



CERTIFICATION REPORT – FSC FOREST MANAGEMENT
The MONTE RUFENO NATURE RESERVE - Acquapendente (VT), Italy

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INTERNAL CERTIFICATION REPORT FOR THE FOREST OF THE
MONTE RUFENO NATURE RESERVE (RNMR)
Municipality of Acquapendente (VT) – Region of Lazio – ITALY
FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION REPORT

June, 2004

- **Certification body:** ICILA S.r.l. - via Braille, 5 – 20035 LISSONE (MI)
- **Date of report:** June, 2004, updated December 2nd, 2004 with the deliberation of the Municipal Council of Acquapendente in which a commitment is undersigned to respect the FSC Principles and Criteria in the management of the Monte Rufeno Natural Reserve
- **Author of report:** Francesca CAMBIAGGI, forester, *Lead Auditor*
- **Date of the certification visit:** June 7th, 8th, 9th, 2004

Brief description of the forest management enterprise

The *Monte Rufeno Nature Reserve (RNMR)* covers 2,885.75 hectares and it was established in 1983 (see LR 66/1983 – Regional Law 66/1983). The property, originally State-owned (1950s), now belongs to the Regional Council (Regional Property Office, Lazio Region, 1983), while the management is carried out by the Municipality of Acquapendente (VT) which is formally nominated the Managing Body of the Municipality of Acquapendente; the Lazio Regional Council has entrusted the latter with the overall management of the *RNMR*, comprising in particular the forest management.

The FSC certification has been formally requested by the Managing Body of the Municipality of Acquapendente which has presented the necessary complete documentation and has, in addition, put their technical, legal and administrative departments at the entire disposal of the mission so that the personnel involved can dedicate full time assistance to the certification mission both with regard to the inspection of sites and office formalities.

The document acts as both an internal report and a public certification report.

The certification committee, after having examined the report, the corrective actions proposed by the certifying body and the “peer review”, grants certification under code:

ICILA-FM-1007



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FOREST CERTIFICATION REPORT
FSC FOREST MANAGEMENT

THE MONTE RUFENO NATURE RESERVE (RNMR)
Municipality of Acquapendente (VT) – Lazio Region
ITALY

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1. SUMMARY

1.1 Main “strengths” of the forest management enterprise

The strengths characterizing the forest management of the *RNMR* are several and they all share the same importance in guaranteeing conditions for its constant improvement in the short, medium and long term.

Contributions, financing and purchasing capacity: there should firstly be mention of the high capability of the Managing Body to acquire financing for various items of expenditure, all of which are essential to the overall management of the *RNMR* and without which it would not be possible to achieve an integrated and dynamic management of the patrimony, in each one of its aspects: technical (forestry, naturalistic, agronomic), infrastructures (road network, restoration of farmsteads, ...), social/community (occupations, education, environment,...).

Efficient internal organization of the Managing Body: alongside the previous point, which is perhaps a natural consequence of it, one must underline the efficiency of the Managing Body's internal organization with reference to the tasks it has been assigned (technical, surveillance and administrative), the advantageous use of human resources, the respect and overall clarity regarding the roles it has been given, and the organization of its offices.

Ability to “be contagious”: the dynamic management of the *RNMR*, one that is “felt” and, where possible, integrated, gets an immediate response, from the territory surrounding the area being studied (pre-park area), through the promotion of a series of activities organized by the kind of management mentioned above; it is not surprising that the highest concentration of farmhouse tourism activities and organic agriculture certifications in the region are those in the areas adjacent to the Reserve. This growth of the territory, in socio-economic terms, is the direct result of the development process begun at the time of the establishment of the *RNMR*, thanks to the work of various figures (institutional and non) that, in different ways, have operated and are still operating in this territory.

***RNMR* is the first FSC certified protected area:** the fact that the *RNMR* protected area is the first in Italy to be FSC certified, undoubtedly represents an undeniable strength for the Managing Body, especially if it succeeds in seizing and developing the different opportunities of growth and qualification offered by the certification for the sector.

The motivation component: the last, but certainly not the last in order of importance, is the remarkable level of motivation for a shared and dynamic management that is shown not only by the operators of the Managing Body, but also by those who, for various reasons, gravitate around the area being considered. This motivation, together with the ability of the Managing Body to make people aware and to create synergy and contacts with the “internal” and “external” world of the Reserve, mean that locally there is an entrepreneurial vivacity linked to the management activity of the Protected Area, which would definitely be absent if there were no motivational impulse. A strong sense of belonging to and identification with the territory of the *RNMR* is felt by those that work there and by the neighbouring local communities.

1.2 Main “weaknesses” of the forest management enterprise

Given that the main weaknesses detected are not to be found in the certified forest management enterprise alone but do unfortunately characterize the forestry sector as a whole, in its most varied aspects, at global level too, they can be summarized as follows:

Lack of adequate socio-economic exploitation of the forest sector: there exists an objective difficulty in adequately exploiting the forestry sector, in particular with regard to ‘WHO’ works in the sector. As it appears difficult to succeed in obtaining a continuity of work in forestry interventions from companies working in the sector, it is consequently impossible from a “conjunctural” viewpoint to adjust the contracts and salaries of the forestry workers. The overall precariousness of the sector, together with the lack of adequate professional training and qualification of the relative personnel, strongly contribute to creating and maintaining work conditions that are uncertain and precarious.

Lack of adequate socio-economic exploitation of other sectors: since the management of *RNMR* is, as far as possible, integrated, it is important to also underline the weaknesses existing in sectors that are not actually forestry ones, but which nevertheless stem from, and are a consequence of, their management.

As already indicated for the forestry sector, the other sectors (environmental education, tourist reception, recreational activities, ...) also suffer from the difficulty experienced in maintaining a positive level in the continuity of work throughout the year.

