

**ICILA S.r.l.**

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FSC – Certification of good management of the

**S. Alessandro poplar grove**

Zeme Lomellina & Pavia Borgo Ticino (Cascina Boscone) – PV, Italia

In conformity with the principles and criteria fixed by FSC  
*Public certification report/summary*

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*This certification report was drawn up according to the ICILA good forest management certification scheme, accredited by FSC.  
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S.S.*

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## **1 General aspects:**

### **1.1 Brief description of the company/farm that manages the poplar grove**

The company called S. Alessandro S.S. is concerned with the running of farms, whose activity mainly consists in growing poplars. The partners of S. Alessandro S.S. belong to the families that own ICTA S.r.l., a firm which transforms/processes poplars and produces plywood and the like, already certified by FSC Chain of Custody (ICILA-CoC-20). The registered and administrative offices of both companies are at the same address.

The areas covered by the certification are:

the poplars belonging to S. Alessandro S.S. placed near Casale S. Alessandro, Zeme (PV)

The areas of the S. Alessandro Garzaia – *the latter being a woody marsh area where herons build their nests* -, belonging to S. Alessandro S.S. placed near Casale S. Alessandro a Zeme (PV)

The areas run by S. Alessandro S.S. placed near "Cascina Boscone", Pavia, at the locality called Borgo Ticino.

A detailed management plan of the plantations and supporting and recording/registration documentation was prepared by the company, which, together with the "Plan for the national monument of the Garzaia di Sant'Alessandro" pertaining to the competency of the Province of Pavia, allows for the continual respect of all technical, administrative, legal, social, economic and environmental requirements fixed by FSC.

### **Why certification was granted**

Having verified that the S. Alessandro plantation abides by FSC principles and criteria, ICILA therefore is proud to grant the FSC GOOD FOREST MANAGEMENT certification.

Certificate code: ICILA-FM/CoC-002 as of 5 June 2003.

### **1.2 forest management system (type of organisation, managerial purposes of the areas, regional context).**

The overall area subject to certification consists in 257.47 hectares, regulated by the "Plantation management plan" drawn up by S. Alessandro S.S. for the purposes of certification, and by the "Plan for the natural monument of the Garzaia di S. Alessandro", approved by the Lombardy Region.

The poplar-cultivated land is an area historically dedicated to agriculture. Said areas therefore have not undergone either de-wooding, levelling or earth-moving, drainage or bush-removal operations: already before 1994 (reference date indicated by FSC principles and criteria) the land was arranged in a manner that was functional to agriculture. The area is flat/level and rich in water.

In detail, the area is broken up as follows:

Zeme Lomellina:

(a) 130.03 ha poplar cultivation.

(b) 37.19 ha falling within the natural monument called "Garzaia" of S. Alessandro.

- (c) 9.7 ha cultivated as water-meadow (an area which, not being a forest, falls without the subject-matter of certification, though it is highly relevant from the environmental and cultural viewpoint, given the richness of the avifauna that it attracts, and that the traditional importance of said culture is subsiding more and more).

Pavia Borgo Ticino (Cascina Boscone):

- (d) 83.19 ha poplar cultivation.  
(e) 7.06 ha protected area of riverside vegetation

Total area subject to certification: 257.47 hectares.

The areas subjected to certification display differing managerial systems, depending on their placement and destination. Summarily:

### **Areas (a) and (d)**

The areas indicated under previous points (a) and (d) are destined to poplar cultivation. The cultural model being the traditional Italian poplar growing system on plains.

Said model can be briefly summarised (as described in the "Plantation management plan"):

Poplar fellings take place after about 10 years. Said selected life-cycle may vary depending on the clone, on the vegetative state of the plants, the poplar market situation. Cutting takes place close to the ground for the whole lot subject to cutting (10-20 hectare pieces of ground that are uniform, both age- and clone-wise). Trees determined as environmentally or monumentally relevant, are left to stand, they are usually placed on the edges of the plots of ground, along banks or roads.

After felling operations, before new, small poplar plants are put in the ground, the land is prepared by means of breaking up and deep ploughing. Planting takes place with cloned, small poplar plants whose origin is certified, with a sixth of a planted unit of about 6X6 metres. The apportionment of the pieces of ground per clone and age is planned to comply with differentiation requirements fixed according to good Alpine arc forest management standards, whose approval is under way by the international branch of FSC, and used as reference standards for this assessment. (planning has to be improved, please refer to NCS #4).

