



# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR PLANTATION FORESTRY

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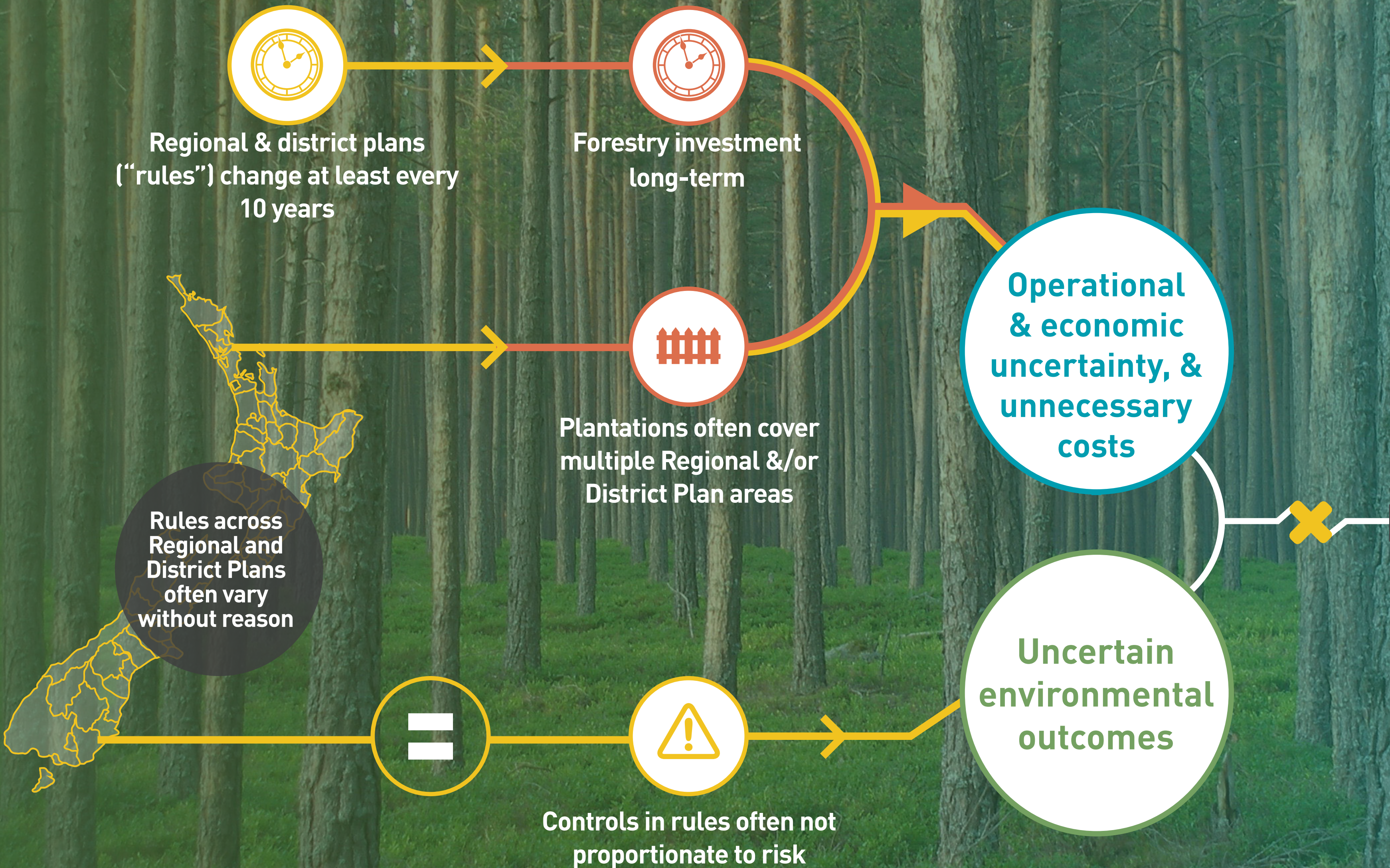
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2. should not be relied on as substitute for the laws of New Zealand and/or legal advice; and
3. is written in relation to the NES-PF context only.



