



**Ministry of Forestry & Research,
PO Box G24,
Honiara**

OPERATIONS DIVISION

**SOLOMON ISLANDS CODE OF
LOGGING PRACTICE AND LOGGING
PERMITTING PROCESS**



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- Role of Operations Department.
- The Solomon Islands Code of Logging Practice.
- Permitting Process [First Process]
- Permitting Process [Second Process]
- Audit and Compliance



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ROLE OF THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT.

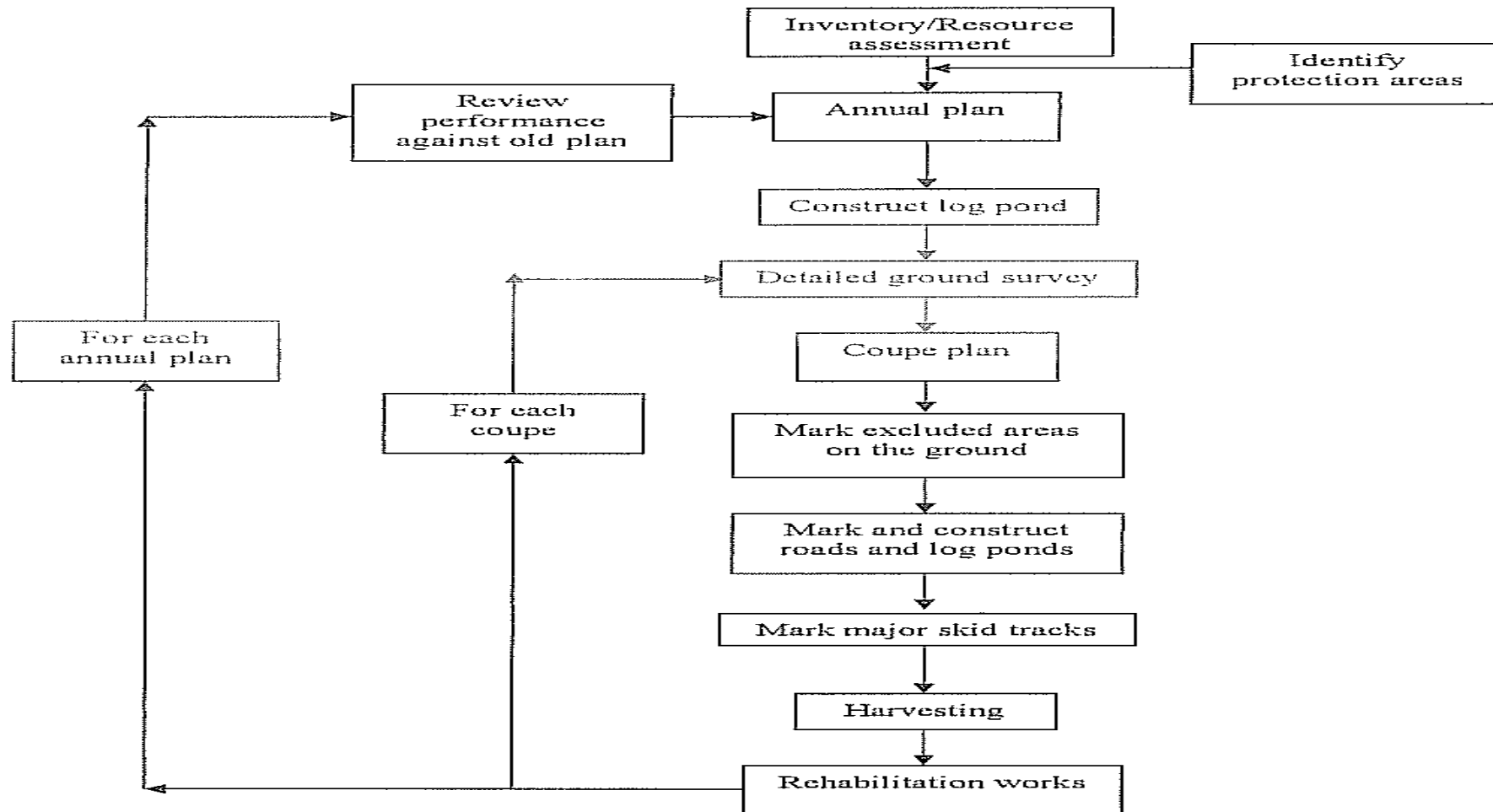
- Ensure Approval granted to a logging operations falls within legal logging concession.
- Ensure that Logging License Holder and Logging Contractor fulfil requirements [Performance Bond, Anniversary Fees, EIA report in place, Marketing Technology Agreement in place, Provincial Business license]
- Staffs in the Province must first check Coupe Plans to ensure all requirements set under Code of Logging Practice fulfil prior commencement of logging operations