Phyto-sanitary treatments are carried out only when necessary, without preventive work and in a limited fashion, with work carried out directly on the affected areas. The products employed are those envisioned in the "FSC Policy on Chemical Pesticides in Certified Forests" (even if with aspects that have to be improved, please refer to NCS #1). Operations are described in detail in the "Plantation management/handling plan" for various kinds of parasite attacks.

Work on the infesting weeds envisioned - only of the mechanical type - is by means of harrowing and closure, or manual operations for climbing plants. Four years after planting has taken place, spontaneous grassing is foreseen as well as occasional mechanical work, in order to set up refuges for the fauna, boost biodiversity and reduce soil erosion.

Pruning work, which is highly important for felled poplar quality, is thoroughly scheduled in the management plan. Third-party companies are usually entrusted with it. Pruned branches are left on the ground so as to constitute nutritive organic matter/material. Irrigation is carried out only as an emergency. At Zeme Lomellina it is done thanks to the channels of the east Sesia consortium. At Pavia Borgo Ticino the appropriate channel net is fed thanks to a mechanical pump which draws water from the Ticino. Fertilising takes place during the first four years, without fertilising the estate before planting operations. During the first four-year period, nitrogenous fertilisers are used, during the second, ones of the ureic type. During the whole cycle a biological fertiliser – consisting in poplar bark that has been partly composted - is distributed mechanically. (please refer to NCS # 3, the company's intention to seek more and more biological fertilisers– to be inserted in the "Policy" document -, is not expressed).

The described operations (excluding seasonal ones) are avoided in the period from 15 June till 30 September in order not to disturb the avifauna, and attention is paid in handling mechanical means and other contrivances to avoid damaging the water system/plants.

### **Area (b)**

The purpose underlying management of the area indicated in the previous paragraph under point (b) is (as indicated in the "Plan for the natural monument of the <<Garzaia>> of S. Alessandro"):

- 1) the safeguarding of the environmental ambiances and, especially, of the populations of nest-building *Ardeidae* and of the their nidification habitats.
- 2) the orienting of the natural evolution of the environment towards optimal features, for long-term preservation of the colonies of nest-building *Ardeidae*, to be accomplished through appropriate silvicultural handling and the preservation of a fitting water/hydraulic regime.
- 3) the disciplining and controlling of the fruition of the area, protected for scientific and didactical/recreational ends.
- 4) the regulating of productive activities in manners that are compatible with the purposes of the area.

Management is entirely in the hands of the institution in charge, this ensures the implementation and updating of the plan in compliance with the determined purposes. Commercial log cutting is not envisioned for this area.

### **Area (e)**

Area (e) consists in riverside vegetation, whose handling is aimed at conserving and preserving the tampon area towards the river, a passage-way for the fauna placed amidst the Ticino river, its channel called Gravelone and the neighbouring agricultural areas. Commercial long cutting is not envisioned for this area.

## **1.3 The environmental and social-economic context**

### **Zeme Lomellina:**

Included in the area subject to certification is a portion (33.19 hectares out of an overall 137.5 of the natural monument, and out of an overall 257.47 hectares of territory included in the subject of certification) of the "natural monument of the S. Alessandro Garzaia" whose management is wholly governed by the "Plan of the natural monument of the Garzaia of Sant'Alessandro" (approved with regional government resolution no. 5/15198 dated 28 November 1991 and subsequent amendments). In said document, drawn up and approved by the Lombardy Region, are to be found all legislative and regulatory details referring to the "Garzaia" area. In substance, said area was set up as a "partial zoological" reserve, with the intent to safeguard nest-building ambiances of protected species such as *colonial Ardidae*, through Lombardy regional council resolution no. IV/250 dated 29/04/86 pursuant to regional law no. 86/83. Through regional government resolution no. 5/15198 dated 28/11/91 the "management plan for the natural reserve of the S. Alessandro Garzaia" was approved, only to be followed by the naturalistic arrangement plan. With regional law no. 4 dated 14/02/1994, the preservation/protection regime was modified so as to allow the Sant'Alessandro faunal hunting company to carry out hunting activity; thus re-classifying the "Garzaia" no longer as a reserve but as a natural monument. With resolution no. VII/2572 of 11 December 2000, to end with, the Lombardy region completed the procedure for instituting the S. Alessandro "Garzaia" as a special protection zone pursuant to directive no. 74/409/EC, and proposed as a "Site of Community Importance" to form the European Nature 2000 net.

