






Centralized National Risk Assessment for Ireland

FSC-CNRA-IE V1-0 EN

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Risk assessments that have been finalized for Ireland

Controlled Wood categories		Risk assessment completed?
1	Illegally harvested wood	YES
2	Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights	YES
3	Wood from forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities	YES
4	Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use	YES
5	Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted	YES

Risk designations in finalized risk assessments for Ireland

Indicator	Risk designation (including functional scale when relevant)
Controlled wood category 1: Illegally harvested wood	
1.1	Low Risk
1.2	N/A
1.3	Low Risk
1.4	Low Risk
1.5	N/A
1.6	Low Risk
1.7	Low Risk
1.8	Low Risk
1.9	Low Risk
1.10	Low Risk
1.11	Low Risk
1.12	Low Risk
1.13	Low Risk
1.14	N/A
1.15	N/A
1.16	N/A
1.17	Low Risk
1.18	Low Risk
1.19	Low Risk
1.20	N/A
1.21	Low Risk
Controlled wood category 2: Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights	
2.1	Low Risk
2.2	Low Risk
2.3	Low Risk
Controlled wood category 3: Wood from forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities	
3.0	Low risk
3.1	Low risk
3.2	Low risk
3.3	Low risk
3.4	Low risk
3.5	Low risk
3.6	Low risk
Controlled wood category 4: Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use	
4.1	Low risk
Controlled wood category 5: Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted	
5.1	Low risk

Risk assessments

Controlled wood category 1: Illegally harvested wood

Overview

At the start of the 20th century, forest cover in Ireland was very low and estimated at just over 1% (125,200 hectares) in 1908. It fell even lower during the period 1914 -1918. Much of the forests were planted by estate landlords during the late 1700s and early 1800s. A state led programme of planting raised the level of forestry to circa 7% by the 1980s. Since 1981, EU and state grant aided schemes have helped increase the forested area to 731, 650 hectares or 10.5% of land area by the year 2012 (per the National Forest Inventory 2012). In 1987, an estimated 20,000 hectares of State lands and forests, which had hitherto been managed primarily for amenity and wildlife conservation purposes, were transferred to the Office of Public Works now called the National Parks and Wildlife Service. In January 1989, under the Forestry Act 1988, the Government established a new State body, Coillte Teoranta, to manage the State's commercial forests. Ownership of the remaining forests and lands (estimated 375,000 ha) was transferred to the new company.

Forestry ownership is in three main categories; 390,000 ha in Public ownership (53%), 249,000 ha in Private (grant aided) (34%) and 94,000 ha in private (other) (13%) ownership. Approximately 58,000 ha are in protected forest areas.

Approximately 75% of the national forest estate is predominantly conifer, comprised mainly of commercial timber species (Spruce 56%, Pine 11%) but also including some native species such as Yew and Scots Pine. The remaining 25% of the forest estate is predominantly broadleaf and mixed forest, of which approximately half is comprised of native broadleaf species such as Oak, Ash, Birch, Hazel, Alder etc.,

The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine is the main authority for forestry matters which are legislated for under the Forestry Acts of 1946 -1988. Under the Forestry Act 1946, no tree over ten years old may be uprooted or cut down unless notice had been given in writing and a Felling license granted by the Minister (delegated to the Forest Service). Landowners are required under the 1946 Act to give notice of intention to fell trees, following which prohibition orders are normally served. These remain in force pending the issue of one of either two Felling license types; a Limited Felling License, which can include environmental and replanting conditions; or a General Felling Licenses which are normally granted to large estates where a management programme is in place, or in respect of lands to facilitate new planting, or for silvicultural thinnings. A GFL normally carries a re-planting requirement.

Copies of Felling License applications are circulated to various Government agencies such as the Forest Parks & Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service, Department of Environment, Inland Fisheries Ireland and Local Authorities. These bodies comment and recommend appropriate conditions to attach to a Felling License in relation to Legislation in their respective areas in so far as they impact on harvesting operations such as: The Wildlife Acts 1976 – 2000; Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992; Water Pollution Acts 1977- 1990; Fisheries Acts 1959-1999, Inland Fisheries Act 2010; Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989; Occupiers' Liability Act 1995; Roads Act 1993; Roads Transport Acts 1932 – 1999; European Union (Vehicle Testing)

regulations 1991; Road Traffic (Construction, Equipment and Use of Vehicles) regulations 1963 – 2000; Waste Management Act 1996; Litter pollution Act 1997; Planning And Development) Acts 2000-2011.

Following the granting of a Felling License, the Forestry Inspectorate Section of the Forest Service is responsible for monitoring that timber harvesting is in compliance with the conditions of the Felling License. Application forms (Felling Licenses) and samples of completed Application forms are available at <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling/>

In April 2013, the Forestry Bill 2013 was presented to the Dail (main house of Parliament). The purpose of the Bill is to reform and update the legislative framework relating to forestry in order to support the development of a modern forestry sector which reflects good forest practice and protection of the environment. The Bill was passed by the Dail in mid-September 2014 and is currently before the Senate and is expected to be enacted into law in the near future.

**** Update

As indicated above, a new Forestry Act was in the process of going through parliament during the risk assessment process. The Forestry Act 2014 (No. 31 of 2014) was passed in December (<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2014/en/act/pub/0031/index.html>), but has still not commenced. Thus, the assessment has been carried out on the current legal requirements.

The previous act of 1946, under which Felling Licenses were issued, has been repealed in full. There are now only 3 Acts relevant to Forestry in Ireland, they are: 1988, 2009 and 2014, the latter being the most relevant one.

Sources of legal timber in Ireland

Forest classification type	Permit/license type	Main license requirements (forest management plan, harvest plan or similar?)	Clarification
State owned	General & limited FLs	Management and harvest plans	Large plantations dominate on a wide variety of sites, Coillte.
State owned	General & limited FLs	Management and harvest plans	Woodlands mainly of broadleaves and areas of high conservation value, managed by NPWS
Private Estates	General & limited FLs	Management and harvest plans	Mixed woodlands with some level of management over long periods
Farm Forestry	General & limited FLs	Management and harvest plans	New plantations with an average size of 9 ha. Nearly all have been established to best practice and the new guidelines required by the Forest Service for grant aid.
Corporation	General & limited FLs	Management and harvest plans	A mix of both old and new plantations with a strong management emphasis on quality timber production.
Urban	General & limited FLs	Management and harvest plans	Amenity Woodlands and trees in urban areas managed by city and county authorities

Risk assessment

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
Legal rights to harvest			
<p>1.1 Land tenure and management rights</p>	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>A. Registration of Title Acts 1964 & 1997; Landlord and Tenant Act 1978 - 1987; Land and Conveyancing Law reform Act 2009, section 35; for registration of easements (rights of way, fishing and hunting rights) Civil Law (miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011. Land Registration Rules 2012-2013;</p> <p>There are two separate systems for recording transactions to property in Ireland:</p> <p>(a) The registration of title system (Land Registry) which provides a state guaranteed title to property; and</p> <p>(b) the registration of deeds system (Registry of Deeds) which records the priority of the registered deeds and conveyances. A title is the ownership of a property and a deed is a document in writing which affects property. Both systems are operated under the Property Registration Authority (PRAI).</p> <p>B. Companies Act 1963 - 2013, (Part 2 of 1963 for incorporation of companies section 8 and registration of business names Section 22).</p>	<p>www.prai.ie</p> <p>http://www.prai.ie/land-registry-services/</p> <p>http://www.prai.ie/faqs/how-do-i-obtain-a-copy-of-a-folio-and-or-map-3/</p> <p>www.prai.ie/faqs-2/</p> <p>http://www.fionafoley.ie/land-registration-and-compulsory-registration-of-title/</p> <p>www.cro.ie/Registration/Company/</p> <p>www.cro.ie/Registration/Business-Name</p> <p>http://www.revenue.ie/en/business/running/registering-tax.html#section4</p> <p>http://www.cro.ie/ena/annual-return-filing.aspx ;</p> <p>http://www.cro.ie/ena/cro-certificates.aspx</p> <p>http://www.revenue.ie/en/business/running/tax-clearance.html</p> <p>http://www.transparency.org/country#IRL</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Information regarding Land ownership, business and tax is readily and are easily available in Ireland. Ireland has a very well developed, extensive and modernized system of land registration compared to international standards. The compulsory registration of all titles in the Land Registry commenced, on a phased, basis in the 1960s and was extended to all counties on 1st June 2011. Over 93% of the land in Ireland is registered with the Property Registration Authority representing 90% of Titles. Folios and maps constitute public records and are publicly available and copies can be obtained at a small fee. State owned enterprises manage 53% of forest lands while 34% is privately owned and grant aided by the State /EU. The balance (13%) is also privately owned. Business and trade names must be registered with the Company Registrations Office and annual returns submitted which are available publicly. Tax Clearance certificates, VAT registration numbers are publicly available and must be produced by companies on request.</p> <p>The Corruption Perceptions Index for Ireland is 72.</p> <p>There are no significant issues that would constitute for specified risk.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>C. Finance Bills; Stamp Duties Consolidation Act 1999.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>A. Property Registration Authority (PRAI);</p> <p>B. Companies Registration Office.</p> <p>C. Revenue Commissioners (Department of Finance).</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Title Document</p> <p>Deed Document</p> <p>Folio (Title) Number</p> <p>Registry map.</p> <p>Samples of folios and maps at http://www.prai.ie/land-registry-services/</p> <p>CRO Certificate For incorporated companies and business names http://www.cro.ie/ena/cro-certificates.aspx</p>		

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	Annual returns (CRO) Tax Clearance Certificate		
1.2 Concession licenses	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>N/A. Concession Licenses are not used in Ireland</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p>	N/A	N/A
1.3 Management and harvesting planning	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>There are no specific legal requirements for management planning under the existing legislation apart for the State company Coillte (1988 Act).</p> <p>The Forestry Act 1946, is used under Section 11 (Authority for inspection of lands), (Part 4- conditions attaching to Felling Licenses) (Personal source 2).</p>	<p>Forestry Act 1946 http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1946/en/act/pub/0013/index.html</p> <p>Forestry Act 1988 - http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1988/en/act/pub/0026/index.html</p> <p>Code of Best Forestry Practice - http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publications/code-of-best-forestry-practice/</p> <p>http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/bills28/bills/2013/4313/b4313d.pdf</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Under section 11 of the 1946 Forestry Act, the Minister is given the power to survey any land for the purposes of the Act. The first National forest inventory was carried out in 2006-2008 and the most recent in 2012. The State owned forest company (Coillte Teo) is required to submit annual plans for the sale of lands and harvesting and sale of timber for approval by the Minister under Section 14, Forestry Act 1988. This is in addition to the requirements</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Forestry Act 1988 Section 14; (Requirement for State owned forest company to submit annual plans).</p> <p>Code of Best Forest Practice - Although not legally binding, adherence by all is expected and compulsory for those seeking Forestry grants.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Forest Service, (Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>General and Limited Felling licenses. Annual management Plan (Coillte).</p>	<p>Personal source 1</p> <p>Personal source 2</p> <p>http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/nationalforestinventory/2012/NFI%20Ireland%20Results_v12%20V%20Final.pdf</p> <p>https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling</p>	<p>of Felling licenses under section 37 of the Forestry Act 1946.</p> <p>A General Felling License is issued to larger harvesting operations where detailed management plans are in place and cover a longer period. Individual tree felling or smaller groups of trees are normally granted under Limited Felling License (LFL) for which information is required as to the area, number of trees, species with appropriate maps and cover a shorter period. Currently, there is no legislation that requires other individuals or companies to conduct forest inventories or have management plans.</p> <p>A code of Best Forestry Practice to ensure implementation of SFM (sustainable forest management) was produced by the Government in 2000 covering all aspects of forest operations. Although non-binding, the forest industry is expected to adhere to the Code. Compliance / Adherence to the code is conditional in most cases of forest grant aid and in some cases for Felling License approval. Under the new Forestry Act (not yet enacted), the Minister will have powers, under section 10, to require forest owners to submit a management plan.</p> <p>Interview with Personal source 2, Department of Agriculture confirmed that there are no significant issues that would constitute for specified risk.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
1.4 Harvesting permits	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Forestry Act 1946, (Section 37) - Under this Act, no tree over 10 years old can be felled without a Felling License.</p> <p>Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1963 (Section 45), Planning and Development Act 2000 (Part X111) - A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) can be made if it appears to the planning authority to be desirable and appropriate in the interest of amenity or the environment.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Forest Service, (Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine).</p> <p>Local Planning Authorities.</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>General Felling License (GFL)</p> <p>Limited Felling License (LFL)</p> <p>Tree Preservation Order (TPO)</p>	<p>Code of Best Forestry Practice - http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publications/codeofbestforestrypractice/</p> <p>http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling/ http://archive-ie.com/ie/f/fingalcoco.ie/2012-05-17_12080_84/Tree_Preservation_Orders_Felling_Licences_Fingal_County_Council/</p> <p>http://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/media/Tree%20Felling.pdf</p> <p>Personal source 1</p> <p>https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling/</p> <p>http://www.transparency.org/country#IRL</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>No tree over 10 years old can be uprooted or felled under section Section 37 of the Forestry Act 1946 without a Felling license with few exceptions. Exceptions are certain fruit trees, dead or decayed trees with no commercial value, a tree within 100 feet of a dwelling, trees within an urban area or county borough. A tree deemed by a local Authority to be a danger to traffic under section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, or cut down as part of road construction by that authority, a tree cut down under the Electricity Supply Act 1927 because of danger or obstruction. Felling Licenses are administered by the Forest Department of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Once a license to fell is applied for, a felling Prohibition Order is issued pending an examination of the application and issuing of Felling License There are 2 types of Felling licenses issued and an FL can have certain conditions attached.</p> <p>A General Felling License (GFL) is issued to larger harvesting operations where detailed management plans are in place and for thinnings and new lands for planting. Normally a replanting requirement is included where a GFL is issued. Individual tree felling or smaller groups of trees are normally granted under Limited Felling License (LFL) for which information is required as to area or, number of trees, species, and location details with appropriate maps. The granting of an LFL</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>may or may not include a replanting requirement.</p> <p>Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) can be made by a Local Planning Authority if it appears to be desirable and appropriate in the interest of amenity or the environment. A TPO can apply to a tree, trees, group of trees or woodland. The principle effect of a TPO is to prohibit the cutting down, topping, lopping or willful destruction of trees without the planning authority's consent. The order can also require the owner and occupier of the land subject to the order to enter into an agreement with the planning authority to ensure the proper management of the tree, trees or woodland.</p> <p>In 2013, 299 LFLs and 1,896 GFLs were issued by the Forest Department. 1,700 GFLs have already been issued in 2014.</p> <p>In 2013, there were 100 reports of illegal felling and so far this year almost 70 have been received. All the reports are investigated by the FD Inspectorate and a decision is made following completion of the investigation whether to proceed with a legal prosecution. It is FD policy to initiate legal proceedings provided there is sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution and both State and private foresters can be prosecuted. Roughly 10% of reported cases end in prosecution. A large number of the reports usually relate to a small number or isolated trees being felled on</p>

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			<p>(non- forestry) land. The felling of larger areas of forestry without a FL is less common although it has happened (typical 2ha - 4 ha). Larger areas 10ha + have occurred in the past mainly on State lands and were usually due to error.</p> <p>The FD is of the view that there is no widespread deliberate illegal felling in commercial forests or native woodlands. (Personal source 1).</p> <p>The Corruption Perceptions Index for Ireland is 72.</p> <p>There are no significant issues that would constitute a specified risk.</p>
Taxes and fees			
1.5 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>N/A. There is no legislation covering royalties and harvesting fees</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p>	N/A	N/A

