

The Suitability of FSC Certification and Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Maori-owned Commercial Plantation Forests

Internationally, there have been many approaches emerge for progressing towards the sustainable management of forests. The main two approaches that have been adopted in New Zealand include: The Forest Stewardship Council Certification Standard (FSC) and the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators (MP). Currently, about 70 per cent of New Zealand's commercial forests are FSC certified and the industry also voluntarily contributes to the Montreal Process. Māori have a strong and growing interest in the forestry industry and currently own some 40 per cent of New Zealand's land in commercial forests, which makes them one of the country's most important stakeholders. The FSC and MP have been developed over many years of discussion and negotiation between industry, governments, and non-governmental organizations with interests in the ongoing sustainable management of global forests. However, to date, the extent to which Maori share the sustainability objectives of these frameworks, or whether Maori have different objectives, has not been determined. Is it not unreasonable to assume that similarities exist, and that the frameworks are congruent with Maori objectives, or, if there are differences, could it be an opportunity to modify, or adapt, the frameworks to better align with the objectives of Maori forest owners.

- Maori own 40 per cent of New Zealand land in commercial forests which makes them one of the most important stakeholders in the forestry industry
- 70 per cent of New Zealand's commercial forests are FSC certified
- Maori largely share the FSC and MP's sustainability objectives, albeit the underlying motivation for sustainable forest management might differ

Do Maori share the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Montreal Process (MP) objectives?

Based upon case studies that included New Zealand's largest Maori forest land trusts, it was determined that the Trustees of these organizations 'by in large' shared the same underlying sustainability objectives of the FSC and MP. The research involved the development of a survey instrument that permitted Trustees to rank, what they believed to be the importance of the combined objectives of the FSC and MP to be. The instrument was developed through identifying 32 sustainable forest management objectives (see Appendix) across both the FSC and MP frameworks. The results of the survey were then presented back to the Trustees for feedback and discussion to determine whether the results accurately reflected the Trust's perspective. This was followed up with qualitative interviews with each of the Trustees who completed the survey to explore the alignment with objectives in more detail, and to further identify objectives that Maori considered important but were not included in either the FSC or MP. The results from the study are outlined in the spider-graph below,

which demonstrates that all 32 objectives were considered “important” with majority considered “somewhat important” or more.

Policy Recommendations

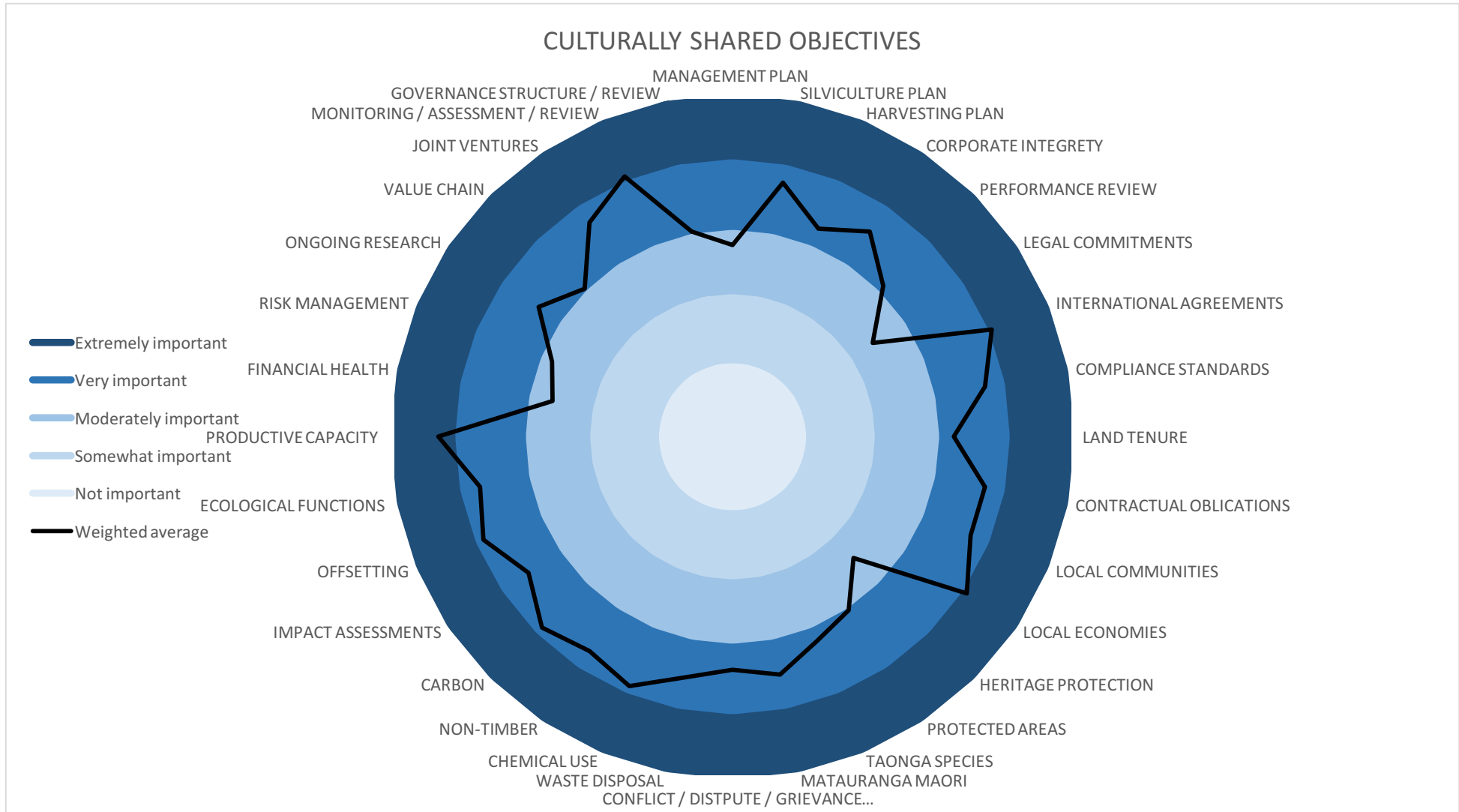
Currently New Zealand is going through a process of developing its own SFM policies in lieu of the one billion trees programme. The proposed objectives are likely to follow, or at least draw upon, the existing international FSC and MP frameworks - albeit adjusted to local context. It is suggested that the international objectives generally resonate with the Maori forest owners in this study. However, the development of New Zealand policies should be cognizant that the underlying motivations for the sustainable management of forests are different for Maori compared to that of the international frameworks, while the important role of sustainability in Maori identity and self-determination should also be considered and catered for.