With regard to restraints on landscapes, the PRG (approved by regional government on 14/04/1981, resolution no. 6398) classes the area called "Zone E3, agricultural, placed outside the perimeter of the built-up centre" without envisioning further limitations for the area.

Hunting is regulated in regional law no. 86 of 30/11/1993. The regulatory document consists in the convention stipulated by the "Sant'Alessandro" faunal hunting company and the Province of Pavia.

The use of water for irrigation (never employed however, as declared by Dr. Michele Comaschi, a representative of S. Alessandro S.S.) is governed in the regulation of the east Sesia consortium, to which the company belongs.

### **Pavia Borgo Ticino:**

The estate of Pavia Borgo is rented out to S. Alessandro S.S..

The estate is included in the Ticino Park, as a result it is governed by the norms of the Park's regulation.

Institutions and authorities are involved in the management and control of the activity carried out in the areas subject to certification; and especially:

- The Lombardy Region: the authority approving the management/handling plan of the "Garzaia";
- the Province of Pavia: the managing institution of the natural monument of the S. Alessandro "Garzaia";
- State forestry corps: forest, hunting and, in general, anthropic activity on the territory;
- gamekeeper of the faunal-hunting company called "Sant'Alessandro": control of hunting and of the activities on the territory.

First of all we wish to say that in the poplar plantations, site multi-functionality is not the norm. In the case studied here, the difference consists in the presence of the "garzaia".

In the areas subject to certification, numerous anthropic activities are carried out. The most relevant one from the environmental viewpoint is hunting, which is solely pursued in the "garzaia" areas (previously indicated as area (b)), under the protection of the faunal-hunting firm called "S. Alessandro" - acknowledged by the public authority (agreement with the Province of Pavia) -, in which S. Alessandro S.S. possesses a holding. Said hunting activity is considered and governed in the plan for the "natural monument of the S. Alessandro <<garzaia>>" and in relevant legislation. Hunting is defined by the regional hunting calendar and takes place from the third Sunday in September until 30 January.

Other than by the police, hunting is controlled also by an employee of the faunal-hunting firm, who verifies compliance with the norms (periods when hunting is permitted, hunting permits for the area, species and quantity of preys, etc.) by subjects authorised to hunt in the area. A few rooms of the buildings belonging to S. Alessandro S.S. are used by the gamekeeper and the hunters (hunting house). A proper register is used to write down every animal or bird killed.

Hunting is forbidden in the poplar groves also to avoid that the pellet/lead shots spoil the quality of the poplars once they have been felled and sent to be processed as plywood after being deprived of their leaves.

Other considerably interesting activities are didactical work and studies. The hunting house works as an accommodation facility for study groups or for guided didactical tours. In the area, along the main routes, explicative tables are to be found (that have been made according to low-environmental-impact criteria). Nearly all the stretches of water are surrounded by screenings (of reeds, or of fabric covered with vegetation). A few observation postings are placed near the ambiances that are most frequented by the *Aldeidae*, so much so as to favour naturalistic watching and by reducing anthropic disturbance to minimum. Wooden gangways are placed along the didactical track for crossing the little holes/ditches.

The poplar groves are frequented for the usual rural activities (e.g.: mushroom picking or, more rarely, or of frog fishing and snail picking) (please refer to O#6: incomplete identification of all forms of fruition).

Random cases of scarcely controllable, illegal rubbish dumping, have been observed.

A few families, still partly concerned with farming in the areas subject to certification, live next to the rustic buildings belonging to S. Alessandro S.S..