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	N/A		
1.6 Value added taxes and other sales taxes	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Taxes Consolidation Act 1995 - Sections 530(a) – 530(v), (Primary leg’).</p> <p>Income Tax and Corporation Tax Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 651 of 2011)</p> <p>Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 576 of 2012) and Regulations 20143 (S.I No. 412 of 2013)</p> <p>All for the registration of Contracts on line by principal contractors.</p> <p>Finance Act 1969</p> <p>Value Added Tax Consolidation Act 2010 section 46(1) - Schedule 3 Para 10(1) (e), Schedule 5 Para 10 (1) (b)</p> <p>Finance Bills 2000 -2013.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Revenue Commissioners</p> <p>Department of Finance</p>	<p>http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/vat/rates/decision-detail-04156.jsp http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/rct/electronic-rct-system.html</p> <p>http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/vat/rates/decision-detail-03464.jsp.</p> <p>http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/vat/rates/decision-detail-04157.jsp</p> <p>http://www.woodland.ie/incentives_taxation.htm</p> <p>http://www.limerickandtipperarywoodlandowners.ie/tax---prsi.html</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>On the 1st of January 2012, a new tax law came into force called the Electronic Relevant Contracts Tax, (referred to as RCT) for all principal contractors in the forestry sector. Principal (or main) contractors are obliged to engage electronically with the Revenue Commissioners and notify all contracts and payments online. They must also provide a copy or details of the deduction / authorizations to the Subcontractors. A contractor must submit monthly/quarterly returns online and make payments to the Revenue Commissioners of RCTs deducted including VAT.</p> <p>There are no significant issues that would constitute a specified risk</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>VAT Registration number</p> <p>Sales Invoice</p>		
1.7 Income and profit taxes	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Finance Acts 1969 (section 18), 2006 (section 17), 2007 & 2010</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Revenue Commissioners</p> <p>Department of Finance</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Tax Returns</p> <p>Annual returns (CRO)</p>	<p>http://www.woodland.ie/incentives_taxation.htm</p> <p>http://www.limerickandtipperarywoodlandowners.ie/tax---prsi.html</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The profits or gains arising from the occupation of woodlands in Ireland by an individual or company, managed on a commercial basis and with a view to the realization of profits, shall not be taken into account for any purpose of the Income Tax Acts (Section 18, Finance Act 1969). This means that the sale of forest harvestings are all exempt from Income tax.</p> <p>The sale of trees is exempt from stamp duty but the sale of the underlying land is not. The new RCT requirement for contractors is also applicable as indicated in above box.</p> <p>There are no significant issues that would constitute a specified risk.</p>
Timber harvesting activities			
1.8 Timber harvesting regulations	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>There is no specific law currently relating to harvesting techniques & technologies</p>	<p>(Code of Best Forestry Practice)</p> <p>http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publications/codeofbestforestrypractice/</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>All aspects of Timber removals from the state owned Coillte Teo forests are subject to a</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>etc. in Ireland.</p> <p>The Forestry Acts 1946 and 1988 is used by way of Felling License approval and annual planning (by Coillte) to control these areas.</p> <p>The Code of Best Forest Practice - Although not legally binding, adherence by all is expected and compulsory for those seeking Forestry premia and grants.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Forest Service (Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine)</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Felling licenses (GFL or LFL).</p>	<p>http://www.coillte.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/pdfs/COP_June_2011/Coillte_Code_of_Practice_for_Timber_Removals_2010.pdf</p> <p>http://www.coillte.ie/coillteforest/log_sales/timber_production/timber_production_policy/</p> <p>http://www.itga.ie/</p> <p>Personal source 3</p> <p>Personal source 4</p>	<p>Code of Practice produced in 2010. The code covers a mandatory Timber Removals Permit System which utilizes a regulated automatic weighbridge system at authorized sawmills/locations. It also sets out the requirements for haulage operators including vehicles type, access routes, weights etc... Coillte's policy is to harvest the optimum, sustainable yield of timber from its forests having regard to the protection of other forest values and to the requirements of its customers. Annual harvest plans are submitted to the Department for approval. Coillte, like all others, is also subject to the Felling License requirements and submits an application for a FL accompanied by detailed management plans covering all aspects of the intended harvesting operation including detailed maps.</p> <p>A similar system for control of Timber removals has been developed by The Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA) who are recognized as the national representative body for private woodlands owners. The system, Timber Sales Dispatch System (TSDS) is based on, and similar to the Coillte system. The Forest Service effectively uses the Felling License system to "approve" individual harvest management plans which are expected to be prepared in compliance with the Code for Best Forest Practice.</p> <p>There are no significant issues that would constitute a specified risk</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
1.9 Protected sites and species	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2000</p> <p>National Monuments Acts 1930 -2004.</p> <p>Forestry Act 1946</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>National Parks and Wildlife Service; Forest Service;</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Management Plans, Harvest site maps;</p>	<p>Personal Source 5</p> <p>http://www.npws.ie/nationalparks/</p> <p>http://www.coillte.ie/aboutcoillte/recreation/</p> <p>http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/naturalheritageareasnha/</p> <p>http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/specialareasofconservationsac/</p> <p>http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/specialprotectionareasspa/</p> <p>http://www.archaeology.ie/MonumentProtection/ .</p>	<p>Low Risk</p> <p>There are 6 National Parks (as per IUCN definition) under the control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. In addition, Coillte operates 10 Parks and 150 recreational sites across the country. The basic designation for wildlife is the Natural Heritage Area (NHA). This is an area considered important for the habitats present or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection. To date, 75 raised bogs have been given legal protection, covering some 23,000 hectares. These raised bogs are located mainly in the midlands. A further 73 blanket bogs, covering 37,000ha, mostly in western areas are also designated as NHAs. In addition, there are 630 proposed NHAs (pNHAs), which were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. These sites are of significance for wildlife and habitats. The pNHAs cover approximately 65,000ha and designation will proceed on a phased basis over the coming years. Prior to statutory designation, pNHAs are subject to limited protection.</p> <p>The areas chosen as SACs (Special Areas of Conservation) in Ireland cover an area of approximately 13,500 sq. km. Roughly 53% is land, the remainder being marine or large lakes. The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive, transposed into Irish law in the 1976</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>Wildlife Act as amended in 1998 and 2005. Conservation Management plans are in place for most SACs and the plans are updated on line on the NPWS website.</p> <p>Ireland is required under the terms of the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the protection of endangered species of wild birds. Ireland's SPA Network encompasses over 570,000 hectares of marine and terrestrial habitats. The National Monument Service is responsible for the protection of monuments. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is the most widely applying provision of the National Monuments Acts.</p> <p>The NWS and NPWS are a major part of the consultative process for the issuing of felling license (FL) and recommend conditions for attaching to FLs in regard to their respective areas. Where a harvesting operation falls within such areas, the felling is closely monitored to ensure compliance with the license conditions.</p> <p>There are no significant issues that would constitute a specified risk</p>
1.10 Environmental requirements	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Forestry Act 1946 (Section 50)</p> <p>Forestry Act 1988</p>	<p>http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/environmental-information/</p> <p>The suite of 6 Environmental Guideline includes Water quality - http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publications/water_quality.pdf.</p>	<p>Low Risk</p> <p>The felling approvals process considers the potential environmental impact of harvesting operations. All forest harvesting (thinnings, clear fellings and regeneration fellings) are</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Protection of Environment Act 2003</p> <p>Waste Management Act 1996</p> <p>Water Pollution Acts 1977- 1990</p> <p>Fisheries Acts 1959-1999</p> <p>Inland Fisheries Act 2010</p> <p>European Communities (Aerial Fertilisation)(Forestry) S.I No. 125 of 2012;</p> <p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations S.I.272 of 2009.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Forest Service (Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine)</p> <p>Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>Department of Environment, Community and Local Government</p>	<p>Landscape - http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publications/landscape.pdf</p> <p>Archaeology - http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publications/archaeology.pdf</p> <p>Biodiversity - http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publications/biodiversity.pdf</p> <p>Harvesting and Environmental - http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publications/harvesting.pdf</p> <p>Forest Protection - http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publications/fsFPG.pdf; http://www.coillte.ie/coillteforest/environment/ ; Coillte's</p> <p>Environmental Policy: http://www.coillte.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/pdfs/Coillte_Environmental_Policy.pdf</p> <p>http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publicconsultation/forestpolicyreview/SEAForestPolicyReviewJune2013.pdf</p> <p>http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publications/</p>	<p>licensable activities under the 1946 Forestry Act. Felling licenses are for a limited time period and approval by the Forest Service is subject to compliance with environmental guidelines and best practice.</p> <p>The suite of environmental Guidelines are the mechanisms by which the Forest Service ensures that the environmental aspects of SFM are implemented. Adherence to the guidelines is a condition of grant aid and the issuing of a felling license. The penalty for non-compliance is the withholding of approvals for grants and felling licenses.</p> <p>There are no significant issues or information available that would constitute a specified risk</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Felling licenses (GFL or LFL). Management plans, Harvest site maps</p>		
1.11 Health and safety	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Safety Health and Welfare of Work Act (No.10) 2005 (Part 2 chapters 1, 2 & 3, Parts 3 & 4)</p> <p>Code of Practice for Managing Health and Safety in Forestry Operation (Part 6, Chapter 1, Sections 60 & 61 of Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005)</p> <p>Chemical Acts 2008-2010, The main purpose of the 2008 and 2010 Acts is to facilitate the administration and enforcement of certain EU Regulations concerning chemicals.</p> <p>These Regulations include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation (No. 1907/2006) • Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP) Regulation (No. 1272/2008) • Rotterdam Regulation (No. 689/2008) concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals under the 	<p>http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2005/en/act/pub/0010/index.html</p> <p>http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Agriculture_and_Forestry/Code_of_Practice_for_Managing_Safety_and_Health_in_Forestry_Operations.html</p> <p>http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Agriculture_and_Forestry/Forestry_Information_Sheet.pdf</p> <p>http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Topics/Statistics/Fatal_Injury/#sthash.iecGsYCA.dpuf</p> <p>http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Topics/Statistics/Non-Fatal_Injury_and_Illness/#sthash.mb9LDYH0.dpuf</p> <p>http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Agriculture_and_Forestry/Code%20of%20Practice%20Forestry%202009-.pdf</p> <p>http://www.statcentral.ie/</p> <p>http://www.statcentral.ie/viewStat.asp?id=82</p> <p>http://www.statcentral.ie/viewStat.asp?id=83</p> <p>http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-RA-12-002/EN/KS-RA-12-002-EN.PDF</p> <p>http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Topics/Statistics/Infographics/Achievement</p>	<p>Low Risk</p> <p>Health and safety regulations are clearly defined in legislation and are enforced by the Health and Safety Inspectorate. A specific Code of Practice for Forestry Operations has been produced under section 60 of the 2005 Act and although non-binding is admissible in criminal proceedings if the Code of Practice is not adhered to (Section 61 of 2005 Act). The law requires that, during the planning and carrying out of forestry operations, a number of safety and health duties be fulfilled, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing written risk assessments • Setting out safe working procedures • Ensuring operators are competent • Selecting suitable equipment for the job • Supervising and monitoring the work <p>Over the 5 year period 2009 to 2013 a total of 9 persons have suffered a fatal accident arising from the use of chainsaws or tree felling work activities. The Teagasc National Farm Survey indicates that about 6.5% of all injuries, in the Agriculture & Forestry sector, are chainsaw or wood related indicating that approximately 120 serious injuries occur each year. The current statistics</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Rotterdam Convention and the • Detergents Regulation (No. 648/2004).</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Health and Safety Authority</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Hazard and Risk Assessment Statement (Section 19 of H,S&W Act of 2005)</p> <p>Safety Statement (Section 20 of H,S & W Act 2005)</p> <p>Compliance with General Principles of Prevention (Schedule 3 of H,S & W Act 2005)</p>	<p>s_Activities_2013/ http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Topics/Statistics/Infographics/Injury_Illness_and_Fatality_Statistics_2012-2013/</p>	<p>published by the Irish Health and Safety authority report the following incidents in the forestry sector: - 5 Fatal workplace injuries in the forestry economic sector 2008-2014 - 29 injuries (any days lost) per 1000 workers in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector 2012 (CSO) - 2,967 inspections and investigations in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector in 2013. Of these, 35% were given written advice and 10% resulted in enforcement action.</p> <p>According to the statistics, agriculture (excluding forestry), fishing and construction are the most hazardous sectors in Ireland.</p> <p>There are no records of violations of the applicable legislation that would constitute for specified risk.</p>
1.12 Legal employment	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Unfair Dismissals Act 1993</p> <p>Terms of Employment Act 1994</p> <p>Protection of Young Persons (Employment) Act 1996</p> <p>National Minimum Wage Act 2000</p>	<p>http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/employment_rights_and_conditions/employment_rights_and_duties/employer_obligations.html</p> <p>http://www.ibec.ie/IBEC/ES.nsf/vPages/Home~employer-services?OpenDocument</p>	<p>Low Risk</p> <p>There is strong legal employment laws in Ireland governing contract of employment, employment records, minimum wage, working hours, leave, disciplinary procedures, Tax and social insurance deductions, health & Safety and discipline and unfair dismissals procedures.</p> <p>There are a number of industrial relations</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Organization of Working Time (Records, Prescribed form and Exemptions) Regulations 2001</p> <p>Protection of Employees (Fixed Term) Act 2003</p> <p>Equality Act 2004</p> <p>Protection of Employment (Temporary Agency Work) Act 2012</p> <p>Income Tax Employments Consolidated Regulations 2001</p> <p>Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (530A-530V), Income Tax and Corporation Tax (Relevant Contracts Tax) Regulations S.I.651/2011, 576/2012 &412/2012.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Department of Jobs, Employment and Innovation.</p> <p>Revenue Commissioners</p> <p>Department of Social Protection</p>		<p>institutions to deal with labour disputes such as the Labour Relations Commission; the Rights Commissioner Service, the Labour Court, Employment Appeals Tribunal and the Equality Tribunal.</p> <p>There are no significant issues that would constitute a specified risk.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Contract and Terms & conditions of employment.</p>		
Third parties' rights			
<p>1.13 Customary rights</p>	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>There is no specific law relevant to Forest harvesting activities relating to this criteria.</p> <p>Article 40.3.2 of The Irish Constitution 1937 gives the right of the property owner to unfettered use of the property.</p> <p>The following legislation allows for the registration of Easements & profits a pendre e.g. Rights of Way (prescription):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration of Title Act 1964 section 49A - The Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009 section 35.1 & 38b. as amended - Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 - Registration of deeds and Title Act 2006 (No.12). 	<p>http://www.prai.ie/registration-of-easements-and-profits-a-prendre-acquired-by-prescription-under-section-49a/; http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/travel_and_recreation/recreational_activities_in_ireland/sport_and_leisure/walking_and_rambli ng_in_ireland.html</p> <p>http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/en/constitution/index.html#article43</p> <p>http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1964/en/act/pub/0016/index.html.</p> <p>http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2009/en/act/pub/0027/sec0035.html#sec35</p> <p>http://www.coillte.ie/aboutcoillte/publications/other_publications/recreation_policy_healthy_forest_healthy_nation_2005/</p>	<p>Low Risk</p> <p>There is no legal traditional right of access to land in Ireland. Article 40.3.2 of The Constitution of 1937 copper-fastened the right of the property owner to unfettered use of the property. This means a land owner can refuse access to his property. The bulk of private forests were only planted since the 1980s and would have no customary rights in regard to harvesting other than preexisting customary recreational walking on the land or hunting /fishing. Rights of Ways exists in some cases where access of passage is given to cross someone's land to access other land which is often "landlocked". There are two types of ROWs, one which is documented and registered in the Property Registration Authority and the other "prescriptive" RoW which is obtained through use over a sustained period of time.</p> <p>Recent legislation requires/allows for the registration of prescriptive ROWs by 2021. Judgment on these ROWs can also be made through the courts. Ireland has operated an "Open access" policy for recreational users to all in state forests and this has continued</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Property Registration Authority for registering Easements e.g. Rights of Way</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Registered Deed, registered map.</p> <p>Folio and folio map</p>		<p>under the forests operated by Coillte Teoranta and the National Parks and Wildlife service. Visitors may not damage or remove anything from a forest and are expected to observe the environmental code for users. Coillte seeks to provide low-impact non-motorized recreation to the general public and other specialist activities under special permit.</p> <p>There are no significant issues that would constitute for specified risk.</p>
1.14 Free prior and informed consent	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>N/A. In 1987, an estimated 20,000 hectares of State lands and forests were transferred to the Office of Public Works now called the National Parks and Wildlife Service. In January 1989, under the Forestry Act 1988, the Government established a new State body, Coillte Teoranta, to manage the State's commercial forests. Ownership of the remaining forests and lands (estimated 375,000 ha) was transferred to the new company. There is no opportunity to transfer forest management rights away from these entities, therefore this category is not applicable.</p> <p>For private forests, there are no restrictions or requirements in Irish</p>	N/A	N/A

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>legislation in connection with the transfer of forest management rights or with regards to free, prior and informed consent.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p>		
1.15 Indigenous peoples rights	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>N/A. There are no indigenous people living in Ireland according to the U.N. definition.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p>	N/A	N/A