# PART 1

## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

# CASE FOR CHANGE



## RMA PURPOSE (s 5)



# OBJECTIVES OF THE NES-PF

ARE TO



Maintain or improve environmental outcomes associated with plantation forestry activities

AND



Increase the efficiency



Improve certainty

...in how plantation forests are managed

All objectives achieved by:



Removing unwarranted variation in regional and district plan rules



Providing fit-for-purpose forestry regulations to manage effects



Permitting activities if efficient + no significant adverse effects



Allowing more stringent plan rules in certain circumstances to protect locally significant and sensitive environments

# FORESTRY REGULATION REFORM: The process to date & next steps



# NES-PF OVERVIEW

**SINGLE NATIONAL  
SET OF REGULATIONS  
TAILORED TO FORESTRY**



**REPLACES EXISTING  
REGIONAL & DISTRICT  
PLAN FORESTRY RULES**

**NES-PF REGULATIONS APPLY  
TO FORESTRY THAT IS:**



**Planted for commercial purposes**



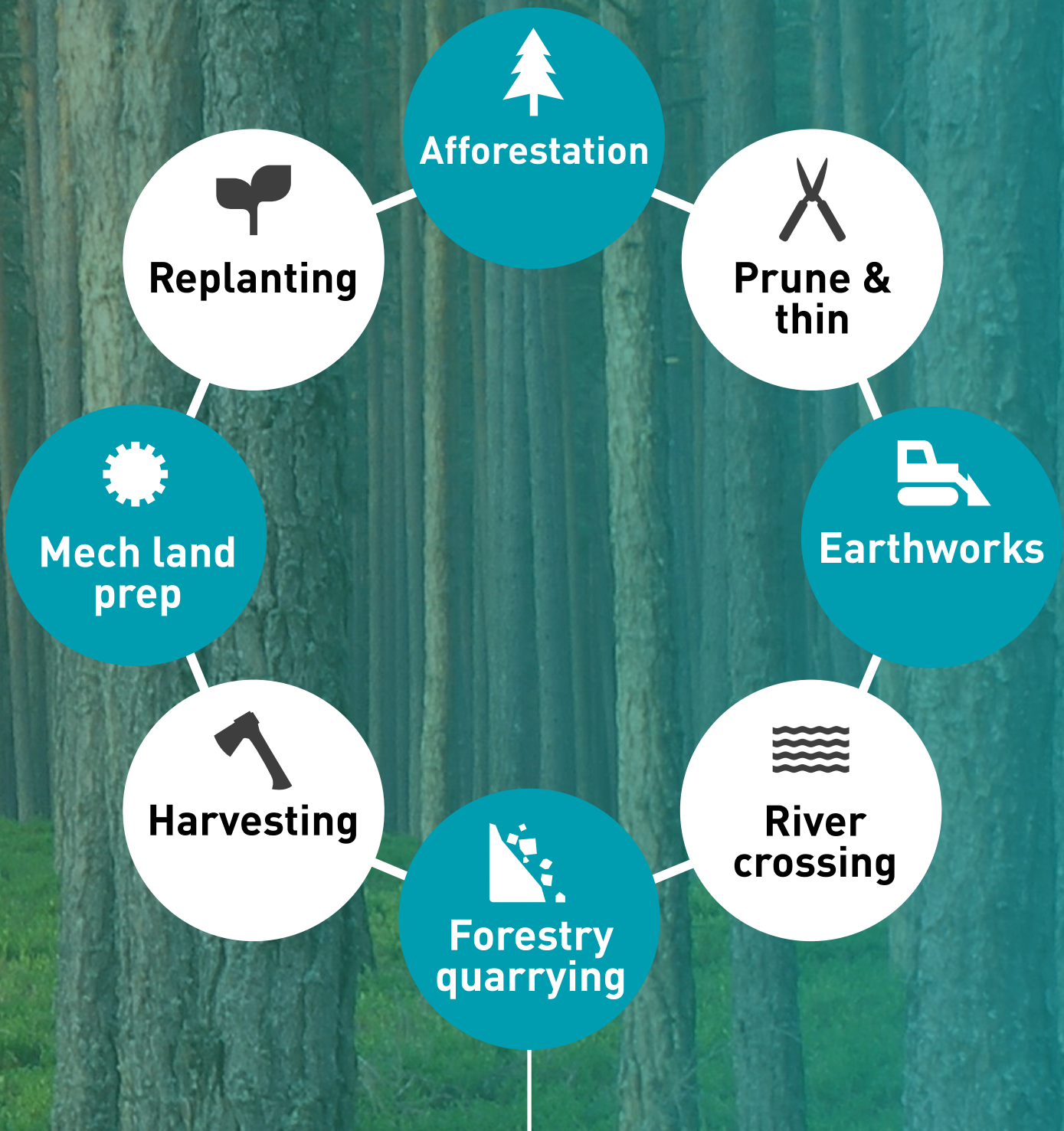