⇒ In brief, there exists an intrinsic and conjunctural difficulty in maintaining/guaranteeing conditions of economic and social sustainability for the activities in progress, and the Managing Body could therefore provide further stimuli for:

- greater DIFFERENTIATION AND DIVERSIFICATION of the activities,
- stronger orientation toward a COMPLETE CYCLE APPROACH,
- higher QUALIFICATION of individuals operating in the territory.

Absence of a socio-economic approach that is integrated and more orientated toward a complete cycle framework for the Forest Organization Project: it seems that because there is strong reference made to the principles of naturalistic forestry, there is the exclusion of any matter that is slightly articulated and closely examined regarding both the possibility of an economic return from forest interventions and a socio-economic sustainability of the same. This “vice at start-off” conditions the Project excessively and consequently also conditions the forestry decisions that originate from it. There is not in fact sufficient information regarding the possibility of obtaining “short” cycles and the relative commercial circuits for the various forest products (timber and otherwise), which do actually exist although they are extremely limited given the typology of woods present. The tendency to transform the Turkey oak copses (even the best ones) into high trunk woods using the same species, of the same shape, is not considered an answer to either the principles of naturalistic forestry or to the principles of biodiversity advancement and not even to the creation of better conditions for the socio-economic sustainability of the interventions. Such new planting, within the present operational format, should, it is considered, be limited to being functional in reaping benefits and should thus be carried out in the areas visited by the largest number of tourists, on condition that the forest station conditions permit it; it would be much more

worthwhile if it were to be more modulated in its distribution with respect to position and timing, planning not just tree populations of different ages, but also substantial additions of high-quality broad-leafed varieties (cherry, maple, British oak, bay oak, white hornbeam, black hornbeam, wild service tree), or at least ones that are different to the Turkey oak, in order to effectively diversify the specific forest composition and the landscape. Moreover, the introduction of other tree species would certainly create the right conditions to have better quality high trunk woods also from the point of view of exploiting the economic aspects, in that the high trunk woods of Turkey oak alone do not give any real commercial gain, apart from providing firewood which could, however, be provided by the copses.

Naturalistic forestry can be pursued without neglecting conditions for the economic sustainability of the interventions, if the forest station and market conditions permit it.

The decision to adhere to the certification process of Forest Management in accordance with the FSC framework undoubtedly represents an important step towards an increased exploitation and qualification of the forestry division, and confirms the will and the commitment of the Managing Body in this sense.

1.3. Suggestions for certification

1.4. Motivations for the suggestions and the conditions for certification

The mission recommends that the Certification Body ICILA should provide a certification for a Sustainable Forest Management of the *Monte Rufeno Nature Reserve* according to the Principles and Criteria of the FSC standard, on condition that the Managing Body presents, very soon, a coherent and adequate plan for the solution of certain critical problems that cannot be solved immediately by specific actions, in that it was stated during the certification mission that **3 NCPs**, **3 NCSs** and **1 O** (see relative Tables on page 19) were detected.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE CONTEXT

2.1 Summary of the legislative, administrative and land usage contexts in which the forest management enterprise operates, including:

2.1.1 State and representation of the responsible government bodies that are competent in aspects pertinent to the forest management (for example, the felling, the monitoring, the protection, and other areas).

The administrative context in which the *Monte Rufeno Nature Reserve* is managed is quite simple: the area in question was owned by the State and constituted part of the 'Demanio Pubblico' (State Public Property) in the 1950s, and its management was guaranteed by the 'Azienda di Stato per le Foreste Demaniali (A.S.F.D.)' (State Company for State-owned Forests). Later, the 'Demanio di Stato' – State-owned Property – was transferred to the Regional Council for the territories of its competence: in the case of the *RNMR*, the property was transferred to the Lazio Regional Council, that guarantees the management through the Managing Body, represented by the Municipality of Acquapendente, in the province of Viterbo.

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In 1983, the Lazio Regional Council established, with a special regional law (LR 66/1983), the *Monte Rufeno Nature Reserve*, which is an integral part of the Park and Nature Reserve system of the Lazio Region, in conformity with regional law LR 46/1977.

The *RNMR* therefore constitutes, in its entirety, a regional public property, which can be represented as follows.

extension	ownership	destination	managing body	local body of reference
2,885.70 hectares	Public Lazio Region	Nature Reserve	Municipality of Acquapendente (VT)	Mountain Community of Alta Tuscia Laziale

In consideration of the fact that it is regional public property, directly managed by the Municipality of Acquapendente, it appears evident that there is an institutional involvement in the management, control and promotion of the forestry activities of the *RNMR*, namely the participation of the following institutional authorities:

- the Lazio Regional Authorities;
- the State Corps of Foresters (the CFS), station of Acquapendente;
- the Mountain Community of Alta Tuscia Laziale, Acquapendente;
- the Municipality of Acquapendente, Acquapendente;
- the Province of Viterbo, Viterbo;
- the Tuscia University, Viterbo.

Finally, it must be pointed out that a Technical and Scientific Committee (the CTS) was constituted at the same time as the task assignment to draw up the Forest Organization Plan for the *RNMR* (validity 2001 – 2010), and it was its duty to carry out a technical-scientific supervision of the various phases of the work, in order to give adequate consideration to the naturalistic aspects and to the adoption of forestry practices that are in effective accordance with the principles of naturalistic forestry.

