



Selection Criteria for Screening Forestry Projects

Characteristics of forestry projects

1. The characteristics of the forestry project must be considered regarding:
 - a) the size and design of the forestry project;
 - b) cumulation with other existing forestry projects and/or approved forestry projects;
 - c) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;
 - d) the production of waste;
 - e) pollution and nuisances;
 - f) the risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the forestry project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge;
 - g) the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).

Location of forestry project

2. The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the forestry project must be considered regarding:
 - a) the existing and approved land use;
 - b) the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;
 - c) the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:
 - i. wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;
 - ii. coastal zones and the marine environment;
 - iii. mountain and forest areas;
 - iv. nature reserves and parks;
 - v. European sites and other areas classified or protected under national legislation;
 - vi. areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards, laid down in Union legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;
 - vii. densely populated areas;
 - viii. landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.



Characteristics of the potential impact

3. The likely significant effects of the forestry project on the environment must be considered in relation to criteria set out in the paragraphs above, (with regard to the impact of the forestry project on population and human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape) taking into account:
- a) the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
 - b) the nature of the impact;
 - c) the transboundary nature of the impact;
 - d) the intensity and complexity of the impact;
 - e) the probability of the impact;
 - f) the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;
 - g) the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved forestry projects;
 - h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.