carried out in the Management Unit, and changes in its environmental condition.	0	The adequacy and effectiveness of the environmental monitoring system of Mistik was found to be sufficient with respect to significant environmental impacts of their operations. Monitoring and Measurement SOP and the Saskatchewan Environmental Code implemented by Mistik encompass the applicable elements required by this standard. The Forest Management Plan has targets on environmental impacts that capture applicable FSC monitoring requirements.
The Organization shall analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.	0	Monitoring trends are outlined in the Annual Report. The auditor reviewed trends of inadequate residual patch sizes being corrected by pre planning with residual patch sizes identified on GPS tablets for harvest operators as distinct polygons versus previous use of point features. This seems to be correcting the issue. These corrective actions demonstrate the effectiveness of the monitoring program.
The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information.	0	FMP and Annual Report accessed June 14, 2024 at https://www.mistik.ca/forest-management/
The Organization shall have and implement a tracking and tracing system proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of its management activities, for demonstrating the source and volume in proportion to projected output for each year, of all products from the Management Unit that are marketed as FSC certified.	0	The sale of logs is a closed system between companies inter-related by ownership. Logs are sold to Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp and NorSask. Mistik operates the scales at both sites and Mistik controls the log inventoried into the mills.
The Organization shall maintain and/or enhance the High Conservation Values in the Management Unit through applying the precautionary approach.		Principle 9
The Organization, through engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and other means and sources, shall assess and record the presence and status of the following High Conservation Values in the Management Unit, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of impacts of management activities, and likelihood of the occurrence of the High Conservation Values.	0	High Conservation Values (HCV) are identified in the 2020 HCV Report and re-iterated in the Forest Management Plan. Sensitive sites are identified in HCV but the report indicates sensitive sites are not identified on maps. The HCV report has been peer reviewed. The last HCV report update was 2020, and is due in 2025.
The Organization shall develop effective strategies that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values, through engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and experts.	0	Species at risk are reviewed on an annual basis. Management strategies for species at risk have been developed with the involvement of stakeholders and rightsholders.
The Organization shall implement strategies and actions that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values. These strategies and actions shall implement the precautionary approach and be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities.	0	HCVs are managed through the implementation of the Forest Mangement Plan and SOPs which are developed from the HCV report information.

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
The Organization shall demonstrate that periodic monitoring is carried out to assess changes in the status of High Conservation Values, and shall adapt its management strategies to ensure their effective protection. The monitoring shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, and shall include engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and experts.	0	The HCVs are integral to the management planning process involving interested parties to develop strategies for implementation to protect HCVs. The effectiveness of the management program is assessed through a monitoring program (principle 8) on an annual basis.
Management activities conducted by or for The Organization for the Management Unit shall be selected and implemented consistent with The Organization’s economic, environmental and social policies and objectives and in compliance with the Principles and Criteria collectively.		Principle 10
After harvest or in accordance with the management plan, The Organization shall, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall use species for regeneration that are ecologically well adapted to the site and to the management objectives. The Organization shall use native species and local genotypes for regeneration, unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall only use alien species when knowledge and/or experience have shown that any invasive impacts can be controlled and effective mitigation measures are in place.	0	No alien species are planted. Only species ordered for planting in 2024 was white spruce. Reviewed contract for the purchase of seedlings with Clearwater Nurseries, Coast to Coast, and PRT and confirmed only white spruce were purchased from them. Field observations confirmed only white spruce planted.
The Organization shall not use genetically modified organisms in the Management Unit.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall use silvicultural practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall minimize or avoid the use of fertilizers. When fertilizers are used, The Organization shall demonstrate that use is equally or more ecologically and economically beneficial than use of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values, including soils.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall use integrated pest management and silviculture systems which avoid, or aim at eliminating, the use of chemical pesticides. The Organization shall not use any chemical pesticides prohibited by FSC policy. When pesticides are used, The Organization shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values and human health.	0	Not audited
The Organization shall minimize, monitor and strictly control the use of biological control agents in accordance with internationally accepted scientific protocols. When biological control agents are used, The Organization shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall assess risks and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from natural hazards proportionate to scale, intensity, and risk.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall manage infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture so that water resources and soils are protected, and disturbance of and damage to rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values are prevented, mitigated and/or repaired.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall manage activities associated with harvesting and extraction of timber and non-timber forest products so that environmental values are conserved, merchantable waste is reduced, and damage to other products and services is avoided.	0	Not audited.
The Organization shall dispose of waste materials in an environmentally appropriate manner.	2	Not in focus 2024 for the office review, however 2024-NC-02 and 2024-NC-07 were identified during a field review.