The CTS committee is represented by:

- Massimo BEDINI, Director of the *RNMR*
- Giuseppe SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA, full professor of Special Forestry
- Anna SCOPPOLA, university professor of Systematic Botany
- Riccardo VALENTINI, university lecturer of Mycology
- Mario ZAPPAROLI, university lecturer of Forest Zoology
- Massimo MATTIOLI, Senior Official of the CFS Committee, Provincial Coordination Office of Viterbo

⇒ It is considered important that, once the certification has been granted, a forestry representative from the FSC group, Italy, should also be part of the CTS of the *RNMR*.

3. FOREST MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISE

3.1. Summary of the basic, qualitative and quantitative information that is relative to the forest management enterprise, including:

3.1.1 ownership of the land, forest and forest management enterprise.

As mentioned, the forest management is guaranteed by the Managing Body of the Municipality of Acquapendente, that has its offices in the Town Hall of Acquapendente. The personnel of the Managing Body are employees of the Regional Council, and the salaries and operational costs are therefore paid by the Lazio Regional Council.

The Body operates through a top management that takes care of the technical side and a presidency that establishes the policies; the top management and the presidency then operate through 3 main offices, organized as follows:

1. a technical office: 1 forester with degree + 1 building surveyor + 1 manual worker
2. a surveillance office: 7 park wardens + 1 park warden who is head of the office
3. an administrative office: 1 accountant + 1 administrative clerk + 1 administrative collaborator

The legal representative of the Managing Body is the president (Signor Tolmino PIAZZAI, mayor of the Municipality of Acquapendente), while the technical representative, identified as Forest Manager, is the director of the Managing Body, the agronomist Signor Massimo BEDINI.

The *RNMR* property belongs to the Lazio Regional Council. Since the Managing Body does not have its own team of forest workers to employ with its own funds, the forest work is usually subcontracted through bids and direct contracts, in accordance with Mountain Legislation.

Currently the forest work is carried out by 2 local co-operatives (the OLAV and the ELCE Co-operatives, Acquapendente).

Likewise, the other activities (environmental and tourist-recreational education activities and agricultural activities, etc.) together with the management of some farmsteads within the *RNMR* property are taken care of by people outside the Managing Body through the writing up of agreements.

In this case too the external workforce is represented by local firms and co-operatives, most of which were formed following the establishment of the *RNMR*.

3.2. Summary of the basic, qualitative and quantitative information relative to the managed area in question, inclusive of explicit data and concise information regarding:

3.2.1. the total management of the area and its principle divisions;

3.2.2. the composition of the forest, in particular of the forests that are production oriented (namely those that supply forest products).

The *RNMR* covers a total area of 2,885.70 hectares, divided up and classified as follows:

PHYSIOGNOMICAL CLASS	SURFACE AREA (hectares)
copses waiting	1,380.57
high trunk woods of conifers	613.42
high trunk woods of Turkey oak and other broad-leafed varieties	436.81
copses to transform into high trunk woods	307.26
other areas	137.27
TOTAL	2,875.33

The few hectares missing are those occupied by the land belonging to the 27 farmsteads that are included in the property.

The level of complexity of the forest growth is altogether very low, both in terms of structural assets and in terms of specific composition.

From a botanical and a biodiversity protection/conservation point of view, it must be stressed that the enormous naturalistic interest directed at the *RNMR* is today justified mainly on account of the extraordinary wealth of the flora present in the area, rather than the arboreal components, which are to be found only in certain areas (mainly along ditches, water courses, around the edges of the reserve and on the borders of the sporadic clearings in the area).

The specific composition of the forest is in fact particularly varied; whatever kind of management is contemplated, it is immediately evident that the Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) is the predominant species, forming on its own both copses and high trunk woods.

The chestnut tree (*Castanea sativa Mill.*) occupies an extremely restricted portion of the area (transitory high trunk woods: 13.05 hectares – copse: 2.81 hectares) and one that is irrelevant in quantitative terms, while it is of extreme importance in qualitative terms for the diversification of the forest's vegetation, utilization and traditions.

The downy oak (*Quercus pubescens*) too occupies a small portion of copse (26.07 hectares) and transitory high trunk wood (2.11 hectares).

The black hornbeam (*Ostrya carpinifolia*) covers even smaller portions (high trunk wood: 1.49 hectares – copse: 5.62 hectares) with respect to the total area.

The conifer formations are for the most part constituted by maritime pines (*Pinus pinaster*), Aleppo pines (*Pinus halepensis*), black pines (*Pinus nigra*), Arizona cypresses (*Cupressus arizonica*), white pines (*Pinus strobus*), stone-pines (*Pinus pinea*) and they represent a substantial portion of the area (613.42 hectares).

These date back to the reforestation carried out by the CFS between 1966 and 1973 on former farming land that was already in disuse or in the process of being abandoned, and which originally belonged to the farmsteads included in the *RNMR*.

The tree-planting order adopted at that time (prevalently 1x1 mt and 1.5x1.5 mt) makes it necessary today to repeatedly work on these formations with growth cutting in order to thin out and reduce to the maximum the present very elevated density.

Since the manufacture of timber products is not among the main objectives of the *RNMR* management scheme, the only obtainable productions are those deriving from the copses of Turkey oak in growth and from the conifers that are regularly cut back. The income from these is used to provide 70-80% of the sum required to finance the forestry works and the remaining percentage goes to integrating the financial resources necessary for the maintenance of the farmsteads.

3.3. Summary of the forest management scheme being applied, including description of the:

3.3.1 objectives of the management;

3.3.2 forestry schemes, or others, being implemented.

The woods of Monte Rufeno have been intensely exploited by man since the 1950s-1960s. They were essentially copses which were used in quick succession for the production of firewood, coal and a small amount of wooden stakes for local use.

As previously mentioned, the structural and compositional complexity of the forest formations in the *RNMR* is extremely low; some of the reasons for this are, on the one hand, the intensive exploitation of these woods and, on the other hand, the massive planting of conifers on former farming land over recent years.