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p>		
Trade and transport			
<p>1.16 Classificati on of species, quantities, qualities</p>	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>N/A. Currently, there is no specific forestry legislation relating to this criteria</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>1.17 Trade and transport</p>	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>There are no laws specific to the transporting of wood from forests. There are the general requirements of the Road Transport Act 2011 in relation to vehicle condition, roadworthiness and legal weights.</p>	<p>http://www.rsa.ie/en/RSA/Professional-Drivers/Owners-and-managers/Road-haulage-enforcement/</p> <p>http://www.coillte.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/pdfs/COP_June_2011/Coillte_Code_of_Practice_for_Timber_Removals_2010.pdf</p> <p>http://www.itga.ie/docs/MTSSApril2010.pdf</p>	<p>Low Risk</p> <p>All aspects of Timber removals from the state owned Coillte Teo, forests are subject to a Code of Practice produced in 2010. The code covers a mandatory Timber Removals Permit System (TRPS) which utilizes a regulated automatic weighbridge system at authorized sawmills/locations. Timber permits can be inspected within the forest by Coillte staff and by the Garda Siochana (Police) outside the forest. For non- state wood removals, many</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Road Safety Authority, Garda Siochaha (Police),</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Road Haulage Operators License. Timber Removals Permit for all removals from State forests.</p>		<p>sawmills and forest harvesting companies operate a permit system as part of the sales contract. The Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA) produced a model for use by private growers in regard to timber removals. This system aims to provide vendors and their agents with a straightforward, standardized protocol with detailed step by step procedures to assist in accountability for timber removals and haulage for standing and roadside sales. The system is similar to the TPRS system used in state forests.</p> <p>There are no specific issue that would constitute a specified risk.</p>
1.18 Offshore trading and transfer pricing	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 - Part 35A, Section 835A to Section 835H, of the 1997 Taxes Consolidation Act (Part 35A)</p> <p>Finance Act 2010 section 42</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Revenue Commissioners, Department of Finance</p>	<p>www.revenue.ie/en/practitioner/law/bills/archive/.../transfer-pricing.pdf ; http://www.matheson.com/legal-services/transfer-pricing;</p> <p>http://www.kpmg.com/ie/en/issuesandinsights/articlespublications/pages/transfer-pricing-faq.aspx</p> <p>http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/1997/en.act.1997.0039.pdf</p> <p>http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2010/en.act.2010.0005.pdf</p> <p>http://download.pwc.com/ie/pubs/2012_international_transfer_pricing.pdf</p>	<p>Low Risk</p> <p>New laws on Transfer Pricing came into effect in 2010 for trading transactions between associated persons. The main features of the legislation is that it recognizes the arm's length principle as set out by the OECD in Article 9 of the OECD Model Tax Convention and the OECD Guidelines on Transfer Pricing; and the application of the arm's length principle where trading profits are understated for Irish tax purposes. The new laws do not apply to SMEs (small, medium enterprises up to certain staffing and turnover levels) who continue to operate under the old rules. The principle of arm's length already pre-existed the new Finance Act 2010 in Irish tax legislation. For example, section 81 Taxes</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Tax returns and company accounts. In order to demonstrate compliance with the TP rules, Irish tax law requires companies falling within the TP regime to have available documentation that would reasonably be required to determine whether the income has been computed at arm's length</p>		<p>Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA) dictates that a tax deduction is only available for an expense wholly or exclusively laid out or expended for the purposes of the trade of the company. While the arm's length principle is not referred to in Section 81, Revenue are in effect to adjust the price paid for goods and services for tax purposes and deny a deduction if appropriate.</p> <p>There are also various provisions in Irish tax legislation which require the application of market value pricing to transactions between connected parties. These are generally included as anti-avoidance provisions and disposals of assets between connected persons. Case law has also provided some guidance on the application of arm's length principles. The most relevant case in this regard is <i>Belville Holdings v Cronin</i> [1985] IR 465. Transfer pricing provisions could also be found in the manufacturing relief provisions of TCA 1997.</p> <p>The Irish tax authorities do not have a dedicated transfer pricing unit. When transfer pricing issues have arisen, resources have been drawn from international tax specialists or the Large Cases Division of the Irish tax authorities. Going forward, only authorized officers designated in writing by the Irish tax authorities may make enquiries in relation to transfer pricing. The Irish tax authorities have yet to clarify who will be authorized officers, but they are expected to be inspectors within the Large Cases Division of the Irish tax</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>authorities.</p> <p>According to PriceWaterhouseCoopers "There are not considered to be particular related party transactions or industry sectors that could be regarded as facing a higher-than-normal risk of a transfer pricing enquiry from the Irish tax authorities. To some extent, Irish taxpayers could be considered (indirectly) to be at a higher risk of a transfer pricing review should overseas tax authorities, which have developed extensive transfer pricing regulations, focus their attention on transactions or industries that include overseas affiliates of an Irish taxpayer."</p> <p><u>There are no specific issue that would constitute a specified risk.</u></p>
1.19 Custom regulations	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Finance Act 2011 Section 54</p> <p>Customs Act 1956 as amended by the Finances Acts 2010 & 2011 (Penalties).</p> <p>Council Regulation No. 2913/92</p> <p>Commission Regulation No. 2454/93 (Exports)</p>	<p>Customs guide for Traders: www.revenue.ie/en/customs/leaflets/import-procedures-guide.pdf</p> <p>Customs guide for Exports : www.revenue.ie/en/customs/leaflets/export-procedures-guide.pdf</p> <p>Revenues Commissioners Guide import & export : http://www.revenue.ie/en/customs/businesses/importing/</p> <p>Revenue Commissioners Classifications of Goods http://www.revenue.ie/en/customs/businesses/importing/classification-of-goods.html</p> <p>http://www.revenue.ie/en/customs/businesses/importing/automated-entry-processing-aep-dti.html</p>	<p>Low Risk</p> <p>Ireland is a member of the EU and Common EU Customs Tariff. The automation of Customs import and export procedures was introduced nationally in April 1991 by the launch of Revenue's Automated Entry Processing (AEP) system. Since then this system has been responsible for the validation, processing, duty accounting and clearance of customs declarations. The system also checks updated data format, calculations, validations, preferential rates, prohibitions/restrictions and verifies that sufficient credit is available in the Trader's account. However, due to the introduction, by European Regulation, of a harmonized and</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Revenue, Irish Tax and Customs,</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Invoices, value declaration form, Proof of origin documents, bills of lading, import & export licenses</p>		<p>codified Single Administrative Document (SAD) along with new pre-arrival and pre-departure summary declarations it was necessary to redevelop the AEP system. The redevelopment project embraced modern technologies, allowed Traders direct access to AEP via the Revenue Online Service (ROS) and provided greater scope for flexibility and trader facilitations.</p> <p>There are no significant issues that would constitute for specified risk.</p>
1.20 CITES	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>Wildlife Acts 1976 (Section 53a) - 2000 Section 58;</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>National Parks and Wildlife Service; Customs Service.</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>CITES export and import permits and CITES certificates enabling intra EU trade, registration documents</p>	<p>http://www.revenue.ie/en/customs/prohibitions-restrictions/index.html ;</p> <p>http://www.npws.ie/licences/importexporttrade/ ;</p> <p>http://www.npws.ie/licences/importexporttrade/permitscertificates/underecregulationscites/</p> <p>Personal source 6</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No cites species currently grown in Ireland.</p> <p>Customs Enforcement Authorities and NPWS Inspectors are responsible for enforcement of CITES requirements, NPWS also is responsible for licensing including timber products from protected species. Only one CITES license for import into Ireland was issued in the last 5 years. (Personal source 6, NPWS). Both authorities liaise regularly with other countries on CITES issues. There are no significant issues that would constitute for specified risk.</p>
Diligence/due care procedures			

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
<p>1.21 Legislation requiring due diligence/ due care procedures</p>	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>S.I. No. 316/2014 - European Union (Timber and Timber Products) (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2014 (section 4), which gave effect to the European Union Timber Regulations 995/2010. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 363/2012 of 23 February 2012 (Article 4); Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 607/2012 of 6 July 2012 (Articles 3 & 5);</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Sales and Transport documents, Proof of Origin, Details of Supplier, Species and product information, proof of compliance with national legislation of country of harvest, , Risk Assessment and Risk Mitigation</p>	<p>http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/timber_regulation.html</p> <p>www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/EUTROverview120413.doc - 11k - 2013-07-03</p> <p>http://www.justforests.org/news/eu-timber-regulation-put-to-the-test; Teagasc State Agriculture Advisory</p> <p>http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry/advice/EU_timber_regulation.asp; Wood Marketing Federation http://www.wood.ie/news-events/briefing-on-eu-timber-regulation/;</p> <p>Personal source 3</p> <p>Personal source 7</p> <p>http://www.wood.ie/?cat=4.</p> <p>Personal source 8</p>	<p>Low Risk</p> <p>Ireland has adopted the EU Timber Regulations (EUTR) in March 2013. A Competent Authority has been established within the Department of Agriculture (IFPD Unit) with overview and enforcement responsibilities of the new regulations. The Unit commenced carrying out inspections this year and has found no breach of the regulations to date. It has provided advice and information to traders and companies in regard to the regulations. It is conscious of the need to raise awareness and vigilance in regard to timber sources and compliance. (N Halloran, Dept.' of Agriculture). The Wood Marketing Federation briefed its members and the wider timber industry at a seminar in February 2013 on EUTR which various sectors of the forest industry attended to raise awareness, Key speakers included S Fitzpatrick of Department of Agriculture, A Weddle, NEPcon.</p> <p>The largest forestry company, Coillte, issues a letter to all of its customers outlining its commitment and compliance with the EUTR. There are a large number of private forest owners, the vast bulk of whom are agricultural farmers with no forestry background or experience. Because of the lack of forestry experience and lack of harvesting equipment, the owners employ Forest Management companies such as Coillte or other private forest management companies of which there</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>is a limited number. This reduces the risk in regard to EUTR requirements as the management companies are deemed the Operator under the EUTR and makes monitoring by the Competent Authority easier.</p> <p>The WWF Government Barometer 2014 reports that "Ireland's score in 2014 has dropped sharply since the 2012 barometer, and it now has one of the lowest scores in the EU. National legislation has been developed for the EUTR, and has now been approved, but no details were provided about the contents or the penalties that will be available. The competent authority (CA) appears to be inactive and currently lacking powers, though it has made some efforts to communicate on the EUTR to operators. No evidence was provided to indicate that any coordination is taking place between the CA and other relevant departments and agencies. Specific legislation to implement the FLEGT Regulation has been drafted but is not yet in force, and no timeline for this was given. The CA has formed a relationship with customs but, in the absence of legal powers, activities are minor."</p> <p>The European Commission release as score card in 2014 which reported that for <i>Competent Authorities, Penalties and Checks</i> 'the obligation is fulfilled'.</p> <p>There is limited evidence to suggest that the DDS requirements are uniformly enforced at</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>forest level. However, since low risk has been found in CW Categories 1.1-1.20, it is concluded that the potential impact of this lack of enforcement will be limited both in impact and in scale. As a consequence the risk has been concluded to be low.</p> <p>The risk assessment will be revised according to the new legislation, as soon as it is in place.</p>

Recommended control measures

N/A

Controlled wood category 2: Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights

Risk assessment

Indicator	Sources of Information	Functional scale	Risk designation and determination
2.1. The forest sector is not associated with violent armed conflict, including that which threatens national or regional security and/or linked to military control.	See detailed analysis below.	Country	Low risk All low risk thresholds (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) are met and there is no other evidence of specified risk. None of the specified risk thresholds are met.
2.2. Labour rights are respected including rights as specified in ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work.	See detailed analysis below.	Country	Low risk The low risk thresholds 10 and 12 apply.
2.3. The rights of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples are upheld.	See detailed analysis below.	Country	Low risk The low risk thresholds 16 and 21 apply.

Recommended control measures

N/A

Detailed analysis

Sources of information	Evidence	Scale of risk assessment	Risk indication ¹
Context (the following are indicators that help to contextualize the information from other sources) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Searching for data on: level of corruption, governance, lawlessness, fragility of the State, freedom of journalism, freedom of speech, peace, human rights, armed or violent conflicts by or in the country, etc. 			
World Bank: Worldwide Governance Indicators - the WGIs report aggregate and individual governance indicators for 215 countries (most recently for 1996–2012), for six dimensions of governance: Voice and Accountability; Political Stability and Absence of Violence; Government Effectiveness; Regulatory Quality; Rule of Law; Control of Corruption http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home	http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports (click on table view tab and select Country) In 2013 (latest available year) Ireland scores between 73.93 (for Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism) and 94.31 (for Rule of Law) on the percentile rank among all countries for all six dimensions (the scores range from 0 (lowest rank) to 100 (highest rank) with higher values corresponding to better outcomes).	country	
World Bank Harmonized List of Fragile Situations: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTLICUS/Resources/511777-1269623894864/Fragile_Situations_List_FY11_%28Oct_19_2010%29.pdf	Ireland does not feature on this list	country	
Committee to Protect Journalists: Impunity Index CPJ's Impunity Index calculates the number of unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of each country's population. For this index, CPJ examined journalist murders that occurred between January 1, 2004, and December 31, 2013, and that remain unsolved. Only those nations with five or more unsolved cases are included on this index. http://cpj.org/reports/2014/04/impunity-index-getting-away-with-murder.php	Ireland does not feature on this list	country	
Carleton University: Country Indicators for Foreign Policy: the Failed and Fragile States project of Carleton University examines state fragility using a combination of structural data and current event monitoring http://www4.carleton.ca/cifp/ffs.htm	http://www4.carleton.ca/cifp/app/serve.php/1419.pdf Ireland scores medium-low on State fragility map 2011.	country	
Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org	http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/wr2014_web_0.pdf Ireland does not feature in World Report 2014 of Human rights Watch	country	
US AID: www.usaid.gov Search on website for [country] + 'human rights' 'conflicts' 'conflict timber' For Africa and Asia also use: http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pnact462.pdf	www.usaid.gov No information found on specified risks after searching Ireland + 'human rights' 'conflicts' 'timber conflicts'	country	

¹ A risk indication is provided for each source analyzed, except in the first part that addresses the general country context as that is not a risk indicator. A cumulative risk assessment for each risk indicator is provided in the row with the conclusion on each risk indicator, based on all the sources analyzed and evidence found.

Global Witness: www.globalwitness.org Search on website for [country] + 'human rights' 'conflicts' 'conflict timber'	www.globalwitness.org No information found on specified risks after searching Ireland + 'human rights' 'conflicts' 'timber conflicts'	country	
http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/about_forests/deforestation/forest_illegal_logging/	Ireland not mentioned in article	country	
Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2013/results/	Ireland scores 72 points on the Corruption Perceptions Index 2013 on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). Ireland ranks 21 out of 177 with rank nr. 1 being the most clean country.	country	
Chattam House Illegal Logging Indicators Country Report Card http://www.illegal-logging.info	http://www.illegal-logging.info/content/liberian-campaigner-calls-eu-action-logging-law-dodgers - 11 March 2014 <i>Liberian campaigner calls for EU action on logging law dodgers</i> "An award-winning Liberian environmental campaigner has called on the EU to act against 20 member states which have still not implemented a timber regulation to combat illegal logging, a year after it came into force. [...]According to the as-yet unpublished new data from Client Earth, based on questionnaires completed by each country, just eight EU states have registered the timber regulation on their statute books: Austria, Denmark, Croatia, Germany, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Portugal, Luxembourg, Slovenia and the UK. A further ten countries have drafted legislation, without adopting it: Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Ireland, Poland, Romania and Sweden."	country	
Amnesty International Annual Report: The state of the world's human rights -information on key human rights issues, including: freedom of expression; international justice; corporate accountability; the death penalty; and reproductive rights	http://files.amnesty.org/air13/AmnestyInternationalAnnualReport2013_complete_en.pdf „Conditions in a young offender institution were heavily criticized. Calls were renewed to regulate access to legal abortion. Legislation criminalizing female genital mutilation was enacted.“ (p. 132)	country	
Freedom House http://www.freedomhouse.org/	http://www.freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-world#.U-3g5fl_sVc The status of Ireland on the Freedom in the World index is 'free'. http://www.freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-net#.U-3hUvl_sVc The status of Ireland on the Freedom on the Net is 'no data'. http://www.freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-press#.U-3hkvI_sVc The status of Ireland on the Freedom of the press is 'free'.	country	
Reporters without Borders: Press Freedom Index	2013: http://en.rsf.org/spip.php?page=classement&id_rubrique=1054 Ireland ranks nr. 15 out of 179 with a score of 10,06 on the 2013 World Press Freedom Index, which ranks it among the countries with very good press freedom in the world.	country	
Fund for Peace - Failed States Index of Highest Alert - the Fund for Peace is a US-based non-profit research and educational organization that works to prevent violent conflict and promote security. The Failed States Index is an annual ranking, first published in 2005, of 177 nations based on their levels of stability and capacity http://www.fundforpeace.org/global/?q=cr-10-99-fs	http://ffp.statesindex.org/rankings-2013-sortable Ireland is ranked 170 out of 178 countries on the failed states index. (nr 1 being the most failed state). This ranks Ireland in the category 'sustainable'.	country	

In 2014 the FFP changed the name of the Failed State Index to the Fragile State Index: http://ffp.statesindex.org/rankings-2013-sortable			
The Global Peace Index. Published by the Institute for Economics & Peace, This index is the world's leading measure of national peacefulness. It ranks 162 nations according to their absence of violence. It's made up of 23 indicators, ranging from a nation's level of military expenditure to its relations with neighbouring countries and the level of respect for human rights. Source: The Guardian: http://economicsandpeace.org/research/iep-indices-data/global-peace-index	http://www.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/2014%20Global%20Peace%20Index%20REPORT.pdf The state of Peace in Ireland is labelled 'Very High' with Ireland ranking number 13 out of 162 countries with a score of 1.384 (p. 5).	country	
Additional sources of information (These sources were partly found by Googling the terms '[country]', 'timber', 'conflict', 'illegal logging')	Evidence	Scale of risk assessment	Risk indication
no additional sources found			
From national CW RA: Info on illegal logging	not available	country	
Conclusion on country context: Ireland scores positive on all indicators reviewed in this context section. It is ranked relatively high on all relevant aspects such as stable country, with good governance, absence of conflicts of any magnitude and it is a free country for all its citizens with a good justice system.		country	
Indicator 2.1. The forest sector is not associated with violent armed conflict, including that which threatens national or regional security and/or linked to military control.			
Guidance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the country covered by a UN security ban on exporting timber? Is the country covered by any other international ban on timber export? Are there individuals or entities involved in the forest sector that are facing UN sanctions? 			
Compendium of United Nations Security Council Sanctions Lists http://www.un.org/sc/committees/list_compend.shtml	There is no UN Security Council ban on timber exports from Ireland. Ireland is not covered by any other international ban on timber export.	country	low risk
US AID: www.usaid.gov	There are no individuals or entities involved in the forest sector in Ireland that are facing UN sanctions		
Global Witness: www.globalwitness.org			
From national CW RA	not available	country	-
Guidance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the country a source of conflict timber? If so, is it at the country level or only an issue in specific regions? If so – which regions? Is the conflict timber related to specific entities? If so, which entities or types of entities? 			
www.usaid.gov	No information found on specified risks after searching Ireland + 'conflicts' 'timber conflicts'	country	low risk