Contact

Courtney Sealey (Ngai Tahu, MForSc, Ph.D. candidate)
Ngai Tahu Research Centre, University of Canterbury

Further Information

Further information can be found on the
New Zealand Sustainability Dashboard Website:
<http://www.nzdashboard.org.nz/>



Appendix

Objective	Explanation	Example	Question
Management Plans	In New Zealand, plantation forest organisations and owners develop management plans to define the organisation and set objectives.	Management plans define company goals and outline the process to achieve them.	How important is it for trustees to know whether management plan objectives are being met?
Silvicultural Plans	In New Zealand, plantation forest organisations and owners follow silvicultural plans based on best practice codes and guidelines.	Silvicultural plans factor in site, aspect, terrain, rainfall and soils to ensure successful plantation forest establishment, composition and growth.	How important is it for trustees to know whether silvicultural plan objectives are being met?
Harvesting Plans	In New Zealand, plantation forest organisations and owners use harvesting plans based on best practice codes and guidelines.	Harvest plans ensure that land and forest resources will not be compromised during operations.	How important is it for trustees to know whether harvesting plan objectives are being met?
Corporate Integrity	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations outline strategic objectives and corporate responsibilities of the organisation and its activities to strengthen stakeholder and public trust.	Outlining strategic goals sets priorities and establishes accountability around intended outcomes for shareholders.	How important is it for trustees to know whether strategic objectives and corporate responsibilities are being met?
Performance Review	In New Zealand, plantation forest organizations and owners review and revise strategic, management, silvicultural and harvesting plans regularly to make sure objectives are being met.	Reviewing plans allows an organizations activities and operations to cope with change.	How important is it for trustees to know about strategic and operational review outcomes?
Legal Obligations	There are national laws and regulations that relate to the management practices of Māori and plantation forest lands in New Zealand.	The Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE) requires forest owners, contractors and forest workers to take all practical steps to avoid, isolate or minimise hazards in forestry operations.	How important is it for trustees to know about legal obligations and if they're met?
International Obligations	There are nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements that relate to the management practices associated with Māori or plantation forest lands in New Zealand.	The Montreal Process is an international framework which promotes criteria and indicators to measure and report progress towards sustainable forest management.	How important is it for trustees to know about international obligations they observe?
Compliance Standards	There are international and national standards and guidelines that relate to the management practices of Māori and plantation forest lands in New Zealand.	the Forest Stewardship Council sets sustainable forest management standards and certifies practitioners that meet the requirements.	How important is it for trustees to know about whether international and national standards and guidelines are being met?
Land Tenure	There are tenure agreements that relate to the ownership of Māori and plantation forest lands in New Zealand.	Tenure can take many forms some simple, such as outright ownership of the land and everything on it, to more complex, like ownership of trees with implicit access rights.	How important is it for trustees to know about tenure obligations and if they're met?
Contractual Compliance	There are contractual and administrative obligations associated with the ownership and management of Māori and	Crown contain detailed provisions relating to the rental agreement for the land occupied.	How important is it for trustees to know about contractual obligations and if they're met?