The combination of these two actions has made the “forest” landscape of the *RNMR* very banal; although the Nature Reserve gives an initial impression of occupying the area with an undeniable aesthetic and landscaped effect, especially as a result of the contrast obtained with the adjacent farming land, it is, however, from a technical standpoint, uniform, homogeneously organized into blocks, without giving continuity. This therefore places considerable limitations on the maintenance, increase and improvement of the biodiversity of the forest, of the flora and of the fauna, a biodiversity linked to the specific environments of the “forest’s dynamics” (verges, mantles, small bushes) which tend to disappear once there is an excessive arboreal canopy.

This, although an “index” of the natural evolution in vegetable formation, is on the other hand an “index” of a low level of biodiversity; in fact, since open spaces such as permanent meadows, clearings, meadows for grass-cutting and pastureland have almost disappeared from the Reserve, all the fauna, and above all the flora, linked to these environments have also disappeared (or diminished).

The forest management scheme in force has the following principal objectives:

- ⇒ The re-establishment and protection of the forest’s ecosystem in all its component parts, both biological and non-biological;
- ⇒ Management of part of the territory and of the woodland patrimony in accordance with naturalistic forestry criteria

The forest works being carried out and those already completed should therefore tend to increase the complexity of the existing forest vegetation to some extent and, as a result of the tree-cutting, also contribute to a wider diversification of the forest’s specific composition, by providing tree populations of different ages and creating formations of different heights and also by favouring the development of a natural renewal, both in arboreal and shrub species.

It is a fact, however, that the current extensive transformation of the Turkey oak copses into high trunk woods, if not opportunely modulated, carries the risk over time of creating vegetation that is nevertheless homogenous, of a single height or at the most of two heights, mainly of the same shape, with few age classes and this in time will contribute to the creation of a banal landscape, without favouring the diversity of species and the structural complexity that was originally desired.

The creation of openings and clearings, both within the small areas planted with conifers and within the woods of Turkey oak, is considered essential; likewise essential is the maintenance of large portions of suitably chosen productive copse within the area (at least 150-200 hectares) which, besides guaranteeing a positive economic sustainability of the

work that is to be accomplished, would also contribute to keeping alive the tradition and culture of forestry practices connected with the creation of copses (which is, moreover, the only forestry practice that is today economically sustainable), besides providing special habitats for fauna and flora, diversifying and characterizing the landscape and favouring the growth of mushrooms.

On the basis of the observations arising from the certification mission – although only partial – regarding the technical contents of the Organization Plan, and also on the basis of the direct and indirect observations made during the evaluation, the most relevant of which are considered those contained in the Resolution (Determinazione) B 1863 dated 17th September 2003, the relative sections of which are printed below, it is considered important that the Reserve should schedule a technical meeting before the end of 2005 for the updating of the Plan, also in relation to the certification evaluation and the detailed examination of the economical sustainability of the management scheme.

Resolution B 1863 dated 17th September 2003, Lazio Regional Council:

“...taken into consideration the report of the Provincial Coordination Office of the CFS of Viterbo, protocol 4259 of 2.11.2002 which is registered in our protocol MB/34805 of 19.11.2002, in which an overall favourable opinion is expressed with regard to the proposed Plan, as well as the observations made concerning the missing indication of forest portions in the territory **and the perplexities about the generalized policy to convert copses into tall forests;...**”

...among the prescriptions binding the management of the woodland patrimony.

“...monitor, in the manner considered most opportune, the reforestation and the copse formations, in order to acquire the necessary information for the definition of the growth modules of these populations when the plan needs to be revised;...”

It is therefore desirable that prior to a revision of the Plan, a meeting should be organized for a technical up-date that would be preparatory to the one for the revision, also bearing in mind the very likely prospect that the Reserve will be extended by the addition of approximately 3.500 hectares of the Nature Reserve “Selva di Meana” (Umbria), thereby forming an inter-regional park. The management scheme of this should develop confidently and in harmony with the Monte Rufeno one, towards a forestry approach that is common to and shared by both.

3.4 Estimation of the maximum sustainable production for commercial products, including:

3.4.1 illustration of the criteria and motivations (for example, forestry) on which the estimations are based

3.4.2 the data sources on which the estimations are based.

The forest management of the *RNMR* refers to the *Forest Organization Plan of the Monte Rufeno Nature Reserve* (validity 2001-2002), drawn up by D.R.E.A.M.

The quantitative data relative to the timber products, annual increases, etc. derive from the elaboration of data collected regularly with regard to the land by means of samples and test areas, both contained and amply discussed in the Organization Plan.

In brief¹, for the most significant formations, the data relative to supplies, renewal, average annual renewal, annual utilization rate, average annual withdrawal per hectare can be summarized as follows in the table below:

Formation	Total supply	Renewal	Average annual renewal	Utilization rate	Average annual withdrawal/hectares
High trunk conifer woods	78,605 cu.mt.	13,079 cu.mt.	1,308 cu.mt.	1.7 %	2.3 cu.mt.
High trunk woods of Turkey oak + other broad-leafed varieties	62,287 cu.mt.	934 cu.mt.	93 cu.mt.	0.15 %	0.22 cu.mt.
Copses to start up	50,935 cu.mt.	12,367 cu.mt.	1,237 cu.mt.	2.4 %	4.2 cu.mt.

3.5 A concise quantitative estimation of current and forecasted production, including the annual felling rate in terms of volume and species.