<p>http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pnact462.pdf</p> <p>Conflict Timber is defined by US AID as: - conflict financed or sustained through the harvest and sale of timber (Type 1), - conflict emerging as a result of competition over timber or other forest resources (Type 2) Also check overlap with indicator 2.3</p>			
<p>www.globalwitness.org/campaigns/environment/forests</p>	<p>No information found on specified risks after searching Ireland + 'conflicts' 'timber conflicts'</p>	<p>country</p>	<p>low risk</p>
<p>Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/</p>	<p>No information found on specified risks after searching Ireland + 'conflicts' 'timber conflicts'</p>	<p>country</p>	<p>low risk</p>
<p>World Resources Institute: Governance of Forests Initiative Indicator Framework (Version 1) http://pdf.wri.org/working_papers/gfi_tenure_indicators_sep09.pdf Now: PROFOR http://www.profor.info/node/1998</p>	<p>http://www.profor.info/node/1998 This work resulted in a publication: Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance: A user's guide to a diagnostic tool (available on this page) published by PROFOR in June 2012. This tool has not yet been applied to Ireland.</p>	<p>country</p>	<p>low risk</p>
<p>Amnesty International Annual Report: The state of the world's human rights -information on key human rights issues, including: freedom of expression; international justice; corporate accountability; the death penalty; and reproductive rights http://www.amnesty.org/en/annual-report/2011/; http://amnesty.org/en/annual-report/2013/</p>	<p>No information on conflict timber related to Ireland found.</p>	<p>country</p>	<p>low risk</p>
<p>World Bank: Worldwide Governance Indicators - the WGIs report aggregate and individual governance indicators for 213 economies (most recently for 1996–2012), for six dimensions of governance: Voice and Accountability; Political Stability and Absence of Violence; Government Effectiveness; Regulatory Quality; Rule of Law; Control of Corruption http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home Use indicator 'Political stability and Absence of violence' specific for indicator 2.1</p>	<p>http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports In 2013 (latest available year) Ireland scores 73.93 for Political Stability and Absence of Violence/ on the percentile rank among all countries (the scores range from 0 (lowest rank) to 100 (highest rank) with higher values corresponding to better outcomes).</p>	<p>country</p>	<p>low risk</p>
<p>Greenpeace: www.greenpeace.org Search for 'conflict timber [country]'</p>	<p>http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/press/releases/Major-breakthrough-in-protection-for-Indonesias-remaining-rainforests/ <i>Major breakthrough in protection for Indonesia's remaining rainforests</i> <i>Press release - 5 February, 2013</i> Jakarta, Indonesia, 5 February 2013 - Greenpeace hailed today's commitment from Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) to end deforestation as a major breakthrough in efforts to save Indonesia's rainforests, after a decade of public pressure and recent negotiations with Greenpeace. [...]Summary of Greenpeace's recent campaign on APP</p>	<p>country</p>	<p>low risk</p>

	[...]October 2012 – KFC UK and Ireland cancels contract with APP		
CIFOR: http://www.cifor.org/ ; http://www.cifor.org/publications/Corporate/FactSheet/forests_conflict.htm	Ireland is not mentioned in this document about <i>Forests and conflict</i>.	country	low risk
Google the terms '[country]' and one of following terms or in combination 'conflict timber', 'illegal logging'	<p>http://www.forestfriends.ie/cgi-bin/topics.cgi?op=view_topic;cat=wdissues;id=1197 "I was there in Paris on Wednesday 18 November 2009. It's a day I will never forget.[...] I was there to witness and support the press announcement of the lodgement of a complaint by Global Witness before a French Public Prosecutor against one of the world's leading timber and wood products wholesalers. The complaint graphically spelled out that, during the civil war in Liberia from 2000-2003, Dalhoff, Larsen and Horneman (DLH), knowingly bought vast quantities of 'conflict' timber from unscrupulous Liberian companies that provided support to Charles Taylor's brutal regime and sold it on to other timber traders across Europe. [...] EU countries still imports large quantities of illegally logged timber and wood-based products with complete impunity. [...] Ireland is a significant player in this field as an estimated 60% of all tropical timber used in this country is deemed to be of illegal origin. Just Forests are calling for a National Timber Procurement Policy to be put in place immediately in order to stop this destructive practice. We want the selling and profiting from illegal timber to be an offence and severely punished under Irish law."</p> <p>http://www.illegal-logging.info/content/irish-printing-companies-and-timber-distributors-failing-address-illegal-logging - 9 June 2010 <i>Irish printing companies and timber distributors failing to address illegal logging</i> "Just 3% of printers and 6% of timber distribution outlets certified. Irish development organisation Progressio Ireland today publishes findings of their new research into the timber and printing industry in Ireland. Progressio finds that just 4 out of the 23 Irish timber distribution and importing companies (17%) and just 6 of the 97 of the distribution outlets (6%) are certified with reliable certification agencies such as PEFC and FSC that ensure the timber is legal. Even more disappointing, just 18 of the 541 (3%) of the print companies operating in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Limerick, Waterford and Wexford are certified to sell print products made from legal timber."</p> <p>http://www.illegal-logging.info/content/wood-ology-and-zoo-ology-clash-dublin-zoo-bitter-row-ngo-ordered-zoo-premises - 21 May 2010 <i>Wood-ology and zoo-ology clash at Dublin Zoo: bitter row as NGO is ordered off Zoo premises</i> "Just Forests founder/coordinator was given hours to remove the very popular Wood of Life exhibition and get off Dublin Zoo premises yesterday as a bitter row erupted over the Zoo's use of tropical plywood in the new Agri Aware sponsored 'City Farm' facility which is due to open to the public on Saturday 22nd May 2010. [...] Mr Roche will go on a one-day fast outside the main entrance of the Zoo on Saturday 22nd May to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity and protest the continued use of illegally-logged tropical timber which is widespread on Irish construction sites."</p>	country	low risk

	<p>http://www.justforests.org/news/ireland-to-help-stop-illegal-logging <i>Ireland to help stop illegal logging 1 March 2013</i> EU Timber Regulation Comes into Force The EU Timber Regulation (EU NO 995/2010) comes into force on Sunday 3 March 2013. The Regulation makes it an offence to place illegal timber or timber products on the EU market, and places obligations on those who first place such products on the market, as well as those trading further down the supply chain. The implementation of the Regulation will be enforced by national level competent authorities (CA) that will undertake checks and ensure the enforcement of the Regulation, with penalties for non-compliance. In Ireland, the competent authority is International Forestry Policy at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Just Forests welcomes this Regulation and encourages the Irish Government to put the necessary structures in place to ensure the Regulation is enforced and implemented. [...]“Ireland’s timber traders have had it good for decades. During the celtic tiger era they imported tropical timber and wood-based products with an estimated value of 1,992 million Euros. Assuming importers in Ireland do not actively seek to procure legal wood-based products, around 11% of this trade is thought to be illegal, translating to a per capita import value of approximately €27,” according to Tom Roche, coordinator of the Irish development education charity, Just Forests.</p> <p>http://www.blog.clientearth.org/ireland-fails-to-act-on-illegal-logging/ <i>Ireland failing to act on illegal logging – 1 July 2013</i> “Despite the severe economic downturn, Ireland continues to consume a large per capita amount of timber and timber products. In 2011, €510,000,000 worth was imported, including 201,000 cubic meters of sawn timber and over 437,000 cubic meters of pulp and paper. From musical instruments to construction, Irish producers and consumers are at significant risk of buying illegal timber. [...] As things stand, the EUTR is not being enforced in Ireland. This means illegal timber can continue to be placed on the Irish market without scrutiny. Continued non-compliance by Ireland and other EU Member States could lead to a distortion in the EU timber market, undermining the efforts of legitimate timber businesses to comply with the law.”</p> <p>No information found on Ireland as a source of conflict timber.</p>		
From national CW RA	not available	country	-
<p>Conclusion on indicator 2.1: Although several sources mention importing illegal timber into Ireland, no information was found on Ireland as a source of conflict timber and the forest sector is not associated with any violent armed conflict.</p> <p>The following low risk thresholds apply: (1) The area under assessment is not a source of conflict timber ; AND (2) The country is not covered by a UN security ban on exporting timber; AND (3) The country is not covered by any other international ban on timber export; AND (4) Operators in the area under assessment are not involved in conflict timber supply/trade; AND</p>		country	low risk

Source of several reports. Search for 'racial discrimination', 'child labour', 'forced labour', 'gender equality', 'freedom of association'			
ILO Child Labour Country Dashboard: http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Regionsandcountries/lang--en/index.htm	http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Regionsandcountries/lang--en/index.htm Ireland does not feature in the ILO Child Labour Country Dashboard	country	low risk
Global March Against Child Labour: http://www.globalmarch.org/	No references to ireland regarding child labour or child trafficking.	country	low risk
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Committee on Rights of the Child: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx	http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Countries.aspx?CountryCode=IRL&Lang=EN Latest available concluding observations of the Committee on Rights of the Child on Ireland are from 2006. – Outdated information	country	-
ILO Helpdesk for Business on International Labour Standards: http://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/business-helpdesk/lang--en/index.htm	No information found on serious violations of labour rights in Ireland.	country	low risk
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx (Use the link to 'Key documents' on the left hand side. Go to "observations' and search for country.) (Refer to CW Cat. 1) Or: Right top select country click on CEDAW treaty, click on latest reporting period and select concluding observations	http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Countries.aspx?CountryCode=IRL&Lang=EN Latest available concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on Ireland are from 2005. – Outdated information.	country	-
Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/	No references found regarding Ireland and violations of labour rights	country	low risk
Child Labour Index 2014 produced by Maplecroft. http://maplecroft.com/portfolio/new-analysis/2013/10/15/child-labour-risks-increase-china-and-russia-most-progress-shown-south-america-maplecroft-index/	Ireland scores 'low risk' on the Child Labour Index 2014	country	low risk
http://www.verite.org/Commodities/Timber (useful, specific on timber)	Ireland is not mentioned on this site.	country	low risk
The ITUC Global Rights Index ranks 139 countries against 97 internationally recognised indicators to assess where workers' rights are best protected, in law and in practice. The Survey provides information on violations of the rights to freedom of association, collective bargaining and strike as defined by ILO Conventions, in particular ILO Convention Nos. 87 and 98 as well as jurisprudence developed by the ILO supervisory mechanisms. http://www.ituc-csi.org/new-ituc-global-rights-index-the?lang=en	Ireland is classified in the category 2 – “Repeated violation of rights • Score: 9-17 • Countries with a rating 2 have slightly weaker collective labour rights than those with the rating 1. Certain rights have come under the repeated attack by governments and/or companies and have undermined the struggle for better working conditions.” (p. 15)	country	low risk

<p>Google the terms '[country]' and one of following terms 'violation of labour rights', 'child labour', 'forced labour', 'slave labour', 'discrimination', 'gender gap labour', 'violation of labour union rights' 'violation of freedom of association and collective bargaining'</p>	<p>http://www.ictu.ie/globalsolidarity/workersrights/unionrights.html "In the Republic of Ireland The right of free association and the right to join a union are enshrined as fundamental rights in the Irish Constitution. However, it is unclear whether employers are legally obliged to recognise unions. If they are not, then the right of workers to be in a union could be meaningless, in the recent opinion of one Supreme Court Judge. Workers' rights to union representation in the Republic are largely based on voluntary procedures, on the grounds that legal obligations on employers might frighten off multinational investors. Employers often use this to frustrate trade unions, by failing to give workers' representatives time off or facilities for union activities. Trade unions are arguing for the law to be tightened."</p> <p>http://mrci.ie/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/A-framework-for-tackling-forced-labour-in-Ireland.pdf <i>A framework for tackling forced labour in Ireland Paper prepared by Irish Congress of Trade Unions Labour Exploitation Group and Migrant Rights Centre Ireland – June 2011</i> "Since 2006 the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland have dealt with approximately 150 cases of forced labour." (footnote 1, p. 1) "Forced labour can potentially affect all workers. Workplaces where poor standards go unchecked can degenerate in to situations of forced labour. From MRCI's experience, workers in forced labour situations mainly work in non-unionised, unregulated sectors such as private homes, agricultural, restaurant, entertainment, seafaring, care and construction sectors. People in situations of forced labour are frequently from minority or marginalised groups and often face multiple forms of discrimination in their respective societies. Gender, ethnicity and class are often key determinants in situations of forced labour." (p. 3)</p> <p>http://www.mrci.ie/our-work/forced-labour-trafficking/ Forced Labour & Trafficking Forced labour is modern-day slavery; a severe form of exploitation involving deception and coercion of workers by unscrupulous employers. It is a growing problem in Ireland and globally. Over the last 6 years MRCI has dealt with some 200 cases – which is only the tip of the iceberg. Forced labour occurs mainly in unregulated low-paid employment such as catering, domestic work, care, construction, agricultural and entertainment sectors.</p> <p>https://businesshumanrightsireland.wordpress.com/2013/07/03/irish-companies-can-now-be-prosecuted-for-forced-labour/ IRISH COMPANIES CAN NOW BE PROSECUTED FOR FORCED LABOUR July 3, 2013 "New legislation aimed at addressing forced labour in Ireland has been introduced. The Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Amendment Bill 2013 closes a loophole in the 2008 Act concerning forced labour. The definition of "labour exploitation" has been revised to explicitly include a more detailed explanation of forced labour.[...] We have already had the example of</p>	<p>country</p> <p>country</p> <p>country</p> <p>country</p>	<p>specified risk on right of free association</p> <p>low risk for forced labour</p> <p>low risk for forced labour</p> <p>low risk for forced labour</p>
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	<p>the exploitation of mushroom pickers in Ireland, and it is not inconceivable that Irish companies operating overseas might also become complicit in the use of forced labour.”</p> <p>http://www.thejournal.ie/child-trafficking-ireland-us-report-1528773-Jun2014/ <i>Child trafficking is on the increase in Ireland- June 20 2014</i> “A total of 44 potential trafficking victims were identified in Ireland in 2013, compared with 48 in 2012. Of these 44 victims, eight were subjected to forced labour and 16 were children, including 11 Irish national children who were trafficked for sexual exploitation. In 2013, a total of eight out of the 44 people had previously claimed for asylum in Ireland.”</p> <p>http://www.thejournal.ie/forced-labour-laws-700756-Dec2012/ <i>Forced labour ‘alive and well in Ireland’ Dec 4, 2012</i> “There have been 179 cases of forced labour in Ireland over the last six years, and this number is rising, according to the Migrant Rights Centre.”</p> <p>http://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/horror-irish-victims-exploited-ruthless-2869352 <i>Horror of Irish victims exploited by ruthless traffickers for forced labour 1 dec 2013</i> “A vulnerable young woman has revealed how she was exploited by a ruthless slave trade in Ireland for three years. Cindy – not her real name – has spoken out about her ordeal in the hope it will be invaluable in the fight against vile trafficking and forced labour. She was one of more than 300 people believed to be living in modern-day slavery in Ireland according to estimates by the Walk Free Foundation.”</p> <p>http://www.esri.ie/news_events/latest_press_releases/discrimination-in-ireland/index.xml <i>14/12/2012 - Analysing the Experience of Discrimination in Ireland</i> “Members of the Black Ethnic Group Report the Highest Rates of Discrimination: The Most Common Occasion for Discrimination was while Seeking Work. In 2010, 12% of adults in Ireland said that they were discriminated against in the preceding two years, according to a new report published today (Friday 14 December) by the ESRI and the Equality Authority. The highest rates of reported discrimination were in recruitment (6%) and in the workplace (5%). In services, discrimination was highest for accessing housing (3%) and using financial services such as banks and insurance services (2.5%). The lowest rates were for education (just over 1%), 'other public services' (just over 1%) and transport services (0.4%). People of Black ethnicity are almost four times more likely to report experience of discrimination than White Irish people and over five times more likely than White Irish to report serious discrimination, even after controlling for a range of other factors. They report higher rates of discrimination both in work and in many service settings.”</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/ireland_in_the_eu/impact_of_eu_on_irish_women/index_en.htm <i>The EU and Irish women</i> “European Commission statistics published in 2014 show Ireland's gender pay gap is increasing. It was 14.4% in 2012 compared with 13.9% in 2010 and 12.6% in 2009 and 2008. The average EU gender pay gap stands at 16.4%.</p>	<p>country</p> <p>country</p> <p>country</p> <p>country</p> <p>country</p>	<p>low risk for forced labour</p> <p>low risk for forced labour</p> <p>low risk for forced labour</p> <p>specified risk for discrimination of people of black ethnicity</p>
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	http://www.irishtimes.com/business/work/ireland-ranked-in-eighth-place-in-gender-gap-rankings-1.1979254 <i>Ireland ranked in eighth place in gender gap rankings, Oct 28, 2014</i> “Ireland has slipped two places in an international gender gap survey table from the World Economic Forum . The organisation’s annual survey shows Ireland in eighth place , compared to sixth place in 2013 and fifth in 2012.”	country	low risk on gender pay gap low risk on gender gap
Additional general sources	Additional specific sources		
googling 'Ireland forestry discrimination'	After googling 'Ireland forestry discrimination' no specified risk information found	country	low risk on discrimination in forestry
From national CW RA	not available	country	-
Conclusion on Indicator 2.2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social rights are covered by the relevant legislation. • Rights like freedom of association and collective bargaining are upheld. • There is evidence confirming absence of compulsory and/or forced labour. • There is evidence confirming absence of discrimination in respect of employment and/or occupation, and/or gender. Although there is a gender pay gap it is concluded that this is limited from the international perspective. There are instances of reported discrimination in the working place but these are not widespread and no specific instances found in forestry sector. • There is evidence confirming absence of child labour. • The country is signatory to the relevant ILO Conventions. • There is evidence that all groups (including women) feel adequately protected related to the rights mentioned above. • Evidences of minor violations of labour rights are limited compared internationally. The following low risk thresholds apply: (10) Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the key principles recognized in the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work (which are recognized as: freedom of association and right to collective bargaining; elimination of forced and compulsory labour; eliminations of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and effective abolition of child labour), AND the risk assessment for relevant indicators of Category 1 confirms enforcement of applicable legislation ('low risk'); [Compare the assessment for category 1] AND (12) Other available evidence do not challenge 'low risk' designation.		country	low risk
Indicator 2.3. The rights of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples are upheld. Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there Indigenous Peoples (IP), and/or Traditional Peoples (TP) present in the area under assessment? • Are the regulations included in the ILO Convention 169 and is UNDRIP enforced in the area concerned? (refer to category 1) • Is there evidence of violations of legal and customary rights of IP/TP? • Are there any conflicts of substantial magnitude [footnote 6] pertaining to the rights of Indigenous and/or Traditional Peoples and/or local communities with traditional rights? • Are there any recognized laws and/or regulations and/or processes in place to resolve conflicts of substantial magnitude pertaining to TP or IP rights and/or communities with traditional rights? 			

