



FSC® Forest Management Certification Reassessment of Southland Plantation Forest Company of NZ in Southland, New Zealand 30 October 2023

Introduction – Preferred by Nature is conducting an FSC Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification reassessment of the Southland Plantation Forest Company located in Southland, New Zealand. The reassessment will be implemented from 4 December to 8 December 2023.

Scope of the Certification Reassessment – The Forest Management certification reassessment will evaluate the environmental, silvicultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by Southland Plantation Forest Company, against the requirements of the FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for New Zealand, FSC-STD-NZL-02-2023 Plantations EN; and Requirements for use of the FSC® Trademarks by Certificate Holders (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-1). To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact Preferred by Nature by telephone, email or website; see contact details below. Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®) and this reassessment process must follow approved procedures. The FSC FM Standard may be obtained from the FSC Document Centre here: <https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/1407>.

The forests under evaluation contain areas either identified as High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) or where high conservation values, as defined by FSC, may be found. Preferred by Nature evaluates the identification, management and protection of these High Conservation Values and invites relevant feedback from stakeholders.

Reassessment Team Composition – The reassessment team will be led by Malory Weston.

Reassessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the recertification process and a proposed agenda:

- ◆ **Re-assessment organisation** – Preferred by Nature team will assemble in Invercargill, New Zealand on Monday 4 December 2023.
- ◆ **Field assessments** – The team will visit sites managed by Southland Plantation Forest Company from Tuesday 5 December to Thursday 7 December 2023.
- ◆ **Stakeholder consultation** – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Southland Plantation Forest Company's forest management in locations surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and field visits as appropriate.
- ◆ **Final assessment briefing** – Prior to departure, the team will meet with the managers and other parties to finalise their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ **Draft report production** – The reassessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be provided for comment to Southland Plantation Forest Company; with a planned timeframe of two (2) months from the Closing Meeting.
- ◆ **Certification decision** – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Southland Plantation Forest Company's forest managers – as well as input of other general stakeholder comments – Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur before mid-March 2024.



Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification reassessment process, we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Southland Plantation Forest Company's forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above; as well as comments on the company's management and protection – as applicable – of High Conservation Values within the forests under evaluation. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the reassessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the reassessment, or during the reassessment, so that we can take your feedback into consideration in reaching a recertification decision. Your options for communicating your feedback to us are as follows:

1. Meet with a Preferred by Nature reassessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork. See contact details below.
2. Call and give comments to Mr. Pratama Bagus Kurniaji, Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this certification reassessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail (details below) or email to pkurniaji@preferredbynature.org. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing Southland Plantation Forest Company.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential, available only to FSC and Preferred by Nature staff.

Stakeholders who wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Preferred by Nature's Dispute Resolution Policy at <https://preferredbynature.org/>.

Contacting Preferred by Nature

- ◆ **Email:** pkurniaji@preferredbynature.org or cuho@preferredbynature.org; or Audit Team Leader mweston@preferredbynature.org.
- ◆ **Website:** <https://preferredbynature.org/contact-us>.
- ◆ **Mail address and landline details (Bogor Office):**
Preferred by Nature
Jl. Sempur Kaler No. 3, RT.04/RW.01, Sempur,
Kec. Bogor Tengah, Bogor,
West Java 16129 Indonesia
Telephone: +62 852 9057 0964