As can be seen in the table above, the utilization rate is moderate, even in conditions where seasonal fertility, general conditions, good road system, excessive density (see conifers in particular), and hydro-geological disposition could permit even larger felling volumes, without producing a negative environmental impact on the territory where the work is carried out.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4.1 Summary of the other activities carried out in the area being evaluated, whether they are conducted by the administration requesting the certification, or whether they are conducted by other parties, including, for example, mining, industrial, agricultural, hunting and tourist activities;

The **other activities**, in the overall management of the *RNMR*, carry a remarkable weight, the Reserve itself having promoted an integrated management within the area.

Activities different to those that are true and proper forestry ones are numerous, and they can be represented as follows:

Agricultural activities: within the area, in proximity to the old farmsteads in the Reserve, some abandoned olive groves have been recuperated for the production of certified organic oil. Similarly, a small production of honey has been set up and rosehips have been processed to produce a dessert liqueur. These activities are also certified as organic and all three product lines carry the *RNMR* brand.

¹ for details please consult The Forest Organization Plan of the Monte Rufeno Nature Reserve (validity 2001-2010), DREAM, 2000.

The activities are for the most part managed by the *Ape Regina Co-operative*, Acquapendente.

Tourist-recreational activities: with an important financial commitment the Managing Body is restoring wherever possible the 27 farmsteads that stand within the area. The farmsteads are then managed by external concerns (local co-operatives) that, by means of a specific agreement, use them for tourist-recreational activities: they are in fact considered as farm holiday properties, with added activities, such as horse trekking, horse therapy, "nature" holidays for young people, etc.

The activities are managed by the *Radici Co-operative*, Acquapendente.

Educational-environmental activities: there are numerous activities promoted within the *RNMR* that are aimed at environmental education, directed both at schools (class activities) and at small groups of children (mainly 13 years and under). The restoration of the *Felceto* farmstead and the activities that take place there are an excellent example of this. It is in fact a "house of traditions", where the local folk heritage and traditions are preserved with great dynamism and participation. The farmhouse itself is not just a museum and a place to be visited but a true temporary residence where different groups can take part in various programmes of environmental education. They act out the daily lives of country people of more than 50 years ago: they make agricultural implements, they cook dishes over the fire in the hearth, they chop wood, etc. etc. Even more realism is brought to this "rural way of life" by Signor Alessandro Fini, the last remaining *carbonaio* (a coalman who would 'produce' coal by combustion with the burning of stacks of wood covered in soil) in the territory of Acquapendente. He would live for long periods at a time on the slopes of the Monte Rufeno preparing the *carbonaie* (namely, the stacks of wood to be burnt) ; thanks to this testimony, it is possible to learn about the traditions and century-old knowledge linked to the world of the forest.

The activities are managed by the *Radici Co-operative*, Acquapendente.

With regard to hunting and fishing, these activities are not allowed within the area but in the areas bordering on the *RNMR* wild boar hunting is particularly developed, to the obvious satisfaction of farmers and hunters.

The hunters, although initially not in favour of the limitations imposed by the *RNMR*, now participate in and collaborate with the census and wild fauna monitoring activities, in that they now realize that the protected area does in fact constitute a good reservoir of game for the areas surrounding the reserve and that it is possible to maintain a balance between the hunting and the fauna protection activities.

It is also important to mention the gathering of mushrooms (allowed if one obtains the special permit) for local domestic and restaurant use.

4.2 Evaluation of the impact. or the potential impact, of such activities on the forest management enterprise.

The activities described above obviously have a positive impact on the forest management enterprise, which does not only have to promote and carry out forest work, but also activities such as tourist promotion and environmental education. This brings with it

important socio-economic implications: the possibility of maintaining a good purchasing power with public and community financing, a positive impact at local level for the development of job opportunities, good promotional possibilities for the protected area, thanks to the selling of local products and the use of the *RNMR* brand, the possibility of bringing into the *RNMR* activities and visitors from outside the region too, and finally the advantage that these activities become “contagious” to the rest of the territory (with the birth of numerous farm holiday properties, the promotion of typical local produce, the development of organic farming, the increase of tourist activities and consequently the number of job opportunities).

5. EVALUATION BACKGROUND

5.1 Evaluation Team

The evaluation team conducted the certification mission in two distinct phases:

1. the first meeting with the local stakeholders, which took place at the *RNMR* headquarters in Acquapendente on 12th May 2004;
2. the certification mission, on 7th, 8th and 9th June 2004.

The people who participated in and conducted the certification are:

- Francesca CAMBIAGGI, forester, *lead auditor (RGVI)*, ICILA
- Riccardo GIORDANO, environmental engineer, *auditor*, ICILA (only for the initial *stakeholder* meeting)
- Leandro DOMINICIS, agronomist, *auditor*, ICILA

5.2 Summary of previous certification evaluations and conclusions, with all the observations and conditions.

No previous evaluations had been made.

6. STANDARDS

6.1 Forest Management Standards used in the evaluation

In the evaluation process ICILA adopted the *check list* it uses for the evaluation of the Apennine forests (ref. Check List ICILA 2203, revision 1 20/9/02)

6.2 Comments of the stakeholders regarding the Forest Management Standards used for the evaluation.

The stakeholders did not make any particular comments with regard to the *check list* and neither were any particular matters brought up other than requests for information on other experiences of the kind in Italy and on what positive opportunities are offered, from a commercial point of view, by certified firewood.