#### **1.4 Products of the area**

The adopted poplar cultural system, traditional in the Padana plain, foresees cutting near ground level of the parcel at the end of the pre-determined life-cycle (the only plants left standing are usually those placed on the edges of the parcel, whose environmental or landscape interest is acknowledged, and that have been identified and mapped earlier). By estimating a sixth of a planted unit of 6mX6m, an average volume of mature poplars, each about 0.85m<sup>3</sup>, average production per hectare can be calculated for every pre-determined life-cycle, corresponding to the maximum possible production for poplar cultivation in these areas and with the specific cultural system adopted (*average diameter 31.65 cm and average height 25.25 m, source: Poplar-growing Experimentation Institute, objective*

*criteria for evaluating the mature poplar grove, Casale Monferrato (AL[=province of  
Alessandria]), 2002).*

### **1.5 Chain of custody**

Certifying a poplar grove covers also the chain of custody, meaning that the products from the poplar grove can be sold by S. Alessandro S.S. with the FSC logo.

The poplar trunks/logs are individually identified and, at the moment of sale, the buyer and the date of purchase are recorded, be they sold while they are still standing or be they delivered to the customer. The risk that forest products coming from certified areas and other woody products, coming from other areas, are mixed up/mixed together is very low given that the sale, the felling and the transport take place only on an homogeneous parcel basis.

## **2 The certification process**

### **2.1 Dates and audit group**

Riccardo GIORDANO	Environmental engineer, lead auditor (RGVI) FSC and Environmental Certification Manager – ICILA
Luigi BOVOLENTA,	Doctor in forestry, an expert. Only attended the pre-verification inspection, graciously granted by Certiquality, together with whom the pre- verification stage was carried out.
Mara BONELLI	Doctor in environmental sciences, intern c/o ICILA, observer during the certification inspection.
“Peer reviewers”	
Angela ROSITI	Doctor of forestry, experience in FSC certification. Consultant.
Giacomo ZORZI	Doctor of forestry, experience in FSC certification. Consultant.

### **2.2 Certification process, including stakeholder consultation**

On 18 and 19 November 2002 a pre-verification inspection was carried out in order to assess the area’s state of certifiability, emphasise possible criticalities or aspects to be improved in the management of the areas, spot particular stakeholders to be contacted, determine points on the relevant check list to be integrated, collect first hand evidence with regard to certification requirement meeting.

The inspection was carried out together with the certification inspection of the same area by “Certiquality”, a certifying body about to be accredited by FSC. Dr. Bovolenta, belonging to the inspection verification group of Certiquality (lead auditor: Dr. Gianni Bomba), is also the “expert” in the ICILA inspection verification group.

The main purpose of the certification inspection, that took place on 5 March 2003, was to verify the working out of the non-conformities identified during pre-verification and the collection of further evidence that FSC principles and criteria are complied with, other than the deepening/furtherance of stakeholder consultation. During the audit, the poplar grove areas, as well as the “garzaia” of the S. Alessandro estate were carefully inspected, whilst the Borgo Ticino estate was not, since its features were not such as to require a second

inspection after pre-verification. The verification was led by RGVI (Riccardo Giordano, an engineer), accompanied by Dr. Mara Bonelli (an ICILA intern). Dr. Michele Comaschi, manager, and Mr. Nicola Comaschi, in charge of cultural activities and of the monitoring, participated on behalf of S. Alessandro. Other participants, in their capacity as stakeholders, were Dr. Vietto and Dr. Coaloa, of the Poplar-growing Institute, Casale.

Stakeholder consultation took place in several stages, with the intent to reach as many interested parties as possible, on both a domestic and a local level, institutional and private

A first instance of communication was sent on 6 November 2002 by email by Certiquality (together with whom the pre-verification inspection was carried out) to a list of stakeholders invited to take part in the verification on 18 and 19 November 2002, to give their own contribution:

ediliziaprivata@comune.pv.it, info@aisf.it, adisconum@adisconum.it,  
bonalberti@anarf.com, info@parcodelticino.pnm.it, info@lipu.it,  
legambiente@legambiente.com, posta@wwf.it.

No contribution was received from said first stakeholders contacted.

During the pre-verification inspection, on 18 and 19 November 2002, a few persons interested in the management of the areas were contacted:

Mr. Migliavacca: gamekeeper of the S. Alessandro faunal-hunting firm,

Mr. Renzo Bertazzo: a neighbour that lives next to the poplar grove and to the buildings of the S. Alessandro, who is a communal councillor of the commune of Zeme Lomellina.

Said persons said nothing relevant on the management of either the poplar grove or the "garzaia". Mr. Migliavacca, who is in contact with the territory and everyday's passers-by, only mentioned the random presence of waste materials dumped by strangers in a few remote zones of the area. Events which, even according to him, cannot be controlled.