- What evidence can demonstrate the enforcement of the laws and regulations identified above? (refer to category 1)
- Is the conflict resolution broadly accepted by affected stakeholders as being fair and equitable?

general sources from FSC-PRO-60-002a V1-0 EN	information found and specific sources	scale of risk assessment	risk indication
ILO Core Conventions Database http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declworld.htm - ILO Convention 169	http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:102901 Ireland did not ratify Convention 169. Therefore this source does not provide information on its implementation by Belgium.	country	specified risk on ILO 169
Survival International: http://www.survivalinternational.org/	http://www.refworld.org/docid/4954ce01c.html <i>World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Ireland : Overview</i>	country	low risk
Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/	"In June 2008, the Irish Traveller Movement decided to petition the Department of Justice for official recognition as an ethnic minority."		
Amnesty International http://amnesty.org			
The Indigenous World http://www.iwgia.org/regions	No sources mention IP/TP presence in Ireland, neither the sources that give overviews, such as The Indigenous World, nor could any report or website be found mentioning or claiming IP/TP presence or a discussion or debate about such a presence.		
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples http://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/ipeoples/srindigenouspeoples/pages/sripeoplesindex.aspx			
UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx			
UN Human Rights Committee http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/CCPRIndex.aspx			
search for country Also check: UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx			
Intercontinental Cry http://intercontinentalcry.org/			
Forest Peoples Programme: www.forestpeoples.org FPP's focus is on Africa, Asia/Pacific and South and Central America.			
Society for Threatened Peoples: http://www.qfbv.de/index.php?change_lang=english			
Regional human rights courts and commissions: - Inter-American Court of Human Rights http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en - Inter-American Commission on Human Rights http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/ http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/indigenous/ - African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights			

- African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights - European Court of Human Rights			
Data provided by National Indigenous Peoples', Traditional Peoples organizations;			
Data provided by Governmental institutions in charge of Indigenous Peoples affairs;			
Data provided by National NGOs; NGO documentation of cases of IP and TP conflicts (historic or ongoing);			
National land bureau tenure records, maps, titles and registration (Google)			
Relevant census data			
- Evidence of participation in decision making; (See info on implementing ILO 169 and protests against new laws) - Evidence of IPs refusing to participate (e.g. on the basis of an unfair process, etc.); (See info on implementing ILO 169 and protests against new laws)			
National/regional records of claims on lands, negotiations in progress or concluded etc.			
Cases of IP and TP conflicts (historic or ongoing).) Data about land use conflicts, and disputes (historical / outstanding grievances and legal disputes)			
Social Responsibility Contracts (<i>Cahier des Charges</i>) established according to FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent) principles where available			
Google the terms '[country]' and one of following terms 'indigenous peoples organizations', 'traditional peoples organizations', 'land registration office', 'land office', 'indigenous peoples', 'traditional peoples', '[name of IPs]', 'indigenous peoples+conflict', 'indigenous peoples+land rights'			
Additional general sources for 2.3	Additional specific sources	scale of risk assessment	risk indication
no additional sources found			
From national CW RA	not available	country	-
Conclusion on Indicator 2.3: There are no indigenous peoples and no traditional peoples in Ireland. Therefore the following 'low risk' thresholds apply: (16) There is no evidence leading to a conclusion of presence of indigenous and/or traditional peoples in the area under assessment; AND (21) Other available evidence do not challenge 'low risk' designation.		country	low risk

Controlled wood category 3: Wood from forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities

Overview

Forest classification and landownership

Climatic, geographical and political conditions are more or less the same throughout Ireland and there is no need to divide the country into sub-regions because of the HCV risk assessment.

At the start of the 20th century, forest cover in Ireland was very low and estimated at just over 1% (125,200 hectares) in 1908. It fell even lower during the period 1914 -1918. Much of the forests were planted by estate landlords during the late 1700s and early 1800s. A state led programme of planting raised the level of forestry to circa 7% by the 1980s. Since 1981, EU and state grant aided schemes have helped increase the forested area to the present levels. As State planting wound down (not much more abandoned lands available), there was a corresponding increase in private planting, which gathered momentum through the 1980s and 1990s, with a peak reached in 2001 when more than 15,000 hectares were planted; the private afforestation rate has since fallen, amounting to around 6,000-7,000 hectares annually over the past 5 years (lit 22).

The National Forest Inventory ([NFI](#)) of Ireland (lit 31, Results 2012) conducted by the Forest Service states that total forest cover in Ireland has reached 10.5% of the total land area of the country, some 731,650 hectares. The forest estate area is classified into two forest ownership categories, Public forest at 54%; (389,360 ha) and Private forest 46% (342,290 ha). State owned includes forest/trees owned by County Councils and by Coillte, the Irish State Forest Company. Coillte manage 445,000 ha of state forest lands and are FSC certified since 2001 and PEFC certified since 2014. County Council sites are more about trees in urban areas, parks and recreational like areas, not managed for timber production, but even then they need to follow the same laws with regards to felling licenses (lit Coillte). There are no separate military forested lands in Ireland. The military may practise anywhere in normal state forests that are not protected. Private forests can be separated in 'Estates' – containing mostly mixed woodlands that have had some level of forest management for a long period, 'Farms' – newly planted plantations with an average size of 9 ha. Nearly all have been established to best practice and the new guidelines required by the Forest Service for grant aid, and 'Corporate' – a mix of both old and new plantations with a strong management emphasis on quality timber production.

Results of the most recent second NFI of 2012 show that 68.6% of the national forest estate to be conifer species (Spruce 56%, Pine 11%, also including some native species such as Yew and Scots Pine). 17.5% of the forests are classified as broadleaf and 13.9% to be categorised as mixed forest. 97.9% of the total conifer forest area is classified as non-native while 80.2% of the total broadleaf area classified as native (Oak, Ash, Birch, Hazel, Alder etc.). For the purpose of this Risk assessment the forests are separated in *Semi-natural forests* (mainly the original 1% that was left in 1908, see above) and *plantation forest*, consisting of almost everything planted after that.

The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine ([DAFM](#)) is the main authority for forestry matters which are legislated under the Forestry Acts of 1946. 1988. This is due to be very shortly replaced by the Forestry Act 2014 which recognises the social, environmental and economic values of forests in Ireland. In 1988, the [Forestry Act](#) (lit 45) was enacted to create a state owned company that was raised to manage Ireland's national forests: [Coillte](#). Ownership of all production forests and lands was transferred to the new company. Coillte is a private limited company registered under and subject to the Companies Acts 1963-86. All of the shares in the company are held by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on

behalf of the Irish State. The company employs approximately 1000 people and was established in 1988. It owns over 445,000 hectares of land, about 7% of the land cover of Ireland (lit 22).

Part of the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine (DAFM) is also the [Forest Service](#). The Forest Service is responsible for ensuring the development of forestry within Ireland in a manner and to a scale that maximises its contribution to national socio-economic well-being on a sustainable basis that is compatible with the protection of the environment. In daily practice the Forest Service is responsible for reforestation (and the related financial support tools), issuing felling licenses to private owners (lit 21).

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltach ([DAHG](#)) is responsible for the implementation of (and response to) the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). They are assisted in this by the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#).

In 1987, an estimated 20,000 hectares of State lands and forests, which had hitherto been managed primarily for amenity and wildlife conservation purposes, were transferred to the Office of Public Works now called the *National Parks and Wildlife Service* ([NPWS](#)). Nowadays the NPWS manages 76,994 ha lands including National Parks and Nature Reserves which contain a range of habitats but also broadleaved semi-natural woodlands which are among the best of the remaining native woodlands and are of high conservation value (lit Coillte). These are classified in various categories (lit 3). The NPWS is also responsible for the implementation of Natura 2000 and assignment of new sites. The following categories of protection can be found in Ireland:

Nature Reserves: State or private owned land, inland waters or foreshore areas forming the habitat of a species or community of flora or fauna of scientific interest or forming part of an ecosystem of scientific interest, which would benefit from protection measures, established under the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000. At the moment there are [16 Natural reserves](#) (lit 23).

National Parks: Almost entirely State-owned areas designated nationally with the aims of nature conservation and public recreation and appreciation. There are currently six National Parks – the Burren in Co Clare, Connemara National Park, Killarney National Park in Co Kerry, Glenveagh National Park in Co Donegal, Wicklow Mountains National Park, and Ballycory National Park in Co Mayo. At the moment there are [6 National parks](#) (lit 24).

Special Protection Areas (SPAs): Areas of conservation value for the protection of rare and vulnerable bird species, migratory bird species and their important habitats. Designated under the European Union Birds Directive. Ireland's SPA Network encompasses over 570,000 hectares of marine and terrestrial habitats. The marine areas include some of the productive intertidal zones of our bays and estuaries that provide vital food resources for several wintering wader species including Dunlin, Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit. Marine waters adjacent to the breeding seabird colonies and other important areas for seaducks, divers and grebes are also included in the network.

Species Action Plans (SAP) and [Threat Response Plans](#) in Ireland are being made for various birds (lit 7). At the moment 153 SPA sites are listed, containing 25 species listed in Annex I regularly occurring in Ireland plus regularly occurring migratory species (lit 6).

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are prime wildlife conservation areas in the country, considered to be important on a European as well as Irish level. Most SACs are in the countryside, although a few sites reach into town or city landscapes, such as Dublin Bay and Cork Harbour. Conservation [management plans](#) are available for many SACs and as additional ones are approved they will be posted (lit 5). The legal basis on which SACs are

selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive, transposed into Irish law as the 'European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) regulations 2011' (lit 36). The Directive lists certain habitats and species that must be protected within SACs. Irish habitats include raised bogs, blanket bogs, turloughs, sand dunes, machair (flat sandy plains on the north and west coasts), heaths, lakes, rivers, woodlands, estuaries and sea inlets. The 25 Irish species which must be afforded protection include Salmon, Otter, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Bottlenose Dolphin and Killarney Fern. The areas chosen as SAC in Ireland cover an area of approximately 13,500 sq. km. Roughly 53% is land, the remainder being marine or large lakes. They are separated in 430 sites containing 59 habitats in Annex I and 26 spp listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive (lit 4).

NB: SPAs and SACs collectively are known as Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 in Ireland counts for 14% of the land. All Natura 2000 sites are covered by SAC, SPA or both designations.

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs): Areas of conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage designated nationally under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000. To date in Ireland, 75 raised bogs have been given legal protection, covering some 23,000 hectares. These raised bogs are located mainly in the midlands. A further 73 blanket bogs, covering 37,000 ha, mostly in western areas are also designated as NHAs. In addition, there are 630 proposed NHAs (pNHAs), which were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. These sites are of significance for wildlife and habitats. Some of the pNHAs are tiny, such as a roosting place for rare bats in a church tower. Others are large - a woodland or a lake, for example. The pNHAs cover approximately 65,000 ha and designation will proceed on a phased basis over the coming years. The 630 sites are published on [this page](#) (see bottom of webpage) (lit 25).

Prior to statutory designation, pNHAs are subject to limited protection, in the form of:

- Agri-environmental farm planning schemes such as Rural Environment Protection Scheme and Agri Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) continue to support the objective of maintaining and enhancing the conservation status of pNHAs.
- Forest Service requirement for NPWS approval before they will pay afforestation grants on pNHA lands.
- Recognition of the ecological value of pNHAs by Planning and Licencing Authorities.
- Normal felling licenses, Natura Impact Statements (NIS) and Appropriate Assessment Procedure (AAP) procedures. See below for more information.

Wildfowl Sanctuaries: Areas over which shooting of wild birds is prohibited, established under the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000. These areas have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds are left undisturbed to rest and feed. There are [68 sanctuaries](#) in the State.

Ramsar Sites: Sites designated internationally for the conservation of wetlands, particularly those of importance to waterfowl under The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the so-called Ramsar Convention. Ireland currently has 45 sites designated as "Wetlands of International Importance" with a surface area of 66,994 hectares, all are also protected under other Irish protection classes.

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: Sites of conservation value internationally designated with the aim of integrating the interests of nature conservation, sustainable development, research and education. Biosphere Reserves are recognised by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural

Organisation). There are 2 reserves in Ireland: North Bull Island (1.008 ha) and Killarney (10.129 ha). The two are also covered under other Irish protection classes.

Biogenetic Reserves: Biogenetic Reserve is an international designation for natural habitats that are especially valuable for nature conservation in Europe. Biogenetic Reserves are designated by the Council of Europe. In the Republic of Ireland 14 Biogenetic Reserves are listed including two coastal reserves, which are Lough Hyne, Co.Cork, and Ballyteige Burrow, Co. Wexford, all are also protected as SPA and/or SAC.

Laws, regulations, international agreements and status of implementation

Ireland signed '[The Convention on Biological Diversity](#)' (CBD) in 1995 and The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht ([DAHG](#)) is responsible for its monitoring and reporting in Ireland (lit 16, 17, 18). The CBD [Strategic Plan](#) for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is followed as a guideline for implementation. CBD actions plans are made. The current action plan is running from 2011-2016 and an interim review is just published (lit 16, 17). Their [5th National Report](#) to the Convention on Biological Diversity was published in 2014 (lit 18). 7 strategic objectives, 21 targets and 102 actions are specified that aim to reduce and prevent the causes of biodiversity loss in all regions of the country (lit 16).

Ireland signed 25 international agreements of which the CBD, Birds Directive, Habitats Directive, NATURA 2000, RAMSAR, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and Cites are the most important for biodiversity (lit 19). There are no CITES (tree/wood) species occurring in Irish forests.

In Ireland the EU agreements and international conventions are translated into national laws like:

- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Irish law based on EU Habitat and Bird directive (lit 49).
- Forestry (Amendment) act 2009 and the Forestry act 2014 (still not commenced)(lit 46,47).
- Wildlife act 1976 & Amendment 2006 (lit 40).
- Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 (lit 41).
- The Planning and Development Act, 2010 (lit 42). All EU required legislation relating to the conservation of biodiversity is incorporated into the 2010 Planning & Development Act (lit 18).

In the Irish context EU designation (Natura 2000 sites, named SPA and SACs in Ireland) and national protection designations (NHA) will be used to denote areas with significant concentrations of biodiversity values. The steps required to provide legal protection to Ireland's terrestrial network of SACs and SPAs were largely completed between 2011 and 2016. A final formal designation of sites is underway, although legal protection is already in place. That means that Natura 2000 is almost completely in place.

In Ireland there are no forest ecosystems that are classified as a *Global 200 Ecoregion* (lit 86).

Forest operations and felling permits

For any landowner willing to harvest trees the 'code of Best Forest Practice' is applicable. These guidelines are aiming for the implementation of SFM within Ireland. Compliance with these publications is mandatory for all forestry activities that require prior written approval, or a license, from the Forest Service. The following should be taken into account (lit 26 for the complete document):

- National Forest Standard Forest Service.
- Code of Best Forest Practice Forest Service.
- Forestry Schemes Manual Forest Service.
- Forest and Water Quality Guidelines Forest Service.
- Forest and Archaeology Guidelines Forest Service.
- Forest Biodiversity Guidelines Forest Service.
- Forest Harvesting and Environmental Guidelines Forest Service.
- Forest Protection Guidelines Forest Service.
- Aerial Fertilisation Requirements Forest Service.
- Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements Forest Service.
- Forest and Landscape Guidelines Forest Service.
- Forest recreation in Ireland: A guide for owners and managers Forest Service (Not required).
- Native Woodland notes... Woodlands of Ireland (Not required).
- Habitat mapping Heritage Council (Not required).

Under the 1946 & 1988 Forestry Act (lit 55 & 45), landowners are required to give notice of intention to fell trees, following which Prohibition Orders are normally served. These remain in force pending the issuing of a Limited Felling Licence, which can include environmental and replanting conditions. General Felling Licences are normally granted to large estates where a management programme is in place, or for lands where scattered trees must be cleared in order to enable new planting or for silvicultural thinnings.