6.3 List of the main laws of reference and the regional laws in force;

Considering that there is a complete up-date of all the laws of reference available both at the Reserve headquarters and on the website of the Lazio Regional Council, those laws that are pertinent to the management of the forest system in question are the following:

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Law	Title/subject
LR 18 of 5.4.1988	Protection of certain species of minor fauna
LR 4 of 20.1.1999	Adoption of maximum prescriptions and forest police as foreseen in RD 3267/1923 and successive modifications.
LR 61 of 19.9.1974	Regulations for the protection of spontaneous herbaceous and shrubby flora
LR 22 of 31.7. 2003	Modifications to LR 6.10.1977, no. 29 "Regulations with regard to protected nature areas of the region"
LR 66 of 19.9.1983	The establishment of the Monte Rufeno
LR 46 of 28.11.1977	Establishment of a system of regional parks and nature reserves
LR 29 of 6.10.1977	Regulations with regard to the protected nature areas of the region
LR 32 of 5.8.1998	Regulation for the gathering and selling of wild epigeous mushrooms and other products of the underwood
L 394 of 6.12.1991	Law framework for protected areas
Digs.494 of 14.8.1996	Realization of Dir. 95/58/CE concerning the minimum health and safety prescriptions that are to be enforced on temporary and mobile sites
Digs. 626/1994	Hygiene and safety at work
L109/94 and successive modifications	Law framework regarding public works
L 554/1999 - Merloni	Regulations regarding the enforcement of the law framework 109/94
L 97/94	Mountain law

6.4 *A copy of the standard used must be attached to the Report.*

Please see copy of the *check list* attached where the evaluation results have been highlighted.

7 EVALUATION OF SITE

7.1 Itinerary and program with the dates of the inspections

The work program was articulated in two main phases, as follows:

1. the document inspection phase
2. the on-site inspection phase

The mission lasted 3 days, with the following program, being careful to ensure that it was possible over the three days to meet with as many of the interested parties as possible, both in the office and in the forest.

The inspection programme was basically the following:

Monday 7th June OFFICE	8.30 am: arrival at Acquapendente Morning: presentation of the mission and work program. Park offices: inspection of technical and administrative documentation. Afternoon: inspection of check list. Office: inspection of basic and thematic cartography + organization plan + preliminary technical-administrative talks.
Tuesday 8th June FOREST	8.30 am: departure for inspections in the forest, right through to the end of the day.
Wednesday 9 th June	Morning: end of check list inspection.

OFFICES	12 noon: closing of certification mission, consultation with the interested parties (park offices, mountain community, forest companies, Viterbo provincial authorities) and consigning of results. Afternoon: final talks, finalization and consigning of inspection charts.
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7.2 *Main aspects and sites under inspection*

The main aspects discussed and dealt with by the mission can be gathered under the following subjects:

Social sustainability: special attention was given to aspects regarding the protection of workers, safety at work, respect of local communities, job opportunities offered by the *RNMR*, respect of regulations, staff training, environmental education and the recreational activities on offer.

Economic sustainability: this aspect, which has shown some critical areas, was discussed especially with regard to timber products, products that can be withdrawn, specificity of forest species as regards productive potential, market conditions, economic sustainability of the forestry work and growth policy of the Organization Plan. Similarly, the non-timber products manufactured within the area (honey, mushrooms, rosehips, wild fennel, ...) were also taken into consideration.

Environmental sustainability: this aspect was discussed in the context of protection and improvement of the forest's biodiversity, with respect to both flora and fauna, bearing in mind that practically the whole Reserve is a S.I.C./ZPS area.

The places inspected by the mission were chosen on the basis of the characteristics of the same in relation to the above subjects.

A site with work in progress was inspected without any prior notice (portion 2, commencement of work on Turkey oak copses, 1st intervention); there was a meeting with the workers of the OLAV Co-operative in charge of the work.

Matters discussed with the workers concerned the kind of intervention, its modalities, the conditions of the contract, work safety and staff training, besides miscellaneous matters to do with wood-clearing techniques, market situations at local level, etc.

The workers interviewed were:

Signor Luciano Baldini, worker of the OLAV Co-operative since 1994 and who is the foreman of the working group;

Signor Giuseppe Stermini, worker of the OLAV Co-operative since 2000;

Signor Antonio Tramontana, worker of the OLAV Co-operative since 2004;

Signor Mauro Mari, worker of the OLAV Co-operative since 2004.

The role of all four workers is woodcutter and each one is equipped with a regulation chain saw and DPI. The director of the work site is the president of the OLAV Co-operative, who was interviewed successively (portions 81,83), while he, together with other two workers, was loading the tractor at a point where the wood had been collected together and, according to regulations, had been piled up in 1.20 metre pieces and set aside for the firewood market.

The matters talked about at the work site were also discussed with the president of the co-operative (signor Eraldo Ceccarelli, called "Eugenio") and the other workers (Signor Pietro Carta and Signor Giuseppe Forti, who have been with the co-operative since 2004

and 2000 respectively). Here the matters were examined more in-depth in relation to the conditions of the forestry sector at local level and to the relations existing between the co-operative and the Reserve.

Portions 3 and 10 with maritime pine were also inspected.

Then the *Felceto Farmstead* was inspected. Here environmental education activities are mainly carried out.

A meeting took place with Signor Claudio Speroni, agronomist and the person who is in charge of environmental education within the RADICI Co-operative. The environmental education programmes and their relative problematics were discussed. The farmstead was visited. This has been converted into a "house of folk tradition" where the groups taking part in the programmes can live the lives of the farmer and his family in the 1930s-1950s, by learning how to make and use traditional tools and implements, by learning the traditions of the *carbonai* (the 'coalmakers') thanks to the teaching of Signor Alessandro, the last surviving *carbonaio* of Monte Rufeno.

The coalmaking area, faithfully reconstructed by Signor Alessandro, was also visited. It was complete with the pile of wood and the hut that served as a passageway (portion 216). (Also see "Il buon diavolo" "The Good Devil", an autobiography of a *carbonaio*, by Alessandro Fini, published by Stampalternativa, 2002).

Then the M. RUFENO farmstead was visited together with portion 184, with maritime Pine being thinned out by the ELCE Co-operative.