During the certification inspection, further information on the certification (available on request) was sent on 3/2/2003 to approx. 130 possible stakeholders. Said list is an extension of the list of stakeholders provided by the FSC group, Italy. From said list an answer arrived from Dr. Vietto and Dr. Coaloa of the Poplar-growing Institute, Casale, who personally took part in the 5 March inspection. The contribution of Dr. Vietto and of Dr. Coaloa turned out to be important in confirming the general opinion on the good management of the poplar grove. No specific note was brought up/submitted.

To end with, after the visit, ICILA got into contact also with the premises of LIPU, Pavia (Mr. Rognoni), that had their own premises inside the buildings of S. Alessandro and the Province of Pavia.

LIPU did not answer the e-mail they were sent.

Over the phone, Dr. Sparpagliane, an official of the Province of Pavia, of the office for natural reserves, voiced some perplexities on the negative influence that the poplar grove may have on the "garzaia", due to the absorption of underground water by the poplars, thus depriving the "garzaia" areas of it, and because of the presence of crows that build

their nests in poplars and disturb herons' nest-building in the "garzaia". Moreover, he mentioned the decrease, in the last few years, of the presence of herons, a situation the Province is trying to remedy, also, for instance, by limiting accesses to the area and by preparing further naturalistic initiatives. To be specific, however, he mentioned nothing relevant against S. Alessandro S.S. Having asked for further information by e-mail (mario.tuzzi@provincia.pv.it), as well as for an electronic copy of the "garzaia" management plan and of the last monitoring work carried out, we received no reply.

With regard to the relationship between the area and special protection zones (ZPS), Dr. Laura Cucè, of the Lombardy Region, told us that the natural monument was identified as a potential ZPS, but that the Ministry still has not been notified the georeferentiation nor the related supporting files. Said work should finish within the end of the year. No additional rule should ensue from defining the area as a ZPS.

### 2.3 Reference standards

As standards were used the FSC "standards on good forestry management for the Italian Alpine arc - Version – 18 December 2002 Document approved by the General Meeting of the FSC Group, -Italy – Roma, 18.12.2002." downloadable from the website: [www.fsc-italia.it](http://www.fsc-italia.it) available c/o ICILA on request.

## 3 Outcome of the assessment

### 3.1 General description of the assessments.

**Principle 1** seems to have been substantially complied with. The applicable legislation – whether fiscal, agronomic, on safety or on workers' protection– is known to forest managers. On-the-spot control of compliance with legal requirements was carried out without interruption by the gamekeepers and thanks to recorded surveillance by S. Alessandro S.S.'s staff. The assiduous presence of public technicians in the "garzaia" ensures continual control also by the authority. S. Alessandro S.S. does not appear to have been summoned to pay any penalties by public control authorities. The contents of the "policy" signed by S. Alessandro managers are not fully complete (please refer to NCS#3), an aspect, however, which does not jeopardize the substance of principle 1 having been complied with.

**FSC principle 2** as a whole is complied with, a good level having been reached, especially if we consider the care in preserving an instance of the traditional agricultural type culture called the "water-meadow", once very widespread, now more and more unused, and that offers food to the avifauna even in the coldest seasons. There is no evidence in the area of recent disputes over rights of use or of fruition. Rights of use are complied with, above all hunting (the "garzaia" is included in the faunal-hunting company called S. Alessandro, of which S. Alessandro S.S. is a partner) and recreational-didactical activities (the LIPU arranges guided tours). To be improved is the formalization, in the economic plan of S. Alessandro S.S., of the initiatives aimed at safeguarding the socially or historically interesting elements (work on the roof of the church of S. Alessandro non-formalized).

**Principle 4** is difficult to assess, above all because all field work is entrusted to third party companies that, in turn, employ a lot of seasonal staff from non-Communitarian countries. The documentation (procedural and contractual) ensures that third-party

companies are adequately informed about social and safety requirements falling within their competency. Monitoring tools (control check list) of all the social and safety requirements to be improved (please refer to NCS #2). During verifications, no operational activity was assessed on the field, considering the season, which did not envision any work on poplars.