**At least 1 hectare plus**



**To be harvested**

**IT ALSO APPLIES TO ALL  
ASSOCIATED FORESTRY  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**REGULATES EIGHT  
ACTIVITIES**



**THAT REPRESENT THE  
PLANTATION FORESTRY  
LIFECYCLE**

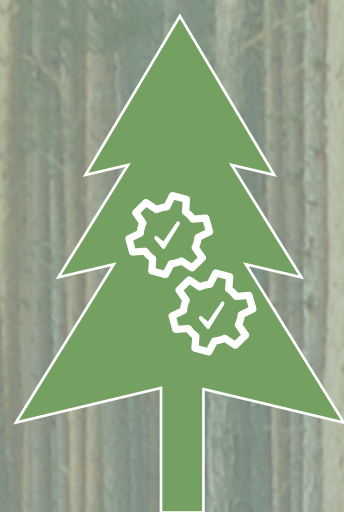
# NES-PF OVERVIEW: Continued

## NES-PF RULES ARE BASED ON

Regional & district plans



Good forestry management practices



## NES-PF TAKES A RISK-BASED APPROACH WHERE

Risk assessment tools used to identify risk levels



Foresters identify & manage high-risk activities



Councils monitor compliance



FORESTRY  
ACTIVITIES  
CLASSIFIED  
AS EITHER



# NES-PF OVERVIEW: Regulations based on 4 principles

1

Where an activity's **EFFECTS** are not significant = **ACTIVITY** is **PERMITTED**



2

When the detected **risk** of adverse effects increases





Restrictions (i.e. **consent** and condition requirements) get **stricter**



=

3

Thresholds at which consents are required are risk-based and informed by up-to-date science