All felling of trees in Ireland is subject to felling licence requirements (Section 37 of the Forestry Act, 1946 state that 'it is illegal to uproot any tree over ten years old or to cut down any tree of any age (including trees which form part of a hedgerow)'). Felling licences are issued by the Forest Service, Department of Food Agriculture and the Marine. Felling licences are applied for by the forest owner, either private owner or public owner and the application is assessed by the Forest Service. As all of the High Conservation Value Forest sites in Ireland overlap with areas designated for nature protection the following procedures apply;

Extracted from "Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure Information Note" March 2012; Published by Forest Service Department of Food Agriculture and the Marine. *"Natura sites, comprising SACs and SPAs, represent a key component of the protection of rare and endangered habitats and species, both in Ireland and at a European level. Under European and national legislation, the Forest Service is required to apply an appropriate assessment procedure to applications for consent, grant approval and licensing for various forestry activities, to evaluate the project within the context of any potentially relevant SAC or SPA. This procedure involves an initial screening, and if required, an actual appropriate assessment. Initial screening is carried out to determine if there is a possibility of the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, having a significant effect on an SAC or SPA. Screening takes place as part of the normal evaluation of the application by the Forest Service, typically based on the submitted application form and maps. Screening will often conclude that there is no possibility of an impact arising, and approval may issue. In cases where the screening identifies that there is a possibility of the project having an effect on a Natura site, the applicant is required to submit a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The NIS examines the nature of the possible impact and sets out proposed mitigation measures. On receipt of this document, the Forest Service undertakes an appropriate assessment, before arriving at a decision to regarding*

consent, grant approval or licensing. This information note sets out the Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure (AAP). Appendices give guidance on compiling an NIS, and describe specific requirements under the AAP regarding afforestation and disturbance operations within SPAs designated for Hen Harrier. Other appendices may be added in the future, setting out specific requirements relating to other species and habitats” (lit 54).

Thus, as applications are made to the Forest Service for felling licences, the Forest Service may only issue such a licence where it is satisfied that the harvesting operation will have no possibility of an impact arising on the identified conservation values of the forest.

Once a license to fell is applied for, a felling Prohibition Order is issued pending an examination of the application and issuing of Felling License. There are 2 types of Felling licenses issued and an FL can have certain conditions attached.

A General Felling License (GFL) is issued to larger harvesting operations where detailed management plans are in place and for thinnings and new lands for planting. Normally a replanting requirement is included where a GFL is issued. Individual tree felling or smaller groups of trees are normally granted under Limited Felling License (LFL) for which information is required as to area or, number of trees, species, and location details with appropriate maps. The granting of an LFL may or may not include a replanting requirement.

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) can be made by a Local Planning Authority if it appears to be desirable and appropriate in the interest of amenity or the environment. A TPO can apply to a tree, trees, group of trees or woodland. The principle effect of a TPO is to prohibit the cutting down, topping, lopping or wilful destruction of trees without the planning authority’s consent. The order can also require the owner and occupier of the land subject to the order to enter into an agreement with the planning authority to ensure the proper management of the tree, trees or woodland. In 2013, 299 LFLs and 1,896 GFLs were issued by the Forest Department (lit 90).

Following the granting of a Felling License, the [Forestry Inspectorate Section](#) of the Forest Service is responsible for monitoring that timber harvesting is in compliance with the conditions of the Felling License.

In 2013, there were 100 reports of illegal felling. All the reports are investigated by the Forestry Inspectorate (FI) and a decision is made following completion of the investigation whether to proceed with a legal prosecution. It is Forest Service policy to initiate legal proceedings provided there is sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution and both State and private foresters can be prosecuted. Roughly 10% of reported cases end in prosecution. A large number of the reports usually relate to a small number or isolated trees being felled on (non- forestry) land, numbering only a few hectares in total. The felling of larger areas of forestry without a FL is less common although it has happened (typical 2ha - 4 ha). Larger areas 10ha + have occurred in the past mainly on State lands and were usually due to error (lit 90). In total illegal felling seems low in terms of hectares and is therefore a low risk to HCVs.

Products

With regards to *products* only Timber is taken into account as there are no cases, reports or proof that other products are commercially harvested or collected.

Main threats to HCVs from forest management activities

Following the 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014) (lit 18) the main threats for HCVs related to forest management is:

- Intensive and non-intensive grazing pressures from the agricultural sector.

- “Natural system modifications” relate mainly to drainage, but also burning, reclamation, dredging and sea defences.

FSC certification

Almost all state forest (440.045 ha out of 445.000, Coillte) is FSC certified. Some small sites are excluded from the certificate like sites dedicated for renewable energy such as wind, and these are excised according to the FSC regulations. But also on these sites the same forest laws are applicable. There is also an [Irish National Forest Standard](#) (not FSC) (lit 28).

High Conservation Value Forest in Ireland.

In 2008, Coillte convened a public workshop, facilitated by ProForest to formalise a definition of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) for Ireland. The Republic of Ireland had at that time yet to develop a widely accepted interpretation of what constitutes HCVF. The purpose of developing an interpretation was to ensure sites meeting the FSC definitions of HCVF could be consistently identified and managed according to the FSC Principles and Criteria. This would inform both certified forest management companies and their stakeholders as to what is required under Principle 9 in practice. The High Conservation Value Forest Toolkit, Part II was used. The outcome was published as “Defining HCVF in Ireland: Outcomes of working group convened by Coillte - 7 January 2008” (lit 1) and as such is has been taken into account in this CNRA assessment.

The CNRA analyses below is based on so called ‘source types’. A source type is a timber/NFTP source with similar geographical and/or functional characteristics with a homogenous risk designation. These are potential sources from which timber could enter the market, and end up in the supply chain of FSC-certified timber processing companies. Such source types need to be defined because risks could be different with each of them. The following source types were identified:

- State owned, plantation forests, on permanent forest lands.
- Privately owned, plantation forests, on permanent forest lands.
- State owned, plantation forests, protected forest area.
- Privately owned, plantation forest, protected forest area.
- State owned, semi-natural forest.
- Privately owned, semi-natural forest.
- State owned, semi natural forests, protected forest area.
- Privately owned, semi natural forests, protected forest area.

Each of the HCV classes mentioned below is thus assessed against these source types.

- HCV 1 - Species diversity
- HCV 2 - Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics
- HCV 3 - Ecosystems and habitats
- HCV 4 - Critical ecosystem services

- HCV 5 - Community needs
- HCV 6 - Cultural values

Experts consulted

	Name	Organization	Area of expertise (category/sub-category)
1.	Pat Neville	Coillte	HCV expert for Ireland

Risk assessment

Indicator	Sources of Information	HCV occurrence and threat assessment	Functional scale	Risk designation and determination
3.0		<p>a) Are there data available, sufficient for determination of HCV presence and distribution within the area under assessment, according to the requirements of this document?</p> <p>In Ireland there is sufficient information and data available to draw conclusions about the HCV presence and distribution within the area under assessment. See introduction text above and literature list below. With each of the HCV categories below the relevant literature is mentioned.</p> <p>b) Are there data available, sufficient for assessment of the threats to HCVs from forest management activities according to the requirements of this document?</p> <p>In Ireland there is sufficient information and data available to draw conclusions about the threats to HCVs from forest management activities. See introduction text above and literature list below. With each of the HCV categories below the relevant literature is mentioned.</p>		<p>Low risk.</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (1) Data available are sufficient for determining HCV presence within the area under assessment and (2) Data available are sufficient for assessing threats to HCVs caused by forest management activities.</p>
3.1 HCV 1	8,11,12,13, 14,18,22,25, 26,38,42,49, 54,59-62, 90. For maps see lit 59-62	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Forests in Ireland does contain HCV 1. The area under assessment contain critical temporal, seasonal, or ephemeral habitats/resources such as sites for roosting, breeding, hibernation, shelter and migration as well as red-list species. All protected species are included in the Nature 2000 network of protected areas, and Natura 2000 is converted in SPAs and SACs in Ireland. Thus HCV 1 are to be covered by SPAs and SACs in the country.</p>	Country (all regions, forest types, land classes and ownership).	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (7) HCV 1 is identified and its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats from management activities.</p>

		<p>HCV 1 occurrence and threat assessment for Ireland consist of 7 different <u>sub</u>-assessments. First of all we assess the implementation of EU regulations into the country specific laws. After that we check the daily practise in the field with felling/harvesting licenses. We also judge if the law enforcement is up to a satisfactory level and the situation with regards to invasive species. By looking at the biodiversity level improvements over the last years we will decide if all implemented regulations and enforcement actually result in increased biodiversity levels. We will also take current FSC certification into account and judge if this makes a difference in the country. And in a conclusion we decide if all source types have to be analyses separately or not.</p> <p>Implementation of EU Legislation, country specific laws and habitat removal and fragmentation.</p> <p>The steps required to provide legal protection to Ireland’s terrestrial network of SACs and SPAs were largely completed between 2011 and 2016. A final formal designation of sites is underway, although legal protection is already in place (lit 11, 12, 14, 18). That means that Natura 2000 is almost completely in place, and therefore protected species are recognized and protected adequately. This also means that further habitat removal and fragmentation has stopped.</p> <p>Evidence for this we can find in the EU court cases against Ireland. In the past there was one court case between the EU and Ireland related to species: ‘Judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in Case C 418/04 Commission v Ireland “The Birds Case”. Still open in 2015. Because of this case, and since 2007, many laws are adapted and changed to be able to respond to this problem.</p> <p>The court case was opened because of EU complains. Ireland responded to that in several ways. The complains and their current status (lit 38):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate Number and size of areas classified as SPAs, contrary to Article 4 (1) and (2) of the Birds Directive. Status: In the meantime this is solved because all SPAs and SACs are identified and some are made bigger as suggested. The reason that things are taking time are the public appeals to site designations. In other words, landowners, neighbours etc do not agree that their land will be designated under one of the protection classes. At the moment there are still 170 appeals discussed. 		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to apply the first sentence of Article 4(4) of the Birds Directive to the areas that should have been classified as SPAs. Status; solved by implementing 2 new laws: the ‘European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011’ and the ‘Planning and Development Act, 2010 (lit 42)’. These laws are directly based on EU Habitat and Bird directive (lit 49). Besides that the ‘Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure Information Note’ (lit 54) was developed. This note explains how the Forest Service will prove that any harvesting operation will have no possibility of an impact arising on the identified conservation values of the forest. • Failure to Ireland had failed to transpose and apply obligations to protect birds in the wider countryside as required by Article 4(4) of the Birds Directive, Status: Solved by adjusting many different subsidy schemes in place for farmers and landowners for protection, compensation etc. • Inadequate transposition and application of Article 6(2)(4) of the Habitats Directive i.e. to ensure that SPAs were not subject to deterioration, to ensure that plans or projects which could have an adverse impact on SPAs were subject to appropriate assessment in the decision making process. Status; solved by implementing 2 new laws as mentioned above and changing some rules about buffer zones around SPAs. • Failure to transpose Article 10 of the Birds Directive. Obligation on Minister to encourage research. Status: solved by implementing the new Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations, 2011. <p>There is no further evidence found (2016) that there are still problems with the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive and this is also reported to the EU in various Natura 2000 reports (lit 11,12,13,14). This case has been closed officially by the European Commission on 27th May 2016 (Coillte).</p> <p>Besides all this all landowners and land users, with land included in a Natura 2000 site (NHA, SAC or SPA), known to the National Parks & Wildlife Service, will be formally notified in writing. They will be provided with a map, or portion of the relevant map, of the particular site, a description of the site and a list of potentially harmful activities that should not be undertaken without prior consent of the Minister/the Forest Service (lit 11,12 and NPWS FAQ page about Nature 2000).</p>		
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		<p>In addition to the NHAs, there are 630 proposed NHAs (pNHAs), which were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. See the overview text for more information. The regulations and actions currently in place seems to be enough to safeguard any HCVs occurring in these 630 sites. And besides this many of them are not forest related. The possibility that any HCV is harmed because of forest activities or felling trees seems to be <i>very small</i>. All NHA, SAC or SPA sites are also easily accessible and identifiable by online map systems (lit 59-62).</p> <p>Daily practice in the field and felling licenses For any landowner willing to harvest trees the ‘code of Best Forest Practice’ is applicable. These guidelines are aiming for the implementation of SFM within Ireland. Compliance with these publications is <u>mandatory</u> for all forestry activities that require prior written approval, or a license, from the Forest Service (lit 26). In all cases the Felling licenses tools are in place, for state as well as private owners. See the overview text for more details. Furthermore the <u>Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure (AAP)</u> are designed to proof that any harvesting operation will have no possibility of an impact arising on the identified conservation values of the forest (lit 54). Thus it seems that all systems are in place to safeguard HCVs.</p> <p>Law enforcement and governance Following the granting of a Felling License, the <u>Forestry Inspectorate Section</u> of the Forest Service is responsible for monitoring that timber harvesting is in compliance with the conditions of the Felling License. Based on reports it seems that the number of cases with regards to illegal harvesting are minimal (lit 90).</p> <p>Alien/invasive species Just like in most other EU countries invasive species were introduction in the past. Because Ireland signed up for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) the country implemented many new regulations about invasive species and took action to avoid further spreading and regulate the import of new species. There is now even a <u>special governmental website</u> where knowledge is combined.</p>		
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		<p>Biodiversity level increase?</p> <p>By looking at the biodiversity level improvements over the last years we will decide if all implemented regulations and enforcement actually result in increased biodiversity levels and that further habitat removal and fragmentation has been stopped. We realize that biodiversity levels only increase after some time, thus conclusions based on this assessment will only act as guidance.</p> <p>In June 2013, Ireland submitted the second assessment of conservation status for 58 habitats and <u>61 species</u> in their Nature 2000 report 'the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (2013)' (lit 11). This report gives an update of trends with all habitats and species based on current protection instruments. The document itself is a proper way to assess the level of success of the implemented conservation measures since 2007 (when a first report was submitted to the EU). For the purpose of this risk assessment we could not take all 61 species into account. Therefore we selected a few key-indicator species for woodland habitats. These were based on red lists for Ireland (lit 8) where red-list species are connected to (woodland) habitats. The species pre-selected are then searched for in lit 11, mentioned above. By doing so we take a close look at endangered species from forest habitats that could be threatened by forest management practises.</p> <p>In lit 11 each of these species are outlines and their current status is presented. Between brackets the page number in lit 11 and the final conclusion of the status in 2013 (last reporting):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killarney Fern (72). Status: Killarney fern is potentially threatened by a variety of activities and impacts, either directly by loss of habitat, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses. However there is no evidence of significant impact from pressures, and the Overall Status is assessed as <i>Favourable</i>. • Lycopodium group (79). Status: The four species in this group are all clubmosses, low-growing, primitive plants with branching stems and undivided leaves. The species within each group occur in many widespread habitats, the condition of these habitats is considered to be poor due to peat extraction, drainage, eutrophication and ecologically unsuitable grazing. Therefore the Overall Status is assessed as <i>Inadequate</i> with no change from the 2007 assessment. 		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine Marten (109). Status: There is ample habitat available across the country to allow the pine marten to continue its spread. While some threats have been identified, none of them are considered sufficiently serious to undermine the continued recovery of the species. It has greatly increased its range in recent decades and although its population is still low, it is expanding. The expansion is largely attributed to the significant increase in afforestation and the legal protection afforded the species since 1976 under the Wildlife Acts. The Overall Status is assessed as <i>Favourable</i>. • Natterer's bat (102). Status: Woodland habitats and river corridors appear to be favoured for foraging. The Natterer's bat has a disjunct distribution in Ireland, but its range and population are in good condition and the area of suitable habitat appears to be increasing. Woodland management and the renovation of old buildings and bridges have been identified as potential concerns. The Overall Status is however assessed as <i>Favourable</i>. <p>FSC certification The scale of FSC forest certification in a country has an impact on species protection in a country. If a substantial part of the forest in a country is already certified this guarantees a certain protection level. Almost all state forest (440.045 ha out of 445.000, Coillte lit 22) is FSC certified and thus there is a low risk with state forest lands. The small parts that are not included in the certificate are managed according to the same forest laws, but timber is sold without FSC.</p> <p>Applicable to all source types? Laws and regulations in Ireland are not related to current land-use or legal land classifications. All laws and regulations are relevant for any tree, on any land, from any type of owner, in any type of forest. The law is not only talking about forests, but also about trees. Any tree (even when it's only one) cannot be felled without a Forest Service license. Law enforcement by the Forestry Inspectorate Section is the same for all owners and forest types. We found no further evidence that law enforcement was insufficient. That means that we do need to make a distinction between private or state owners. It also doesn't matter if we analyse the situation in production or protected forests, nor in plantations or semi natural forests. This means that we draw a conclusion for all source types at once.</p>		
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		<p><i>Based on the above sub-assessments we conclude that the threat, caused by forest management practises, on habitat removal and fragmentation and biodiversity decrease is limited. Ireland does comply with the Natura 2000 network and throughout this any HCV 1 has a protected status. Law enforcement is in place, as well as a system with felling licenses and permits that take HCV into account. The spreading of invasive species is under control, regulated and managed. Biodiversity levels on species level show a mixed result (some species increase, others not), but nature take time to recover.</i></p> <p><i>For HCV 1, all of Ireland is considered low risk.</i></p>		
3.2 HCV 2	1,18,20, 83,84	<p>There are no forest ecosystems under forest management in Ireland that meet the definition for large, landscape-level ecosystems or ecosystem mosaics that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance (lit 18, 83, 84).</p> <p>It was decided that this type of HCV is not present in Ireland. Indeed it was thought to be extremely rare in Europe, with only forests such as Bialowieza in Poland, being in this category. <i>Therefore it is concluded this category is low risk in the Irish context.</i></p>	Country (all regions, forest types, land classes and ownership).	<p>Low Risk</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (9) There is no HCV 2 identified and its occurrence is unlikely in the area under assessment.</p>
3.3 HCV 3	1,11,12,13, 14,18,27, 46,49 For maps see lit 59-62.	<p>Forests in Ireland does contain HCV 3. There are national systematized ecosystems that are considered HCV 3. Such ecosystems are included in the Nature 2000 network of protected areas, and Natura 2000 is converted in SPAs and SACs in Ireland. Thus HCV 3 are to be covered by SPAs and SACs in the country.</p> <p>HCV 3 occurrence and threat assessment for Ireland consist of 5 different sub-assessments. First of all we assess the implementation of EU regulations into the country specific laws and the CBD status. After that we check the daily practise in the field with felling/harvesting licenses. We also judge if the law enforcement is up to a satisfactory. By looking at the improvements of ecosystems over the last years we will decide if all implemented regulations and enforcement actually result in increased levels. And in a conclusion we decide if all source types have to be analyses separately or not.</p> <p>Implementation of EU Legislation (nature 2000) and country specific laws</p>	Country (all regions, forest types, land classes and ownership).	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (15) HCV 3 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities.</p>