**Principle 5** is substantially complied with, given productive orientation, aimed at economic returns. ICTA's financial support ensures managerial solidity to S. Alessandro on the long term. The worth of other uses of the wood are increased through the faunal-hunting company. Economic formalisation of the expense budgets has to be improved (please refer to O#5).

**Principle 6** appears to be complied with, mainly thanks to the presence of the "garzaia" which is managed with an aim to preserving its environmental features. The maintenance of the whole unpaved road net, the rigid regulations governing accesses, the rigid regulations governing the periods of work on the poplar grove to avoid disturbing the nest-building avifauna, continual surveillance of the environmental parameters, ensure the protection of the environmental features of both the wood and the plantation. A few aspects are to be improved of the control of the use of chemical products to avoid their accidental spilling, and to plan the work to be carried out in case of such an event (please refer to NCS #2).

Handling/management plans with which the activities concerning the territories subject to certification are planned, managed and kept under control, are two: the plantation handling plan prepared by the farm called S. Alessandro S.S. and the handling plan for the "garzaia", approved by the Lombardy Region. The two tools are complementary, with the "garzaia" handling plan in an upper hierarchical order, as it was approved by the public authority and has binding contents. The "garzaia" handling plan is totally without the control performed by S. Alessandro S.S., this notwithstanding it perfectly complies with FSC requirements for good planning of the activities in the area subject to certification. The two documents have differing structures, levels of deepening and purposes: the nature of the plantation handling plan is much more technical and aimed at good poplar-growing, the "garzaia" handling plan is much more oriented towards the description of the tools foreseen for preserving and increasing the elements and features that make the area especially worthy of protection. If the two documents are collated, as a whole we may view **principle 7** as met with.

Monitoring of the environmental, social and economic parameters of the woodland areas subject to certification is planned in the two relevant handling plans. Monitoring by S. Alessandro was carried only lately, so the data is limited and hardly significant. S. Alessandro say they have not noticed difficulties in finding data on the "garzaia", which the managing body/institution so far, has failed to secure. As a whole, **principle 8** is adequately complied with in activity planning, although its thorough implementation still isn't evident, monitoring data being insufficient.

The wording "woodland having a highly environmental worth" attributed to the "garzaia" is established by the "natural monument" regime regulating the area. The feature which determines such an attribution of worth is the presence of species of *Ardeidae* that build their nests in the wood. The handling of the "garzaia" is entrusted to the Province of Pavia, that oriented the handling plan so as to forcibly protect these kinds of nest-building species, by devising implementation tools aimed at increasing their presence. Said

managerial orientation allows to retain **principle 9** as basically complied with. The implementation of stakeholder - (*above all the Province of Pavia, the LIPU, third party companies, the faunal-hunting firm called S. Alessandro*) - consulting procedures [was] not assessed/evaluated see O#7.

The carrying out of **principle 10** can be improved further, above all as far as the planning of employable chemical products is concerned. With regard to the various work envisioned for the many cases of parasite attacks, the plantation management/handling plan is very detailed, but it does not exhaustively list the modalities or the liabilities in the choices of the employable chemical products or in their recording/registration (especially: Mancozeb), even by third party companies. As a whole, however, principle 10 is sufficiently complied with. The level of detail in describing the modalities regulating work and chemical product application is accurate and efficacious, accompanied as it is with precise procedures for the planting system, fertilising, pruning, irrigation and cutting/felling. Planning of both fertilising and of work on grassing appears to be adequate. Said procedures, however, still haven't been assessed while being applied *in situ*. The use of numerous clones guarantees a certain productive and genetic variety.

### 3.2 Decision on certification

Certification is recommended to the certification committee by the audit group, the non-conformities spotted during the certification inspection can be worked out easily and, above all, they have a documentary, unsubstantial character. However, since it was not possible to evaluate any cultural operation – in all cases entrusted to third companies – and, given that during pre-verification and the certification audit no activity was under way, an inspection is recommended, to be carried out during the first field work by a third company.

During ICILA'S 19/5/2003 environmental certification, forest management and chain of custody, a decision was made to start the debate on certification via e-mail and the telephone. No committee member sent in any negative observation, therefore certification was granted, with surveillance verification to be carried out during the first operations to be done by S. Alessandro on the field.