4


Aim is to provide

**NATIONALLY CONSISTENT APPROACH**

**WHILE**

**ADEQUATELY PROTECTING**

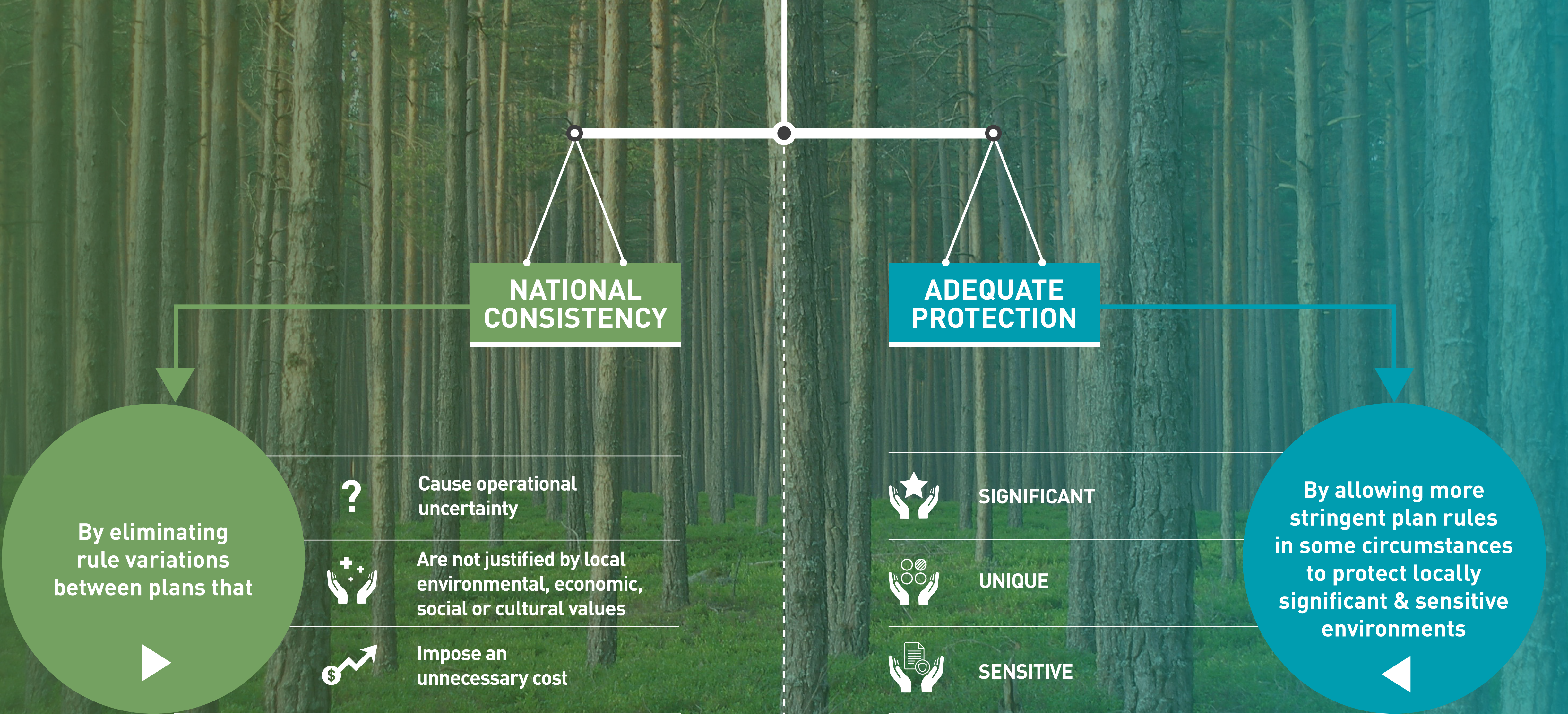
National & local environ needs



# **PART 2**

**BALANCING  
NATIONAL  
CONSISTENCY  
WITH LOCAL  
PROTECTION**