Annexes

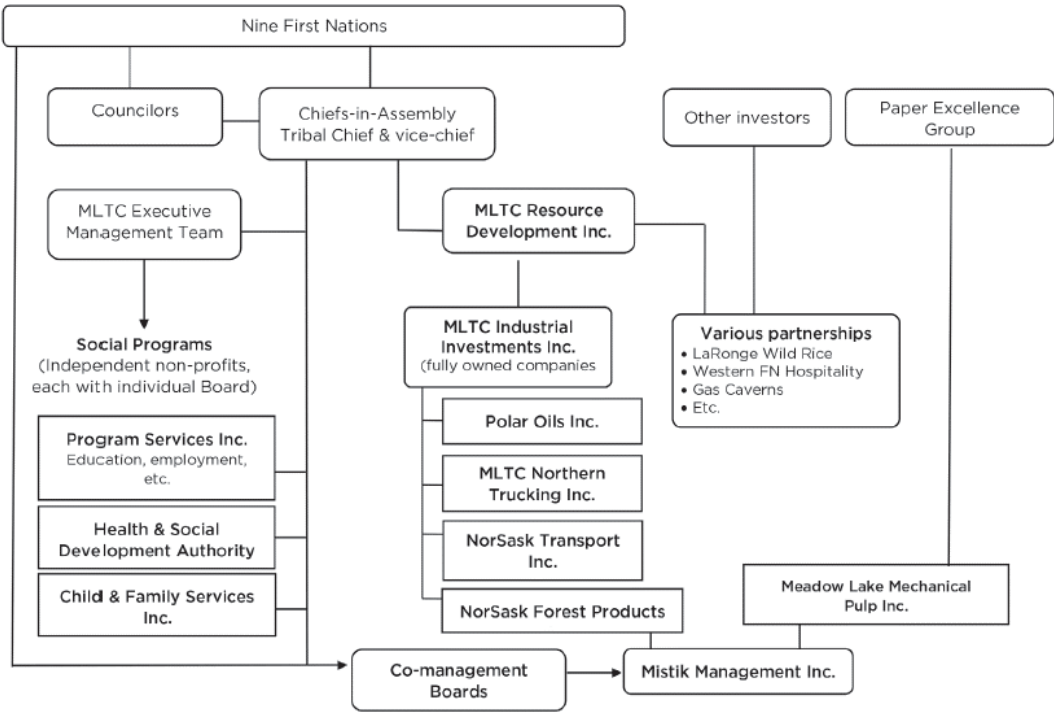
Tab 11: Plan, 11.28 A general description of the forest, land use history and regional context:

Table 6.1 Timeline of MLTC Forest Sector Development

YEAR	EVENTS
1971	Parsons and Whittemore build the first sawmill in Meadow Lake.
1981	The Province of Saskatchewan acquired all mill assets from Parsons and Whittemore.
1988	NorSask Forest Product Ltd. established and the first FMLA signed (3.3 million ha).
1990	Millar Western Pulp mill built and Mistik Management Ltd. created.
1992	Canoe Lake Crisis erupted.
1993	Co-management boards established.
1994	MLTC transferred its business holdings to MLTC RDI.
1997	NorSask twenty-Year Forest Management Plan (1997-2017).
1998	MLTC acquired 100% ownership of NorSask Forest Product Ltd.
2002	Forest legislation changes, FMLA changed to a Forest Management Agreement for 1.8 million ha.
2004-12	Canada-wide forest sector crisis.
2004-07	Forest certifications—ISO 2004, CSA 2005, FSC 2007.
2007	Mistik’s twenty-year Forest Management Plan (2007-2027).
2007	Paper Excellence buys pulp mill, now named Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp (MLMP).
2013	MLTC RDI launched MLTC II.
2017	Major fire at NorSask Sawmill, subsequent rebuilding. Renewal of U.S. duties on timber.

Tab 11: Management Structure, 11.11 MLTC Governance Structure:

2



3

Tab 18: Principles and Criteria C6.11: Mistik does not practice plantation forestry or conversions. This was confirmed by field reviews.

4

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) acronyms used in this report:
CB: Certification body.
MU: Management unit.
NCR: Non-conformance request.
NFSS: National Forest Stewardship Standard.
SLIMF: Small or low intensity managed forest.