Certification shall be valid for 5 years starting on 03/06/03. It is subject to compliance with the relevant ICILA regulation, to at least annual audits and to continuous compliance with FSC principles and criteria.

### 3.3 Non-conformities noticed/spotted

In detail, non-conformities spotted during the 5 March 2003 certification audit (which was preceded by an instance of pre-verification on 18 November 2002) consist in:

**NCS # 1 (please refer to check list 10.7.3)** In the procedure for the use of chemical products, the products that cannot be used are not indicated in detail, this is especially true about "Mancozeb", the only critical one among the products that Italian legislation admits but FSC doesn't (CHEMICAL PESTICIDES IN CERTIFIED FORESTS - CHEMICAL PESTICIDES IN CERTIFIED FORESTS – FSC - July 2002), indicating also the alternative active principles, better if with their relevant commercial names and with a procedure and

responsibilities assigned to accept new products before they're used on the field and to register the quantities employed.

**NCS # 2 (please refer to check list 4.4.1, 4.2.3, 6.7.1, 6.7.2)** the control check list used for monitoring the activities of the companies that carry out cultural activities appears to be only partly complete with regard to the control of the aspects linked with workers' security (e.g.: working high up in the air, modalities for the use of phyto-pharmaceuticals, the mixing of chemical products) and to workers' social rights, foreseeing also possible work modalities in case requirements are verified not to have been met with (e.g.: in the case of accidental spilling of chemical products).

**NCS # 3 (please refer to check list 1.6)** the management policy signed on 2nd November 2002 by the representatives of S. Alessandro S.S. and by the ownership of the Borgo Ticino estate still is incomplete as far as the commitment to preserve the area as woodland or as a plantation for a long period is concerned. Moreover, it does not include commitments for a program to improve and progressively substitute synthesis fertilisers with organic fertilisers, or ones admitted within biological farming.

**NCS # 4 (please refer to check list 10.3.3.)** The management or handling plan modified following pre-verification does not explicitly include the requirement that future plants preserve clone diversification at 20 % (instead, it includes the requirement for 10 combined/clustered hectares, non-homogeneous per age or per clone).

**O # 5 (please refer to check list 2.2.3)** the drawing up of the profit and loss account and of the annual budget are to be improved, even by including planned social work (e.g.: re-making of the roof of the little church of S. Alessandro's or work on the "*pila del riso*" [=rice-pile]).

**O # 6 (please refer to check list 6.2.7)** we recommend the completion of the table of norms on the instances of public fruition of the area subject to the certification, even with "minor" uses (or abuses), such as for instance: limitations to access by dogs, mushroom picking, snail-picking or frog fishing, the abusive deposit of waste materials, etc.

**O # 7 (please refer to check list 9.2.1)** we recommend the distribution of the plantation management plan to the leading stakeholders (Province of Pavia, the Ticino Park Institution, the S. Alessandro faunal-hunting firm, LIPU, third-party companies, next-door neighbours) so that they are consulted on cultural choices and to inform them about the certification under way.

#### 4. Audit

The observations that emerged during pre-verification (on 18 and 19 November 2002) were tackled by S. Alessandro S.S. by means of modifications to the "Plantation handling/management plan" and by integrating it through documents made purposely. A few points require further improvement work as indicated in the above-listed non-conformities observed during the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2003 certification inspection.

#### 5. Public information

Information on the "garzaia" or poplar grove handling plan and on the monitoring work carried out is available for whoever demands it, c/o ICILA or care/of S. Alessandro S.S., at the above-mentioned address.

C/o ICILA the following are also available for whoever asks for them:

- the assessment standard



## PUBLIC CERTIFICATION REPORT – FSC FOREST MANAGEMENT

*Pioppeto e Garzaia S. Alessandro – Zeme Lomellina (PV [=PROVINCE  
OF PAVIA]) & Borgo Ticino (PV), Italy*



FSC accredited

- the list of the organisations certified by ICILA
- material describing the importance and the meaning of forest certification
- the certification regulation
- description of ICILA and of its work.

Contents of the document controlled and approved by:	
<b>ICILA s.r.l.</b> Via Braille 5 – 20035 Lissone (MI) - Italy Tel. +39-039465239 - fax. +39-039465168	Organisation assessed:
Lissone (MI), April 2003	Place and date:
Riccardo Giordano In charge of FSC certification	
Signature	Signature