# WHEN PLAN RULES MAY BE MORE STRINGENT: Balancing consistency & protection



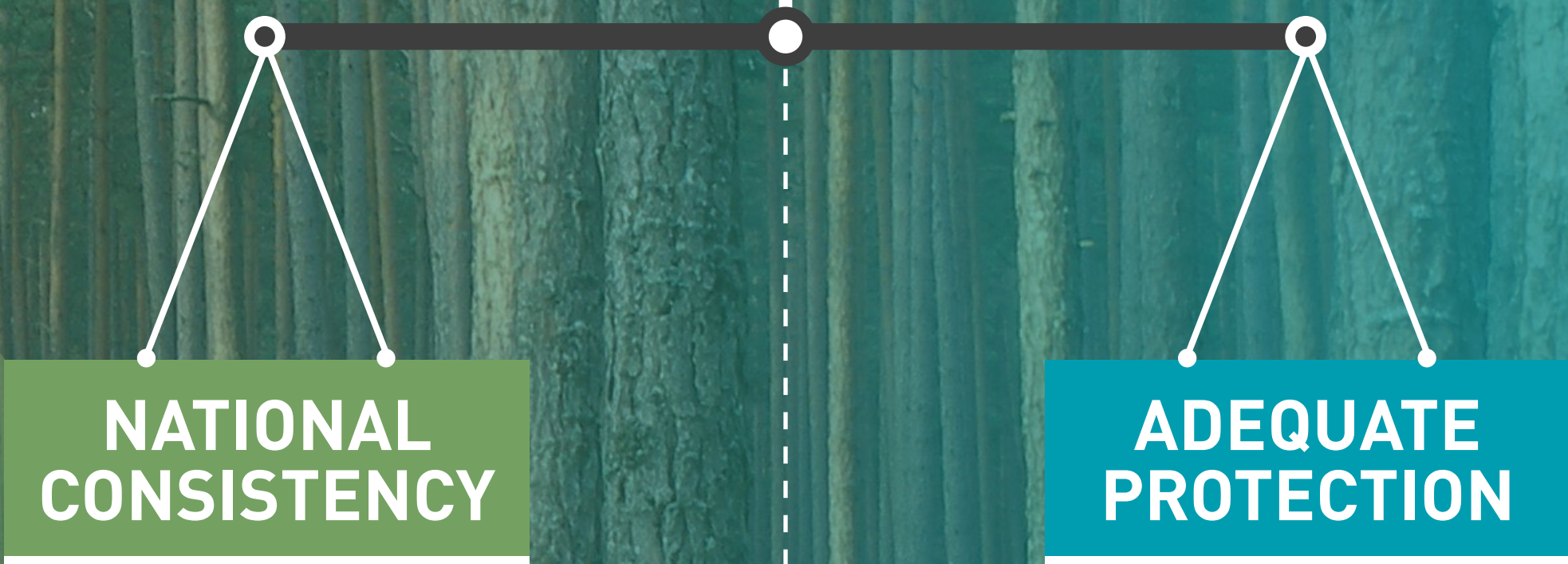
# NES-PF PROVIDES CONSISTENT REGULATION



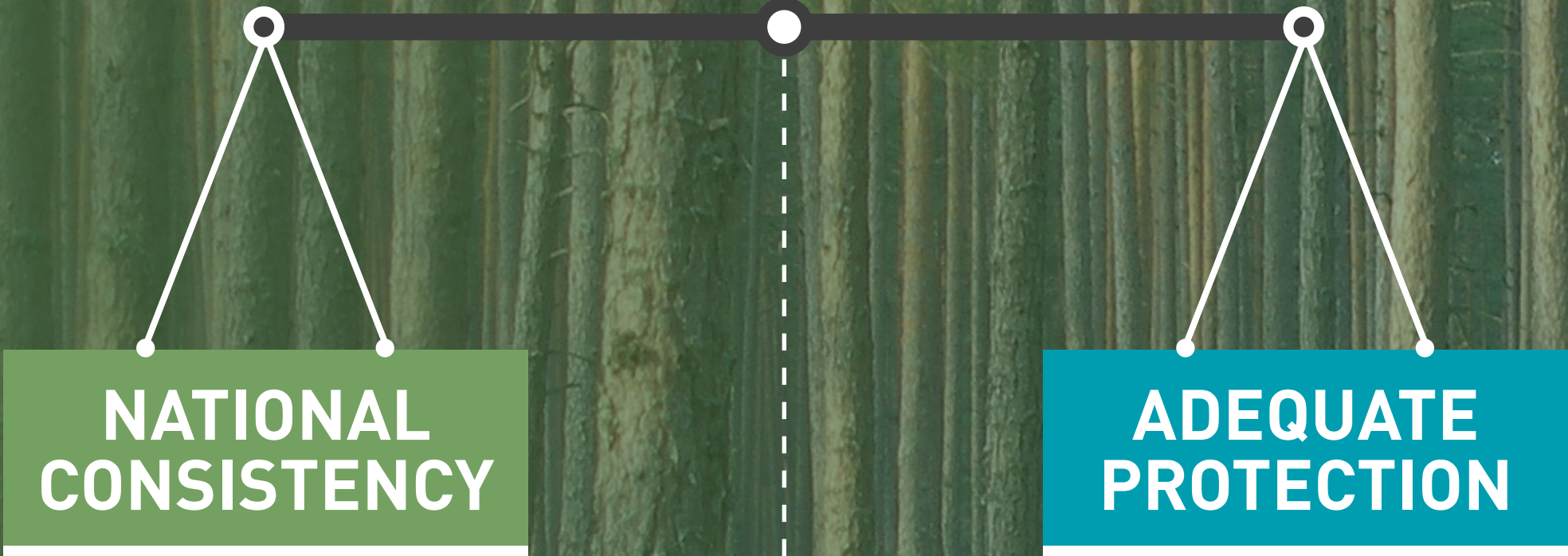
**SINGLE NATIONAL STANDARD**  
that operates from the starting point  
of **NO** regional/district **VARIANCE**