On leaving this, portion 239 was then visited. This portion is affected by heavy snowfalls that always damage the pines and will be cleared of the trees that have fallen under the weight of the snow.

Finally, portions 72, 73 and 75 were visited. These are examples of Turkey oak woods planted 10 years ago, in good fertile condition.

Going from one portion to another and from one farmstead to another, it was possible to see a variety of forest situations:

- ditches with vegetation of mixed broad-leafed varieties;
- portions of Turkey oak copse transformed into high trunk woods despite unfavorable forest station conditions (poor fertility, south-positioned, ...);
- portions of conifers, mainly maritime pine and Aleppo pine, with excessive density;
- clearings (the only ones present) of small dimensions (about a few hundred square meters or much less);
- olive groves belonging to the farmsteads, in part recuperated and in part still to be recuperated;
- areas with rosehips;
- the restored farmsteads, now used as farm holiday properties;
- the horse-riding centre (the person in charge, Signor Luca Bisti, is from the RADICI Co-operative and is based at the Monaldesca farmstead;

7.3 Motivation for the choice of aspects and sites to be visited.

As mentioned, the sites visited were the ones chosen for inspection in that they were central to the problems of social, environmental and economic sustainability which are considered, not only by the mission but also by the interested parties, as being those most important for the certification process.

8. CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

8.1 *Identification of those stakeholders influenced by the activity of the company, including native population, local communities, employees, suppliers, sub-contractors, house owners, house tenants, agents, administrators, etc.*

On 12th May 2004 the *RNMR*, in collaboration with the Certifying Body, called a meeting with the local stakeholders in order to present and discuss together the FSC Certification, explaining the objectives and the opportunities to be developed as a result of it.

The invitation was extended to all the interested parties (both institutional and non) that in different ways gravitate around and/or are influenced somehow by the *RNMR* and its activities.

The meeting took place in Acquapendente and it lasted a whole afternoon.

8.2 *Synthesis of the rights of use (both legal and customary), referring to the land and the forest, that are contextual to the objectives of the evaluation;*

Since the *RNMR* is not affected by any civic uses, the local communities do not therefore hold any legal rights, whereas the customary uses remain, in full respect of the Reserve's regulations: mushrooms can be picked (by obtaining a permit), bundles of dead branches left from felling can be gathered and the area can be freely used during the day.

8.3 *Full names, the body /association they belong to and contact details (if available) of the persons formally consulted, including:*

8.3.1 *FSC officially recognized Contact Persons;*

8.3.2 *Government organizations involved in the forest management;*

8.3.3 *Other stakeholders, including the employees and the local population.*

8.4 *Information obtained and conclusions reached.*

As mentioned, the interested parties were officially involved in the initial meeting on 12th May 2004. Successively, the certification mission requested another meeting (to conclude the mission) which had the objective of discussing and giving the results of the mission, but which was also aimed at involving those people/offices who could not attend the previous meeting.

Unfortunately, the State Forest Corps at the Acquapendente Station was not able to attend either meeting.

The people attending the meeting of 12th May, 2004 were as follows:

Vito CONSOLI	ARP Rome, director, Via Indonesia – 00144 Rome
Gianfranco GELSOMINI	Mycological Association, president, Acquapendente
Felice FIORAVANTI	ELCE Co-operative, foreman, Acquapendente
EULO Seri	Arci Hunting, Acquapendente
Palla IVALD	Arci Hunting, Acquapendente

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Vittorio BURCHIELLI	Agronomist, <i>RNMR</i> consultant, Acquapendente
Tolmino PIAZZAI	Municipality of Acquapendente, Mayor
Fabrizio PIERI	Municipality of Acquapendente, Environment Councillor
Laura SALEPPICO	Municipality of Acquapendente, Tourism Councillor
Alessandra TERROSI	Agronomist, <i>RNMR</i> consultant, Acquapendente
Vania RONCHINI	Administrative clerk, <i>RNMR</i> , Acquapendente
Egidio LEANDRI	Park Warden, Lazio Regional Council, <i>RNMR</i> , Acquapendente
Roberto PAPI	Forester, Technical Office, <i>RNMR</i> , Acquapendente
Massimo BEDINI	Agronomist, director, <i>RNMR</i> , Acquapendente
Carlo GALLI	Building Surveyor, Technical Office, <i>RNMR</i> , Acquapendente
LUMACA	Agronomist, organic certifications

Approximately thirty invitations in all were prepared and sent to institutions, non – government organizations, various offices of pertinent categories, etc.

At the following meeting on the 9th of June, at the closing of the certification mission, the following people attended:

Massimo BEDINI	Agronomist, director, <i>RNMR</i> , Acquapendente
Egidio LEANDRI	Park Warden, Lazio Regional Council, <i>RNMR</i> , Acquapendente
Moica PIAZZAI	Forester, Park Warden, Lazio Regional Council, <i>RNMR</i> , Acquapendente
Marco LAUTERI	CNR, Institute of Agricultural, Environmental and Forest Biology, Porano (Terni)
Eraldo CECCARELLI	President, OLAV Co-operative, Acquapendente
Angelo SCIPIONI	Technical Office, Alta Tuscia Laziale Mountain Community, Acquapendente
Mario BUSATTO	Province of Viterbo, Natural resources management
Lucia MODONESI	Province of Viterbo, Natural resources management

The two meetings were followed with interest and they were necessary for a better understanding of the FSC forest certification system, for presenting the opportunities offered by the certification for the development of the sector and for up-dating the participants on the contents of the forest certification.

No particular matters were raised, other than requests for information on other experiences of the kind in Italy and on the effective opportunities, in commercial terms, offered by certified firewood.