	<p>The steps required to provide legal protection to Ireland’s terrestrial network of SACs and SPAs were largely completed between 2011 and 2016. A final formal designation of sites is underway, although legal protection is already in place (lit 11, 12, 14, 18). That means that Natura 2000 is almost completely in place, and therefore priority ecosystems and habitats are recognized and protected adequately.</p> <p>In the past there was one court case between the EU and Ireland related to habitats: ‘Judgement of the European Court of Justice in case C-183/05, Failure of a Member State to fulfil obligations - Directive 92/43/EEC - Articles 12(1) and (2), 13(1)(b) and 16 - Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora - Protection of species. 2007 case (lit 39).’ Because of this case, and since 2007, many laws are adapted and changed to be able to respond to this problem. More in particular the ‘European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011’. This law is directly based on EU Habitat and Bird directive (lit 49). There is no further evidence found (2016) that there are still problems with the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive and this is also reported to the EU in various Natura 2000 reports (lit 11,12,13,14).</p> <p>Besides all this all landowners and land users, with land included in a Natura 2000 site (NHA, SAC or SPA), known to the National Parks & Wildlife Service, will be formally notified in writing. They will be provided with a map, or portion of the relevant map, of the particular site, a description of the site and a list of potentially harmful activities that should not be undertaken without prior consent of the Minister/the Forest Service (lit 11,12 and NPWS FAQ page about Nature 2000). All NHA, SAC or SPA sites are also easily accessible and identifiable by online map systems (lit 59-62).</p> <p>In 2006 to 2009 Coillte secured EU LIFE Nature funding and undertook to restore 535ha of priority woodlands habitat across nine forest sites in Ireland, including bog woodland, yew woodland, woodland associated with limestone pavement and alluvial woodland.</p> <p>Aichi targets in the area under assessment? Ireland signed up for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 5th CBD report (2014) show the Aichi targets and results this far (lit 18). There are 5 strategic goals, 21 targets and 102 actions identified in 2011. In general 23% is implemented, 66% has the status ‘in progress’ and 11%</p>		
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	<p>need 'further actions'. This was the status in 2014, no further reports are available. The CBD report confirms what we have seen in other sources; Ireland is underway and making improvements, but is not ready yet. The status of the country can be compared with most other EU countries in this respect.</p> <p>Daily practice in the field, felling licenses and law enforcement and governance See under HCV 1. The same is applicable for HCV 3</p> <p>Identified ecosystems and their status. By looking at the habitat level improvements over the last years we will decide if all implemented regulations and enforcement actually result in increased habitat levels. We realize that such levels only increase after some time, thus conclusions based on this assessment will only act as guidance.</p> <p>In Ireland there are 59 Annex I habitats, 16 of which are or can be priority habitats. There are 6 Priority <u>forest/scrub</u> habitats recognised under the EU Habitats Directive (lit 27, 46).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak-birch-holly woodland (91A0) • Yew woodland (91J0) • Wet pedunculated oak-ash (91E0) • Bog woodland (91D0) • Scrub (5130) • Dune scrub and woodland (2160) <p>Ireland is using a somewhat different list to identify these habitats in their reporting to the EU (lit 11). In lit 11 each of these habitats is outlined and their current status is presented. Between brackets the page number in lit 11 and the final conclusion of the status in 2013 (last reporting):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old oak woodlands (page 66). Status: This habitat has suffered considerable historic losses and is highly fragmented. Non-native and invasive species, especially rhododendron and beech, and overgrazing, particularly by deer, are regarded as the main pressures impacting this habitat. The Overall Status is assessed as Bad due to these ongoing pressures and highly fragmented nature of this habitat. There have been national efforts to remove non-native and invasive 		
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		<p>plant species. Some substantial areas have been rehabilitated, and this is the main reason for the <i>improving</i> trend reported since the 2007 (earlier report) assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bog woodland (67). Status: The Overall Status is assessed as <i>Favourable</i> due to a change in interpretation of the definition of this habitat and also due to ongoing expansions. • Residual alluvial forests (68). Status: This habitat has suffered considerable historic losses and is highly fragmented. Non-native and invasive species especially sycamore and beech, and problematic native species such as bramble and common nettle (a consequence of undergrazing) are regarded as the main pressures impacting this habitat. The Overall Status is assessed as Bad due to these ongoing pressures and highly fragmented nature of this habitat. There have been national efforts to remove non-native and invasive plant species reinstate correct hydrological regimes and generally to improve the conservation status of alluvial woodlands. Some substantial areas have been rehabilitated, and this is the main reason for the <i>improving trend</i> (still bad, but improving). • Taxus baccata woods (69). Status: Although there is no evidence of decline since the Directive came into force, the current area is not considered adequate to ensure the long term survival of the habitat. The quality of the existing Yew Woodlands is still poor due to overgrazing, lack of regeneration and invasive species. As efforts are being undertaken to restore potential areas where the habitat could develop and to address the pressures listed the Overall Status is bad but improving. There has been a <i>genuine improvement</i> since the 2007 (earlier report) assessment. <p>Applicable to all source types? Laws and regulations in Ireland are not related to current land-use or legal land classifications. All laws and regulations are relevant for any tree, on any land, from any type of owner, in any type of forest. The law is not only talking about forests, but also about trees. Any tree (even when it's only one) cannot be felled without a Forest Service license. Law enforcement by the Forestry Inspectorate Section is the same for all owners and forest types. We found no further evidence that law enforcement was insufficient. That means that we do need to make a distinction between private or state owners. It also doesn't matter if we analyse the situation in production or</p>		
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		<p>protected forests, nor in plantations or semi natural forests. This means that we draw a conclusion for all source types at once</p> <p><i>Based on the above sub-assessments we conclude that the threat, caused by forest management practises, on HCV 3 is negligible. There is a proper national protection scheme implemented (SPA's and SAC's). Ireland does comply with the Natura 2000 network and throughout this any HCV 3 has a protected status. Law enforcement is in place, as well as a system with felling licenses and permits that take HCV into account. Ecosystem improvements show a mixed result (some systems improve, others less), but nature take time to recover.</i></p> <p><i>Based on the above sub-assessments we conclude that, for HCV 3, all of Ireland is considered low risk.</i></p>		
3.4 HCV 4	1,20,61,70	<p>Under HCV 4 we should assess if there are forests present and classified as important for erosion control, preventing of flooding, barriers from destructive fire and clean water catchments. We also assess if forest management activities are threatening these areas.</p> <p>In Ireland forests are <u>not</u> categorized by the 'functions' as mentioned above.</p> <p>A study conducted in 2015 proposed to define a Functional Land Management approach in Ireland. This approach categorises the varied ecosystem services provided by any soil (or forest) into five functions: primary production; water purification and regulation; carbon storage and regulation; provision of a habitat for biodiversity; and cycling of nutrients. This approach has not yet been selected for further implementation and thus cannot be used (lit 29).</p> <p>Instead Ireland's National Forestry Programme 2014-2020 has identified four key needs for Ireland's forestry sector. These are (1) permanently increasing Ireland's forest cover, (2) increasing and sustaining forest based biomass production to meet renewable energy targets, (3) supporting forest holders in actively managing their plantations and (4) optimising the environmental and social benefits of new and existing forests (lit 30).</p>	Country (all regions, forest types, land classes and ownership).	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (21) HCV 4 is identified and its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities.</p>

	<p>This means that we cannot judge <i>officially</i> if there are forests present and classified as important for erosion control, preventing of flooding, barriers from destructive fire and clean water catchments. Thus we have to assess this in a more general way, one by one.</p> <p>Forests acting as protection against flooding. Officially there are no special forests classified as important for the protection of flooding. Nevertheless we need to assess if there is a potential problem with flooding and if there is a risk of forest management contributing to this problem.</p> <p>In principle not many flooding occur in forest areas in Ireland, it is mainly a problem in coastal areas or agricultural areas with bigger rivers. Nevertheless it can occur, being it on a small scale. Therefore a National Catchment-Based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme is under way to assess the existing flood risk of inland watercourses and coastlines in Ireland. The CFRAM Programme co-ordinated by the Office of Public Works (OPW) is a programme where active participation and consultation with local communities should lead to better outcomes to tackle flooding while minimising impacts on the wider environment. The programme should link work between directives, for example between the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive, in order to achieve the co-ordinated protection of water resources. The objectives of the CFRAM programme are to identify and map the existing and potential future flood hazard and flood risk in the communities at risk, to identify viable structural and non-structural options and measures for the effective and sustainable management of that flood risk and to prepare a series of flood risk management plans that set out the policies, strategies, measures and actions that should be pursued by the relevant bodies. The CFRAM programme covers the whole of the country, divided into seven large areas called River Basin Districts. Each River Basin District is then divided into a number of units of management, and one flood risk management plan will be prepared for each unit. Draft flood risk management plans will be accompanied by strategic environmental reports, which will document the strategic environmental assessment process. A Natura impact statement will also accompany the draft flood risk management plans to set out the findings of the Appropriate Assessment in relation to the impacts of the plans on Natura 2000 sites. The OPW has commenced consultation on the draft flood risk management plans for units of management during 2016. When the flood</p>		
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	<p>risk management plans are available they will form a set of additional forest management regulations for forests that are in 'flood-risk' areas (lit 30).</p> <p>Besides this any forest manager has to comply with the Forest and Water Guidelines that were drawn up by the Forest Service in 2000, to provide a comprehensive set of water protection guidelines on Water, Forest Harvesting and Aerial Fertilisation based on the national Best Forest Practice (lit 22). This means that forest management cannot play an important role in flooding because any management plan or felling license will be assessed against a strict set of regulations.</p> <p>With regards to the presence of forests acting as protection against flooding, and if these are potentially threatened by forest management activities, the conclusion is that their occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities.</p> <p>Forests acting as protection against erosion. Officially there are no special forests classified as important for the protection of erosion. Nevertheless we need to assess if there is a potential problem with erosion and if there is a risk of forest management contributing to this problem. In Ireland only coastal erosion and soil erosion in agricultural areas are major issues. There is no further evidence that forests play a major role in any erosion protection in Ireland. There is no danger that any forest management will contribute to any further coastal and soil erosion (lit 11 and 29).</p> <p>Forests acting as barriers for destructive fire. Officially there are no special forests classified as acting as barriers for destructive fire. Nevertheless we need to assess if there is a potential problem with forest fires and if there is a risk of forest management contributing to this problem.</p> <p>Ireland is not experiencing large scale devastating forest fires that are common in drier regions. The mild moist climate with rainfall throughout the year ensures that prolonged droughts are a very rare. Approximately 450 ha of forest are lost to fire each year in the period from February to</p>		
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		<p>September. A number of measures are taken by foresters to prevent fire damage in forests including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fires plans (obligatory). These are contingency plans in the event of an outbreak. • Fire Weather Index. Assesses the fire risk in an area for five days ahead. • Fire lines. Creating vegetation free line of approx. 5-6 metres in width around the outer edge of a plantation to prevent the entry of ground fires. • Water reservoirs. Locating reservoirs at strategic points in larger forests to supply water when no suitable local sources are available. <p>The obligatory fire plans and the guidelines in the national Best Forest Practice are forcing any forest owner to think about the protection against fire. Besides this the annual amount of forests lost to forest fires is negligible. There are no special forests classified and acting as barriers for destructive fire, nor is there any need to appoint such forests. Thus there is no danger that any forest management will contribute to any further increase of forest fires.</p> <p>Forests acting as clean drinking water catchments and protection of water quality.</p> <p>Officially there are no special forests classified as acting as clean drinking water catchments and protection of water quality. Nevertheless we need to assess if there is a potential problem with water catchment and quality and if there is a risk of forest management contributing to this problem.</p> <p>For this assessment we assume that all forests in Ireland can act as a source of clean drinking water (as a water catchment area).</p> <p>Ireland has one of the highest water availability levels in Europe. The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for all drinking water protection in Ireland (lit 70). All sites are well marked on digital and online maps (lit 61). These sites can occur in forest areas as well. From 1st January 2014 Irish Water is responsible for the production, distribution and monitoring of drinking water from over 973 public water supplies. They act according to the new EU drinking water act (2014).</p>		
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	<p>In a study the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted in 2015 it was found that while Ireland's waters might be among the best in Europe, they are still a long way from meeting the full legal requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, against which water quality is measured. Water quality improvements are required at approximately 50% of rivers, lakes and estuaries that are impacted by pollution or other pressures. The two main causes of pollution in rivers are agriculture and municipal sources, accounting for 53% and 34% of cases, respectively. The influence of forests and forests management on water pollution is negligible (lit 22 and 30).</p> <p>Following the introduction of the Forestry and Water Guidelines the Forest Service now consults with the Regional Fisheries Boards and Local Authorities on whether or not to proceed with new plantations in areas where there is a perceived risk of acidification. Decisions are made on the basis of criteria such as the importance of the aquatic zone for salmonids, the amount of existing forests in the catchment, the base geology and water chemistry. Such procedures will ensure that acidification due to forestry should not be an issue in these areas in the future.</p> <p>The Forest and Fisheries Guidelines were drawn up by the Forest Service in 2000, to provide a comprehensive set of water protection guidelines on Water, Forest Harvesting and Aerial Fertilisation based on national and international Best Forest Practice.</p> <p>Key protection measures outlined in the guidelines provide for the use of buffer zones surrounding water courses (to minimise and avoid nutrient and sediment runoff), brush mats (to protect the soil and avoid sediment runoff) and proper planning of timber extraction routes, including impacts on site drainage systems and use of temporary bridge crossings (to minimise impacts on watercourses). Finally, on highly sensitive sites, forest operations are confined to the drier spring/summer/autumn months and immediately suspended after periods of particularly wet weather. Water testing is carried out on all high impact operations before during and after operations on sensitive sites and available to the water protection agencies, such as the Regional Fisheries Boards and Local Authorities when requested (lit 22).</p> <p>With regards to the presence of forests acting as a source for clean drinking water, and if these are potentially threatened by forest management activities, the conclusion is that their occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats</p>		
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		<p>caused by management activities. We found no further evidence or data that prove otherwise.</p> <p><i>Based on the above sub-assessments we conclude that, for HCV 4, all of Ireland is considered low risk.</i></p>		
3.5 HCV 5	90	<p>This HCV does not appear to occur in the Irish context. No forest areas were identified that are fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities.</p> <p>In some cases Irish forest areas surround streams that provide water supplies to individual houses. This is sometimes found on the Coillte estates. These forest areas were not considered to be HCVF, as they are (lit; discussion with expert Coillte):</p> <p>a) very small scale and localised b) identified and protected as part of normal operational management</p> <p><i>There are no bigger or substantial cases to be found in Ireland where this seems to be a problem or risk. See also the CNRA cat 2 assessment (lit 90) where risks are also identified as low. For HCV 5, all of Ireland is considered low risk.</i></p>	Country (all regions, forest types, land classes and ownership).	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (23) There is no HCV 5 identified and its occurrence is unlikely in the area under assessment.</p>
3.6 HCV 6	1,20,22, 53,66	<p>HCV 6 is present in the area under assessment and all significant cultural features created intentionally by humans are identified.</p> <p>There are 138,800 archaeological monuments registered as cultural heritage sites and features in Ireland, with some of these sites found in forest areas. The National Monuments Service is responsible for all cultural heritage sites. They act according to the National monuments act, 1930 (lit 53). They maintain a list and a website with a map for public access (lit 66). Forest managers like Coillte have all archaeological features marked and mapped and thus these are already protected during normal forestry operations (according to all related laws). Any land owner that wishes to harvest trees requires an archaeological management plan (besides the normal felling licenses issued by the Forest Service) to accompany any felling planned near to an archaeological monument, and often requires an archaeologist to be present in the forest during the operations to monitor the works (lit 22). There is no evidence found that archaeological monuments are damaged or destroyed by forest activities (and also not by any other activity).</p>	Country (all regions, forest types, land classes and ownership).	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The following thresholds are met: (29) HCV 6 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities.</p>

		<p>All protected sites are considered as irreplaceable and they are strictly protected. Cultural heritage sites can be ancient graves and burial mounds, but may also include relicts of early settlements, mass rocks, old bridges and roads, stone walls, etc. There are also areas with landscapes of national cultural significance. Examples of these include early industrial areas with dams, mill ponds etc.</p> <p>In Ireland the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is responsible for all UNESCO matters and there is a special website maintained.</p> <p>Examples of cultural sites found in forests (such as archaeological sites, monuments etc) are rarely considered critical to local community's traditional cultural identity. But nevertheless these sites are important.</p> <p>There are no economic incentives that would lead to threats to HCV 6 by forest management activities. The current system of protection is robust enough and no evidence is found that cultural values and archaeological monuments are damaged or destroyed.</p> <p><i>For HCV 6, all of Ireland is considered low risk.</i></p>		
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Recommended control measures

Indicator	Recommended control measures
3.0	N/A
3.1 HCV 1	N/A
3.2 HCV 2	N/A
3.3 HCV 3	N/A
3.4 HCV 4	N/A
3.5 HCV 5	N/A
3.6 HCV 6	N/A