**MORE STRINGENT PLAN RULES**  
**MAY ONLY PREVAIL OVER THE NES-**  
**PF IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES**



# NES-PF PROVIDES ADEQUATE PROTECTION



BY ALLOWING PLAN RULES TO BE MORE STRINGENT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES



TO PROTECT MATTERS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE, NAMELY:

“Outstanding natural features & landscapes”

“Significant natural areas”



ACHIEVE OTHER NATIONAL INSTRUMENT OBJECTIVES

FW objectives to give effect to FW-NPS

NZCPS policies 11, 13, 15 & 22

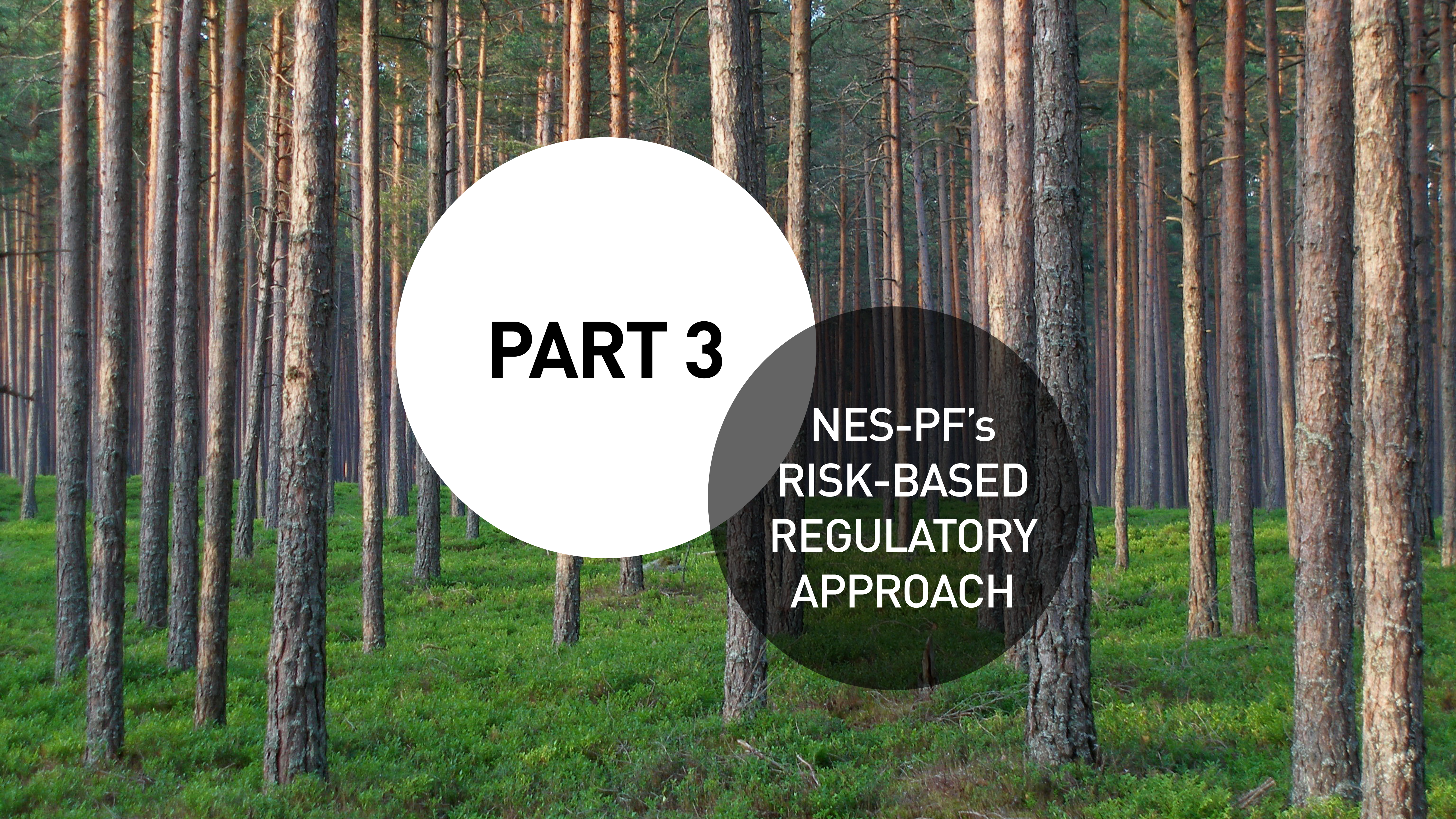


PROTECT UNIQUE AND SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Separation granite point soils

Geothermal areas and karst geology

Certain human drinking water sources

A photograph of a dense forest of tall, thin trees with green foliage in the background. In the foreground, there is a lush green undergrowth. Two large, overlapping circles are superimposed on the image: a white circle on the left and a dark gray circle on the right. The text 'PART 3' is centered within the white circle, and the text 'NES-PF's RISK-BASED REGULATORY APPROACH' is centered within the dark gray circle.

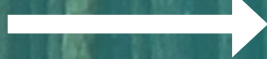
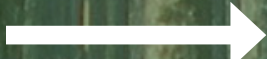