9 OBSERVATIONS

9.1 *Complete and organized presentation of the observations that demonstrate the conformity or the non-conformity with respect to each element of the Forest Management Standard used for the evaluation.*

The *RNMR* will have reached total conformity relative to the adherence to the Principles and Criteria of the FSC certification Standard for Forest Management once it has resolved the Primary Non-Conformities (**3 NCP**) and the Secondary Non-Conformities (**3 NCS**), as follows:

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During the certification mission a careful and total evaluation was made of the forest management system in use in the *RNMR*, the results of which are given in the Work Sheets finalized on the site 9.6.2004.

TABLE OF PRIMARY NON-CONFORMITIES (NCP)

1 NCP	No document with the Forest Management's public declaration that it will honour a long-term commitment in following the Principles and Criteria of the FSC Standard, in conformity with the local and national regulations in force. (ref. P1, C1,6)	Corrective action of 13/09/04 Deliberation of the Municipal Council dated 08/12/04. Resolved.
2 NCP	More attention must be given to the formal procedures that are binding for the execution of the work that has been programmed in the Organization Plan, as requested by Resolution B 1863, dated 17.9.03 of the Lazio Regional Council. (ref. P1, respect of regulations).	Resolved, procedure defined, as per corrective action of 13/09/04.
3 NCP	With regard to possible environmental impact on the protected flora as a result of the cutting down of trees and vegetation in the forest, it is necessary to establish a check-up procedure on site (before commencing the cutting down) in the portion to be used for identifying the location of the protected species that may be present and take adequate practical measures for their protection (ref. P6)	Resolved, procedure defined, as per corrective action of 13/09/04.

TABLE OF SECONDARY NON-CONFORMITIES (NCS)

1 NCS	No adequate overall evaluation of the economic sustainability of the forest management. (ref. P5)	Sectorial study of the economic sustainability programmed to be completed by 3rd April 2005. (corrective action of 13/09/2004)
2 NCS	No staff TRAINING: the TRAINING of the forest workers that operate in the <i>RNMR</i> must be encouraged and developed in the manner considered most appropriate by the Managing Body and it must be adequate for their respective roles. (ref. P4, C4.2.6)	A 10-hour training course in the forest is programmed for next year. (corrective action of 13/09/2004)
3 NCS	Establishment of up-dating and revision procedures for the Organization Plan with regard to timing and the interested parties, in which it must also be specified that the data resulting from the various monitorings carried out by the security office of the Reserve will be systematically inserted in the PAF, Structure Plan and SIC/ZPS Plans up-dating.	A Reserve Act will be stipulated by 30th November 2004 to establish the up-dating procedures. (corrective action of 13/09/2004)

TABLE OF OBSERVATIONS (0)

1 0	Schedule, if possible by the end of 2005, a technical meeting to up-date the Organization Plan following the outcome of the certification and the results of the evaluation regarding the economic sustainability of the forest management (see 1 NCS)	Fix indicative date
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9.2 *Complete and organized presentation of the results or the positive/negative outcomes for each element of the Forest Management Standard used in the evaluation.*

For this point please refer to the specific observations for each Principle and Criteria in the check-list, as in Chapter 6.

(Note: the observations and the results can be presented in the form of a standardized check-list attached to the Report).

10. CONTROL, TRACEABILITY AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRODUCTS

⇒ **Not requested.**

11. CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS

Since the Municipality of Acquapendente is the Managing Body, **their public relations office** deals with any controversial matters that should arise, and it has the predominant role, among others, of receiving any contestations and/or complaints regarding controversial matters in relation to the forest management of the *RNMR*.

Up to the present no controversial matters of any kind have been notified, nor have any controversial matters arisen during the certification mission between the evaluation group and the Managing Body.

12. INDICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CERTIFICATION

12.1 *Illustration of the evaluation and decisional systems that are defined in accordance with the Principles (FSC Principles and Criteria for the Forest Management) and used in the decisional process for the granting of the certificate, including an explicit declaration of conformity with each Principle.*

The Certification Committee has evaluated the present report, the corrective actions proposed by the Organization, the “peer reviews” presented by Signora Angela Rositi and Signor Pier Giorgio Terzuolo and it has considered that each Principle has been substantially respected. With regard to the Primary Non-Conformity no. 1, considering that the only item missing is the formal approval relative to the long-term commitment to respect the FSC Principles and Criteria, the non-conformity is considered as resolved and the ICILA is requested to verify the formal conclusion of the non-conformity.



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12.2 *Clear indications and suggestions both in the case the forest management enterprise has reached the level of conformity required for the certification or in the case it has not.*

When the time comes for the Organizational Plan to be revised, it is considered very important for the Managing Body to have acquired a more complete vision of its forest management system and be able to provide both technical and tree-growing guidance and suggested courses of action that would result as being more coherent with the specific characteristics and potentiality of the area and more aware of the local socio-economic reality, so that more emphasis can be given to socio-economic sustainability.

12.3 *Clear statements for each indication, condition or pre-condition correlated with the certification suggestions.*

The committee gives a positive evaluation of the report and the corrective actions and requests that ICILA is promptly given a copy of the document where the Forest Management publicly declares that it will honour the long-term commitment of adhering to the Principles and Criteria of the FSC Standard, in conformity with the local and national regulations in force.

13. CONTRACT

13.1 *Contract, undersigned by the requesting organization, containing the commitment to respect all foreseen and specified conditions.*

Copy available upon request.

13.2 *Copy of certificate, if granted.*

Copy available upon request.

Contents of the document checked and approved by:	
ICILA s.r.l. Via Braille 5 – 20035 Lissone (MI) - Italy Tel. +39-039465239 - fax. +39-039465168	Forest managing body evaluated:
Lissone (MI), 11/10/02	Place, date:
Riccardo Giordano FSC Certification Manager	
Signature :	Signature :