Information sources

No.	Source of information	Relevant HCV category and indicator
	Ireland specific	
1	Defining HCVF in Ireland, 2008, Outcomes of working group convened by Coillte 2008 Received from national expert.	All
2	A Guide to Habitats in Ireland, 2000, Guide to all the habitat types of Ireland written by Julie Fossitt http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/biodiversity-inventory/habitats/	3
3	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Management and conservation in general. http://www.npws.ie/	1&3
4	National Parks & Wildlife Service, List of all Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)(see bottom of web-page) http://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac	1&3
5	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Management plans for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) http://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-planning/available-plans	1&3
6	National Parks & Wildlife Service, List of all Special Protection Areas (SPA)(see bottom of web-page) http://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa	1&3
7	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Species Action Plans (SAP) and Threat Response Plans in Ireland http://www.npws.ie/publications/species-action-plans	1&3
8	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Red list for Ireland. Includes details and conservation status plus information on threats to rare threatened and endangered species in Ireland http://www.npws.ie/publications/red-lists	1&3
9	Birdwatch Ireland, Details of the birds of Ireland of conservation concern www.birdwatch.ie	1&3
10	Irish peatland conservation council, Details of the peatlands of Ireland of conservation concern http://www.ipcc.ie/	1&3
11	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Nature 2000. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (2013). Status of habitats and species of conservation concern in Ireland. Article 17 report for Ireland gives trends on conservation status of rare threatened and endangered species. http://www.npws.ie/article-17-reports-0	1&3
12	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Natura 2000 status and summary presentation 2014 https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/sustainableenvironmentresearchplanningworkshop2013/Natural%20Capital%20-%20NPWS%20Presentation.pdf	1&3
13	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Natura 2000 Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) to the EU, 2014 http://www.npws.ie/news/prioritised-action-framework-launch	1&3
14	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Natura 2000 National Summary of the Birds Directive Report. Article 12 report for Ireland, bird species http://www.npws.ie/status-and-trends-ireland%E2%80%99s-bird-species-%E2%80%93-article-12-reporting	1&3

15	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Irish Wildlife Manuals. Includes details and conservation status plus information on threats to rare threatened and endangered species in Ireland http://www.npws.ie/publications/irish-wildlife-manuals	1&3
16	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, ACTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2016. Ireland's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreements (Ireland's Second National Biodiversity Plan) http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Biodiversity%20Plan%20text%20English.pdf	1&3
17	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, ACTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2016. Interim review http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Biodiversity_Plan_Interim_Review_2011-2016.pdf	1&3
18	National Biodiversity Data Centre, 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014) http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/downloads/national-reports/	1&3
19	IFA/ Irish Forest Certification Initiative (IFCI), FSC national standard annexes. IFCI doesn't exist anymore. But special attention to the Annexes with red lists, laws, EU signatures etc http://www.ifa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/FSC-Ireland-National-Forest-Management-Standard-Annexes-DRAFT.pdf	1&3
20	IFA/ Irish Forest Certification Initiative (IFCI), FSC national standard. http://www.ifa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/FSC-Ireland-National-Forest-Management-Standard-DRAFT.pdf	1&3
21	Ireland Forest Service, General introduction page https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/	all
22	Coillte, State owned forest company, managing all state forests http://www.coillte.ie/coillteforest/policies/expanding_the_forest_estate/#	all
23	National Parks & Wildlife Service, List of all Natural Reserves http://www.npws.ie/nature-reserves	1&3
24	National Parks & Wildlife Service, List of all National parks http://www.npws.ie/national-parks	1&3
25	National Parks & Wildlife Service, List of all National Heritage Sites, including pNHAs http://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/nha	1&3
26	Ireland Forest Service, Code of Best Forest Practice Ireland http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publications/codeofbestforestpractice/	1&3
27	National Biodiversity Data Centre, Info about habitats in Ireland http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/biodiversity-inventory/habitats	1&3
28	DAFM; Forest Service, Irish National Forest Standard https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publications/	all
29	Schulte. Making the Most of Our Land: Managing Soil Functions from Local to Continental Scale. 2016 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/287966287_Making_the_Most_of_Our_Land_Managing_Soil_Functions_from_Local_to_Continental_Scale	4
30	EPA. Ireland's Environment. An Assessment. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2016. http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/indicators/SoE_Report_2016.pdf	4
	Statistics	
31	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, National Forest Inventory of Ireland 2012 http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/nfi/nfisecondcycle2012/nationalforestinventoryresultsdata2012/	

	Laws, regulation and policies	
36	S.I. No. 477/2011 - European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 of Ireland, Outlines protective measures for rare species and habitats including details of appropriate assessment procedures http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2011/si/477/made/en/print	1&3
37	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure Information note. Outlines protective measures for habitats and species during forest operations https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/grantandpremiumschemes/schemecirculars/ForestServiceAppropriateAssessmentProcedureInfoNote140312.pdf	all
38	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in Case C 418/04 Commission v Ireland "The Birds Case" Still open in 2015. http://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/Birds%20Case%20PoM%20%28July%202015%29.pdf	1&3
39	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Judgement of the European Court of Justice in case C-183/05, Failure of a Member State to fulfil obligations - Directive 92/43/EEC - Articles 12(1) and (2), 13(1)(b) and 16 - Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora - Protection of species. 2007 case. http://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?language=en&num=c-183/05	1&3
40	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Wildlife act 1976 & Amendment 2006 http://www.npws.ie/irish-law	all
41	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 http://www.npws.ie/irish-law	all
42	National Parks & Wildlife Service, The Planning and Development Act, 2010 http://www.npws.ie/irish-law	all
43	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Ireland and Cites http://www.npws.ie/legislation/cites	all
44	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), Forestry and the law, introduction and starting point https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/forestryandthelaw/	all
45	DAFM; Forest Service, Forestry act 1988 http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1988/act/26/enacted/en/html	all
46	DAFM; Forest Service, Forestry (Amendment) act 2009 http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2009/act/40/enacted/en/print	all
47	DAFM; Forest Service, Forestry act 2014 (still not commenced) http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2014/act/31/enacted/en/html	all
48	DAFM; Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1992/act/7/enacted/en/html	all
49	DAFM; Forest Service, European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Irish law based on EU Habitat and Bird directive. http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2011/si/477/made/en/print	all
50	DAFM; Forest Service, Tree felling procedure and forms https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/treefelling/treefelling/	all
51	Public Policy Ireland, article, About Coillte and managing the state forest	all

	http://www.publicpolicy.ie/coilltes-timber-harvesting-rights-should-not-be-sold/	
52	Irish Timber Growers Association, Forestry yearbook 2016 http://www.forestryyearbook.ie/	all
53	National Monuments Service, National monuments act, 1930 http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1930/act/2/enacted/en/html	6
54	DAFM; Forest Service, Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure Information Note, 2012 https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/grantandpremiumschemes/schemecirculars/ForestServiceAppropriateAssessmentProcedureInfoNote140312.pdf	all
55	DAFM; Forest Service, Forestry act 1946 http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1946/act/13/enacted/en/print	all
	Maps	
59	National Parks & Wildlife Service, For all maps and data sets http://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data	all
60	National Parks & Wildlife Service, For all maps on county level with SPA, SAC and NHAs http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/	all
61	Environmental Protection Agency, Various env. Maps offering many opportunities to show data http://gis.epa.ie/SeeMaps	all
62	Environmental Protection Agency, For all maps on county level with SPA, SAC and NHAs, Nature Reserves, Ramsar, National park. Bot in Top/map and sat pictures http://gis.epa.ie/Envision	all
	Cultural heritage	
66	National Monuments Service, List of all the recorded monuments in Ireland and map viewer http://www.archaeology.ie/	6
67	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Natural Heritage Areas (NHA)(see bottom of webpage for list) http://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa	6
68	Mountaineering Ireland, Details of walks and tracks of stakeholder interest in Ireland http://www.mountaineering.ie/	6
69	Coillte Outdoors, Information on forest parks, recreation areas and forest trails in Ireland www.coillteoutdoors.ie	6
70	Environmental Protection Agency, Drinking water protection http://www.epa.ie/water/dw/	4
	General sources HCV	
74	Greenpeace Intact Natural Forest Landscapes, General http://www.intactforests.org/world.map.html .	3
75	IUCN Red List, Country profile www.iucnredlist.org/search/details.php/40658/all	1
76	World Resource Inst., General Atlas of Forest and Landscape Restoration http://www.wri.org/resources/maps/atlas-forest-and-landscape-restoration-opportunities	3

77	HCV network, General https://www.hcvnetwork.org/resources/global-hcv-toolkits	all
78	High Conservation network, The use of the 'Common guidance for the identification of High Conservation Values' for the assessment of HCV presence is recommended. Also use this for interpretation of 'Significant values'. https://www.hcvnetwork.org/resources/folder.2006-09-29.6584228415/2013_commonguidancev5	all
79	Proforest, HCV Toolkit http://www.proforest.net/en/publications/high-conservation-value-forest-toolkit	all
80	Ramsar, Ramsar sites http://www.ramsar.org/library?search_api_views_fulltext=Ireland&items_per_page=20	all
81	UNESCO, UNESCO Biosphere sites http://www.unesco.org/mabdb/br/brdir/directory/biores.asp?code=IRE+02&mode=all	6
82	Natura 2000, EU website with maps and data of all sites http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/data/index_en.htm	all
83	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Country profile. https://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=ie	all
84	Intact Forest Landscapes, Country profile (NA withy Ireland) http://www.intactforests.org/data.ifl.html	3
85	Global Forest Watch, Country profile. http://www.globalforestwatch.org/country	all
86	WWF, WWF Global 200 Ecoregion/habitat list http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/about/habitat_types/	all
87	FSC Int website & local standards, Country profile. https://ic.fsc.org/national-standards.247.htm	all
88	EU Habitats Directive, About protected habitats and EU countries http://biodiversity.europa.eu/mtr/countries/belgium	all
89	FSC international GFR, Already approved CNRA for controlled wood cat 1, 2 and 5. http://www.globalforestregistry.org/	all
90	FSC CNRA Ireland cat 1 and 2 , About community needs http://www.globalforestregistry.org/	5

Controlled wood category 4: Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use

Risk assessment

Indicator	Source of information	Functional scale	Risk designation and determination
4.1	<p>Legislation Forestry Act 1946 Section 37 - http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1946/act/13/enacted/en/html?q=Forestry+Act+1946</p> <p>Other Sources Draft Forestry Plan 2014 - 2020 http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publicconsultation/newforestryprogramme2014-2020/forestryprogramme2014-2020/DraftForestryProgramme20142020PubCon.pdf.</p> <p>Personal communications with E Byrnes, Dept of Agrig' & N Heffernan Forest Department, 2014.</p> <p>FAO (2014) Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 – Country Report, Ireland. Rome. Available at: http://www.fao.org/3/a-az242e.pdf (last accessed on 04 May 2017)</p> <p>Forest Service Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (2008) Native Woodland Scheme Manual - http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publications/native-woodland-scheme-manual/Native</p>	-	<p>Assessment based on legality</p> <p>Content of law</p> <p>The Forestry Act of 1946 does not specifically address conversion. Any felling of trees is restricted by the provisions of the Forest Act 1946. Section 37 prohibits the felling of trees over ten years old, without a felling license (limited felling license or a general felling license). The act does allow for felling of trees, which may result in small scale land conversion in limited circumstances, including where the tree is uprooted or cut down by a local authority in connection with road construction or widening or improvement schemes or building or construction work.</p> <p>Legal authority in regards to conversion is the Forest Service (Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine)</p> <p>There is ongoing revision of the Act.</p> <p>The act allows for conversion in limited circumstances. However, it is Government policy to protect and enhance existing native woodlands, and to establish new native woodlands. Incentives are provided to landowners under the Native Woodlands Scheme in this regard. Funding for the NWS was provided under the national development Plan 2007 - 2013. The recently announced National Forest Programme 2014 -2020 will continue with this policy and incentives.</p> <p>There is no available information that would indicate that this allowance has led to large scale land conversion in Ireland in the past.</p> <p>Is the law enforced?</p> <p>Category 1 of this risk assessment finds “low risk” for all applicable indicators, indicating satisfactory implementation of laws.</p> <p>There is also no available information that would indicate any instances of illegal land conversion in Ireland of a scale that would indicate a specified risk.</p>

<p>WoodlandSchemeManual2008060911.pdf</p> <p>Global Forest Watch, undated. Country Profile – Ireland. Available online: http://www.globalforestwatch.org/country/IRL, accessed 6 February 2017.</p> <p>Mongabay.com, 2006. Statistics: Forestry – Ireland. Available online: http://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/archive/Ireland.htm, accessed 6 February 2017.</p>			<p>Is it possible to conclude that the spatial threshold can be met by assessing the enforcement of legislation?</p> <p>No, the applicable legislation is not sufficient to assess this indicator with the legally-based thresholds.</p> <p>Assessment based on spatial data</p> <p>According to Mongabay (2006), between 1990 and 2005, Ireland gained 51.7% of its forest cover, around 228,000 hectares. Measuring the total rate of habitat conversion (defined as change in forest area plus change in woodland area minus net plantation expansion) for the 1990-2005 interval, Ireland gained 0.0% of its forest and woodland habitat.</p> <p>According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 for Ireland prepared by FAO, the forest area increased by 28,381 ha between the years 2010 and 2015 (from 725,635 ha to 754,016 ha). The continuous increase of the forest area in Ireland is mainly due to afforestation, including afforestation with native species. The yearly amount of afforestation has ranged from 6,000 to 24,000 ha/year (1988-2012). On the other hand, the natural expansion of the forest estate is estimated to be 250 ha annually.</p> <p>In the same report, the latest available data about deforestation is from the year 2010. In 2010, 1,600 ha were deforested while 6,600 ha were reforested. Additionally, the forest expansion was 7,200 ha (6,900 ha afforestation and 300 ha natural forest expansion). There is no clear data available about how much natural forest was converted to plantations, but the naturally regenerated forest area remained unchanged between 2010 and 2015 (71,407 ha). This means that the average net annual loss for these 5 years was zero.</p> <p>Is it possible to conclude that the spatial threshold (0.02% or 5000 ha) is met?</p> <p>According to the spatial data provided above, conversion of natural forests to plantations or non-forest use in the area under assessment is below the threshold of 0.02% or 5000 hectares average net annual loss.</p> <p>Risk Designation: Low risk Thresholds (1) and (3) are met: Thresholds provided in the indicator are not exceeded; AND Other available evidence do not challenge a 'low risk' designation.</p>
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Recommended control measures

N/A

Controlled wood category 5: Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted

Risk assessment

Indicator	Sources of information	Functional scale	Risk designation and determination
5.1	<p>http://www.epa.ie/licensing/gmo/process/#.VDwB_GddWSo;</p> <p>Personal communication; B Murray, Environmental Protection Agency, Personal communication; Seamus Dunne, Chief Inspector Forest Department.</p> <p>EPA enforcement policy:- http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/enforcement/oeenenforcementpolicy.html#.VD5YQ2ddWSo and http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/enforcement/environmentalprotectionagencylicensingandenforcementchargingpolicy.html#.VD5Zw2ddWSp;</p> <p>Other http://www.indymedia.ie/article/79254?author_name=l&userlanguage=ga&save_prefs=true</p>	N/A	<p>Low risk</p> <p><i>(1) GMO use is illegal according to applicable legislation of the area under assessment AND the risk assessment for relevant indicators of Category 1 confirms that applicable legislation is enforced.</i></p> <p>The use of GMO is not prohibited in Ireland. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the Competent Authority in Ireland for the implementation of the GMO Regulations on the contained use, the deliberate release and the transboundary movement of GMOs into the environment. Any person or organization utilizing a GMO requires prior consent from the EPA in order to do so. The EPA is responsible for the licensing of GMO activity both for what's called 'contained use' (usually in colleges/ industry /hospital laboratories) or deliberate release of a GMO for purposes other than placing on the market (field trials and/or clinical trials for purposes of R&D) and for the placing on the market of GMOs as or in products. It also has remit for transboundary movement of GMOs. As a member of the EU, Ireland has enacted the various EU directives in to Irish law by way of Statutory Instrument Regulations. There are no significant issues that would constitute for specified risk</p> <p><i>(2) There is no commercial use of GMO (tree) species in the area under assessment, No applications have been made in regard to GMO trees (B Murray EPA). All tree improvement in Ireland is through traditional breeding and selecting methods. (S Dunne Chief Inspector Department). The increase in afforestation in Ireland in recent years is mainly through the State's grant aid schemes in which there are no grants for GMO trees.</i></p> <p>AND <i>(3) Other available evidence does not challenge 'low risk' designation.</i> There are no significant issues that would constitute for specified risk</p>

GMO Context Question	Answer
1. Is there any legislation covering GMO (trees)?	GMO (Deliberate Release) Regulations S.I. 500 of 2003; GMO (Contained Use) Regulations S.I. Nos 73/2001 & 442/2010; GMO (Transboundary Movement) Regulations S.I. 54 of 2004.

2. Does applicable legislation for the area under assessment include a ban for commercial use of GMO (trees)?	No
3. Is there evidence of unauthorized use of GM trees?	No
4. Is there any commercial use of GM trees in the country or region?	No
5. Are there any trials of GM trees in the country or region?	No
6. Are licenses required for commercial use of GM trees?	Yes
7. Are there any licenses issued for GM trees relevant for the area under assessment? (If so, in what regions, for what species and to which entities?)	N/A
8. What GM 'species' are used?	N/A
9. Can it be clearly determined in which MUs the GM trees are used?	N/A

Recommended control measures

N/A