# **PART 3**

**NES-PF's  
RISK-BASED  
REGULATORY  
APPROACH**

# NES-PF TAKES A RISK-BASED APPROACH

## FORESTRY SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Measure risk of each forestry activity



## LEVEL OF IDENTIFIED RISK DETERMINES:

Whether a forestry activity is classified as being:



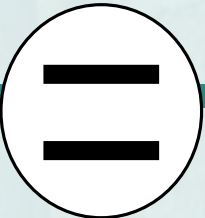
How strict conditions set for each activity are



## RESTRICTIONS SET BASED ON RISK



The **higher** the identified **risk**




The more likely consent is required



The **stricter** the **restrictions** imposed



A photograph of a dense forest with many tall, thin tree trunks and a green undergrowth. Two large, overlapping circles are superimposed on the image: a white one on the left and a dark grey one on the right.

# **PART 4**

## **NES-PF RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS**

# OVERVIEW OF NES-PF'S RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS


## INTRODUCES THREE RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS

- 1



Erosion  
Susceptibility  
Classification

EROSION &  
SEDIMENT  
RISK
- 2



Wilding Tree  
Risk Calculator

RISK OF  
WILDING  
CONIFER  
SPREAD
- 3



Fish Spawning  
Indicator

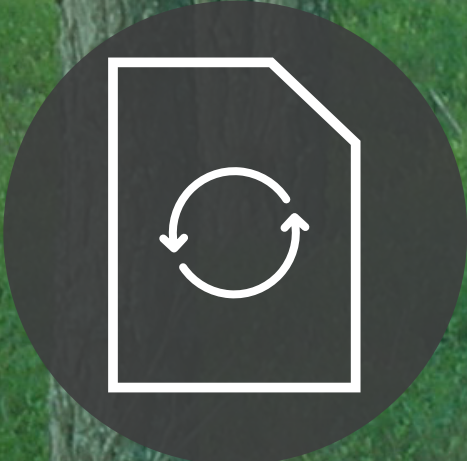
RISK OF  
FISH &  
HABITAT  
DISTURBANCE