Guidelines for Harvest Planning

Planning is essential to achieving a cost effective harvesting operation that complies with the Code. Two levels of harvest plans are required and will be checked by the FD before the operation is notified by the FD that it may commence using machinery on site. The two levels of harvest planning are:

- 1) Annual plans Cover at least a year of operations and are fairly general. Must be submitted annually in November to the FD.
- 2) Coupe or setup plans Cover a specific coupe or setup and are detailed. Must be submitted to the FD prior to commencement of harvesting for approval. No machinery may enter the site without such an approval.

The order of activities for a well planned harvest operation





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SOLOMON ISLANDS CODE OF LOGGING PRACTICE

- The Code become enforced in May 2022. It is a revise version of 1997 Code of Logging Practice.
- There are 13 key standards outline in Code of Logging Practice.
- Purpose of Code of Logging Practice is to safeguard our environment, flora and fauna from severe damage by logging machineries

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Vision – To manage and use our forest resources in a manner that meets with the needs and aspirations of our people, both now and into the future.

Logging can bring benefits to our people. It can also cause a great many changes. Poor practices can harm our natural and cultural resources, and the welfare of our people. It is therefore essential, that where logging operations occur, they are carried out in a way that minimises damage to water, soil and forest resources.

The Code of Logging Practice is aimed at ensuring that where selection logging takes place, the ecological and cultural functions of the forest, and it's productivity in terms of wood and water production are protected. The Code does not operate alone, but is part of the policy and regulative systems used to manage logging.

This Code applies to all forest harvesting operations in the Solomon Islands. It is a revised version of the 1996 Code that follows the Papua New Guinean model, focusing on key standards. Thirteen key standards have been identified as the highest priority. Once logging companies achieve these key standards, additional standards will be added to further improve the quality of logging operations in the Solomon Islands. The Code also gives guidelines for planning and monitoring of logging operations. It is essential that all parties involved with logging operations embrace both the technical content and the intent of the Code if we are to improve practices in the Solomon Islands.



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PERMITTING PROCESS [FIRST PROCESS].

- Following Checks must be conducted prior to issuing of an approval for commencement of logging operations
 - Buffer zones demarcations, Coupe Plan boundary, skid tracks, landing yards, road properly gravel, Tambu sites demarcations, Does coupe plan indicated on map comply with Harvest Plan map.
- Approval issued after all requirements are met for logging operation to commence



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PERMITTING PROCESS [SECOND PROCESS].

- Follow up on checks to ensure that logging operations comply to code of logging practice.
- Once a logging completes harvesting of trees within a Coupe, Officers will check to ensure that no merchantable logs left at stump site to waste, all skid tracks decommission, all fall branches if any in flowing streams must be removed.

AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE

Monitoring of Logging Operations

Monitoring of a logging operation is essential to ensure that compliance with the Code is being achieved. Monitoring must be done internally by companies as they try and self regulate against the Code. Auditing will also be carried out regularly by FD Officers using the auditing form below.