	plantation forest land in New Zealand.		
Local Communities	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations work with mana whenua.	Collaboration with and contracting of local runanga to advocate kaitiakitanga.	How important is it for trustees to know about overall involvement with local iwi authorities / runanga?
Local Economies	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations contribute to strengthening and expanding local economies.	Establishing forest operations in an area can generate new sources of income for local communities.	How important is it for trustees to know about overall contribution to local economies?
Heritage Protection	There are efforts to protect wāhi tapu sites found on Māori and plantation forest lands in New Zealand.	Identification of wāhi tapu can influence the activities that can be undertaken on the site without threatening their preservation.	How important is it for trustees to know about efforts towards protecting the mauri of wāhi tapu sites?
Protected Areas	There are efforts to protect areas with natural or conservation values on Māori and plantation forest lands in New Zealand.	Some areas in production forests are protected because of their habitat values.	How important is it for trustees know about efforts towards protecting the mauri of designated conservation and natural areas?
Taonga and Threatened Species	There are efforts to protect taonga and threatened species found on Māori and plantation forest land in New Zealand.	Identification of taonga species can influence the activities that can be undertaken on the site without threatening their conservation or management.	How important is it for trustees to know about efforts towards protecting the mauri of taonga species?
Mātauranga Māori	There are procedures that use mātauranga Māori associated with Māori and plantation forest land in New Zealand.	Māori can have extensive first-hand experience and observations of species found in their rohe which can influence management plans.	How important is it for trustees to know about the application of mātauranga Māori in management plans?
Dispute Resolution	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations use resolution processes for land ownership and management conflict and disputes.	Grievances can be settled through consultation, negotiation or mediation procedures.	How important is it for trustees to know about conflict or resolution processes?
Waste Disposal	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations dispose waste materials in an appropriate and responsible manner.	Agrichemical containers must be collected and taken off site to an authorised disposal or recycling facility.	How important is it for trustees to know about the waste disposal methods used in plantation forest areas?
Chemical Use	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations aim to reduce chemical use and adopt non-chemical and biological alternatives.	Biocontrol uses the natural enemies of weeds to tame them to the point where no other control is needed.	How important is it for trustees to know about chemical usage and use of alternative methods in plantation forest area?
Non-Timber Resources	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations support the utilization and production of non-timber forest products.	Using excess biomass from harvesting sites for biofuel production.	How important is it for trustees to know about non-timber forest product opportunities?
Carbon Sequestration	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations contribute to the sequestration of carbon.	Forest owners who establish new permanent 'non-harvest' forest sinks will receive carbon credits from the government.	How important is it for trustees to know about carbon sequestration initiatives?
Residual Effects	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations monitor and assess adverse residual effects of operations on and off site.	Harvesting can cause sedimentation that manifests off-site in streams and estuaries.	How important is it for trustees to know about activities that cause adverse residual effects?
Environmental Offsetting	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and	Water and sediment controls are enforced on sites that are	How important is it for trustees to know about activities that

	organisations offset adverse residual effects of operations on and off site.	more susceptible to erosion.	have remedial and/or restorative effects?
Ecological Functions	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations protect ecological functions of forests on and off site.	Plantations offer habitat to flora and fauna which can be used for mahinga kai or medicine	. How important is it for trustees to know about activities that protect the mauri of forest functions?
Productive Capacities	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations aim to maintain the productive capacities of their forests.	Monitoring soil properties to ensure soil structure and organic content is maintained.	How important is it for trustees to know about efforts towards maintaining the productive potential of its resources?
Financial Health	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners aim to maintain the income generating capacities of their forests.	Comprehensive financial planning and wise investment decisions help to ensure financial success.	How important is it for trustees to know about efforts towards maintaining the income generating potential of resources?
Risk Management	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations assess and manage risk to enhance operational success.	Fire can have a devastating effect on people as well as place so site preparation and training reduces risk and loss.	How important is it for trustees to know about risk assessment and risk management processes and outcomes?
Ongoing Research	In New Zealand, plantation forest organisations and owners invest in innovation and research initiatives to strengthen their own capabilities as well as the support the industry.	Research initiatives explore new technologies and their application in the sector.	How important is it for trustees to know about research opportunities and investments?
Value Chain	In New Zealand, plantation forest organisations and owners map value chain activities to promote market confidence in operations and products.	Value-chain identification gives consumers confidence in a product and increases its value on the market.	How important is it for trustees to have access to value chain information?
Joint Ventures	In New Zealand, plantation forest owners and organisations form corporate partnerships with other organisations to increase strategic opportunities.	Joint ventures allow opportunities for landowners to access the capital to establish and manage forests.	How important is it for trustees to know about potential partnership opportunities?
Ongoing Monitoring	In New Zealand, plantation forest organisations and owners assess and monitor production and operational inputs and outcomes on a regular basis to evaluate performance and progress.	Consistent review of operations allows for changes to be made if and when required.	How important is it for trustees to know about operational outcomes and effects?
Governance Structure	In New Zealand, elected governing bodies that act on behalf of owners often look for ways to improve their performance.	Some boards undertake self-reviews to determine whether they are operating according to best practice principles.	How important is it for trustees to know about their forest business' performance, processes and outcomes?