



FSC® Forest Management Certification Evaluation of PF Olsen Limited in Aotearoa New Zealand

March 2024

Introduction – Preferred by Nature is conducting an annual FSC™ Forest Management and Chain of Custody audit of PF Olsen Limited, located in Aotearoa New Zealand. The evaluation will be conducted from 12 March to 21 March 2024.

Scope of the Certification Evaluation – The forest management certification evaluation will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the plantations managed by PF Olsen Limited, within the company's FSC Group scheme, 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 annual evaluation 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 focus of the 2024 annual audit will include the following forest management principles (i.e. from FSC-STD-NZL-02-2023 Plantations EN):

- Principle 1: Compliance with Laws
- Principle 5: Benefits from the Forest, and
- Principle 6: Environmental Values and Impacts.

A number of mandatory criteria will also be evaluated, including several relating to specific aspects of plantation management.

Audit Team Composition – The audit team will be led by Malory Weston.

Evaluation Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a proposed agenda:

- **Audit organisation** – Preferred by Nature team will assemble in Gisborne on Tuesday 12 March 2024.
- **Field visits** – The team will visit sites managed by PF Olsen Limited between 12–14 March 2024 (Gisborne area, including Te Rata, Ponga Silva and Tutamoe forests); 15 March 2024 (Nelson/Marlborough area, including Tempello forest); and 18–21 March 2024 (Central North Island/ Rotorua; including Summerhill (BOP) and other Central North Island forests). (For more details of PF Olsen Limited-managed forests, see <https://nz.pfolsen.com/InfoResources/About+FSC/management+plans.html>.)
- **Stakeholder consultation** – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding PF Olsen Limited's forest management in locations surrounding the forest area. This may include private interviews and discussions, and field visits as appropriate.
- **Final evaluation briefing** – Prior to departure the audit team will meet with PF Olsen Limited managers and other parties to finalise their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- **Draft report production** – The audit team will produce a confidential draft report that will be provided for comment to PF Olsen Limited with a planned timeframe of two (2) months from the Closing Meeting.
- **Certification decision** – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from PF Olsen Limited'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-June 2024.

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Management of plantation resources by PF Olsen Limited – After the devastating storm events of recent years, PF Olsen has made changes to its management approach, including through the following:

- funding and implementation of woody debris clean-up works in the Uawa catchment/ Gisborne region
- contribution to the Eastland Wood Council Good Practice Guideline for Catchment Management
- collaboration with other forest managers, communities and neighbours to clean up woody debris and repair fences in the Uawa and Hikuwai catchments
- ensuring engagement with Gisborne District Council (GDC) as to compliance with resource consent and other statutory requirements; with this including a focus on landing management (control of water, slash placement and stability, and landing rehabilitation)
- development and implementation of post-storm remedial works programs
- delivery of company-wide training focussing on earthworks management; and a Gisborne workshop on erosion and sediment control, landing rehabilitation, and decision-making relating to reforestation.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification evaluation process, we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on PF Olsen Limited’s forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. 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 audit process; but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the evaluation or during the evaluation, so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your feedback to us are as follows:

1. Meet with a Preferred by Nature evaluation 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 evaluation.
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 PF Olsen Limited.

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):
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