The process for carrying out an inspection is as follows:-

1. Before going into the field, use the coupe plan to randomly select one log pond, three lengths of road, two buffers, one watercourse crossing, three lengths of skid track, two landings and a location that will have fallen trees to inspect.
2. Visit each of these locations with a company and landowner representative and assess against the criteria on the auditing proforma. For example on the log pond, check that oil and other wastes are being properly disposed of. Explain to the company and landowner representatives the process being undertaken and the results so as to educate them in application of the Code.
3. If the company is meeting with the standard described award full points for that check.
4. If the company does not meet the standard described award 0 points.
5. Complete all the required checks and total the score for each section and overall.
6. With the company representative analyse where the problems where, section by section and determine how they can improve.
7. Report to the relevant supervisors and staff on the score and discuss it. For FD this will be Honiara headquarters. For the company this will be on-site staff and company management and for the landowners this will be other members of the community.
8. For FD Officers if a serious breach is identified, then follow up action is required in writing through headquarters.
9. The Commissioner of Forests will from time to time set a minimum mark that must be achieved for each inspection. If this mark is not achieved then follow up action must also be taken. Penalty actions are described elsewhere.

Auditing Proforma for inspection of harvesting operations

Monitoring Proforma for inspection of harvesting operations					
Component of Operation Assessed	Marks for compliance	Check 1	Check 2	Check 3	Total score
Log pond – Check one					
Has a 50m buffer to the ocean (strip of vegetation)	2				
Is adequately drained	2				
Oil or other waste products are being safely disposed of	2				
Sub-total					
Roading – Check two lengths of 100m					
Located as shown on the coupe plan	2				
Clearing is 40m or less	2				
Drainage is acceptable (Table drains, turn outs, cross fall, culverts)	2				
Road clearing edge is located more than 40m from any buffer	2				
Sub-total					

Component of Operation Assessed	Marks for compliance	Check 1	Check 2	Check 3	Total score
Buffers – Check two					
Marked in the field as shown on the coupe plan	2				
Correct buffer width	2				
No unauthorised entry to the buffer (ie. trees fallen into buffer/trees fallen in buffer/machine entry)	2				
Sub-total					
Watercourse crossings – Check one					
Located as shown on the coupe plan	2				
Appropriate type of crossing for the situation ie. culvert, ford or bridge	2				
Drainage around the watercourse crossing does not run into the watercourse	2				
Machines have not operated in the watercourse during construction	2				
There has been no unnecessary cutting of trees in and around the watercourse crossing.	2				
Sub-total					
Landings – Check two					
Located as per coupe harvest plan	2				
At least 40m from the edge of any buffer	2				
Is well drained with no skid tracks running downhill onto the landing	2				
Is less than 1,500 square meters	2				
Sub-total					
Skid track – Check three lengths of 100m					
Major skid track located as per the harvesting plan	2				
Blade not used if skid track less than 12 degrees. If more than 12 degrees then damage minimised.	2				
Track no wider than 5.5 meters at any point	2				
No damage to any buffer zone	2				
Sub-total					
Falling and wastage – Check 4 stumps and give full marks for every stump that meets the standard					
Trees have been fallen using directional falling principles ie. scarf, back cut.	1				
The choice of felling direction was suitable	1				
Stumps are as low as possible	1				
The point of cross cutting is correct and has not left a merchantable amount of timber behind	1				
Sub-total					
TOTAL ACHIEVED FROM A POSSIBLE 100 POINTS					

Comments

Forest Officer.....Company representative.....Landowner representative.....



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ISSUES ENCOUNTERED

- Review Code of Logging Practice.
- Lack of data from other organization to prevent logging operations from causing damage to flora and fauna.
- Lack of logistic supports to enable staffs to effectively and efficiently monitor logging operation in a precisely approach.
- Urgent mapping of endemic plant species is required.
- Our country needs a 100% resource inventory for proper planning.



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Thank you for Listening