## TOOLS BASED ON LOCAL GEOPHYSICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL DATA



+

UPDATED AS NEW INFO AND  
TECHNOLOGY BECOMES  
AVAILABLE



## TOOLS TAILORED TO IDENTIFIED FORESTRY- SPECIFIC RISKS



THUS, CAN MORE  
ACCURATELY DETECT &  
GAUGE FORESTRY EFFECTS






















# EROSION SUSCEPTIBILITY CLASSIFICATION TOOL



## DETERMINES FOREST LAND EROSION RISK

Low Susceptibility → Very High Susceptibility

	Afforestation				 MAY NEED CONSENT
	Prune & thin				
	Earthworks				 MAY NEED CONSENT
	River crossing				
	Forestry quarrying				
	Harvesting				 MAY NEED CONSENT
	Mech land prep				
	Replanting				

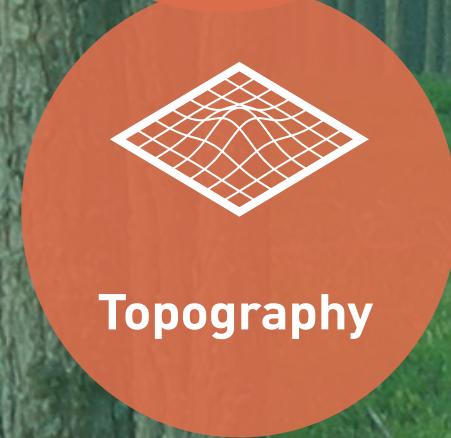
GREEN ZONE

YELLOW ZONE

ORANGE ZONE

RED ZONE

## IT IS BASED ON



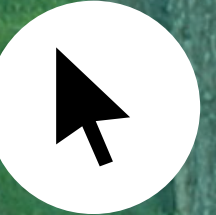
## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS



**Erosion classification review process**  
Landowners/forest operators/councils can initiate review of specific land



**Based on “potential erosion severity” data**  
Published in land use capability surveys



**Online interactive map**  
Helps landowners easily identify erosion susceptibility of their land  
<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/growing-and-producing/forestry/overview/>

# FISH SPAWNING INDICATOR TOOL

## A CONSISTENT APPROACH

To managing the risk of fish and habitat disturbance caused by plantation forestry activities



## WHILE ACCOUNTING FOR LOCALISED VARIATION

In terms of: fish species, latitude, altitude & climatic conditions

## TAKES TARGETED APPROACH THAT RECOGNISES & INDICATES



33 fish species present in rivers, lakes and wetlands sensitive to forestry activities



When these fish are spawning



Where these fish are spawning



## REQUIRES CONSENT

for activities that disturb spawning habitats during spawning times

## BASED ON BEST SCIENTIFIC DATA

In terms of variables relevant to ascertaining risk



Mostly restricts applicable activities during:



## ONLINE INTERACTIVE MAP





Lets landowners identify fish species present in streams / rivers on their property

# WILDING TREE RISK CALCULATOR

## A CONSISTENT APPROACH

To managing wilding conifer spread risk associated with:

-  Afforestation
-  Replanting other species



Important, as unmanaged spread can adversely affect:

-  Landscape values
-  Conservation values
-  Land uses
-  Hydrology

## HOW IT WORKS?

Calculator determines wilding conifer risk at a given site using


### 6 RISK INDICATORS

Points assigned to each indicator - if the score is 12 or higher consent is required

This tool supports the “National Wilding Control Programme”

## MEASURING RISK

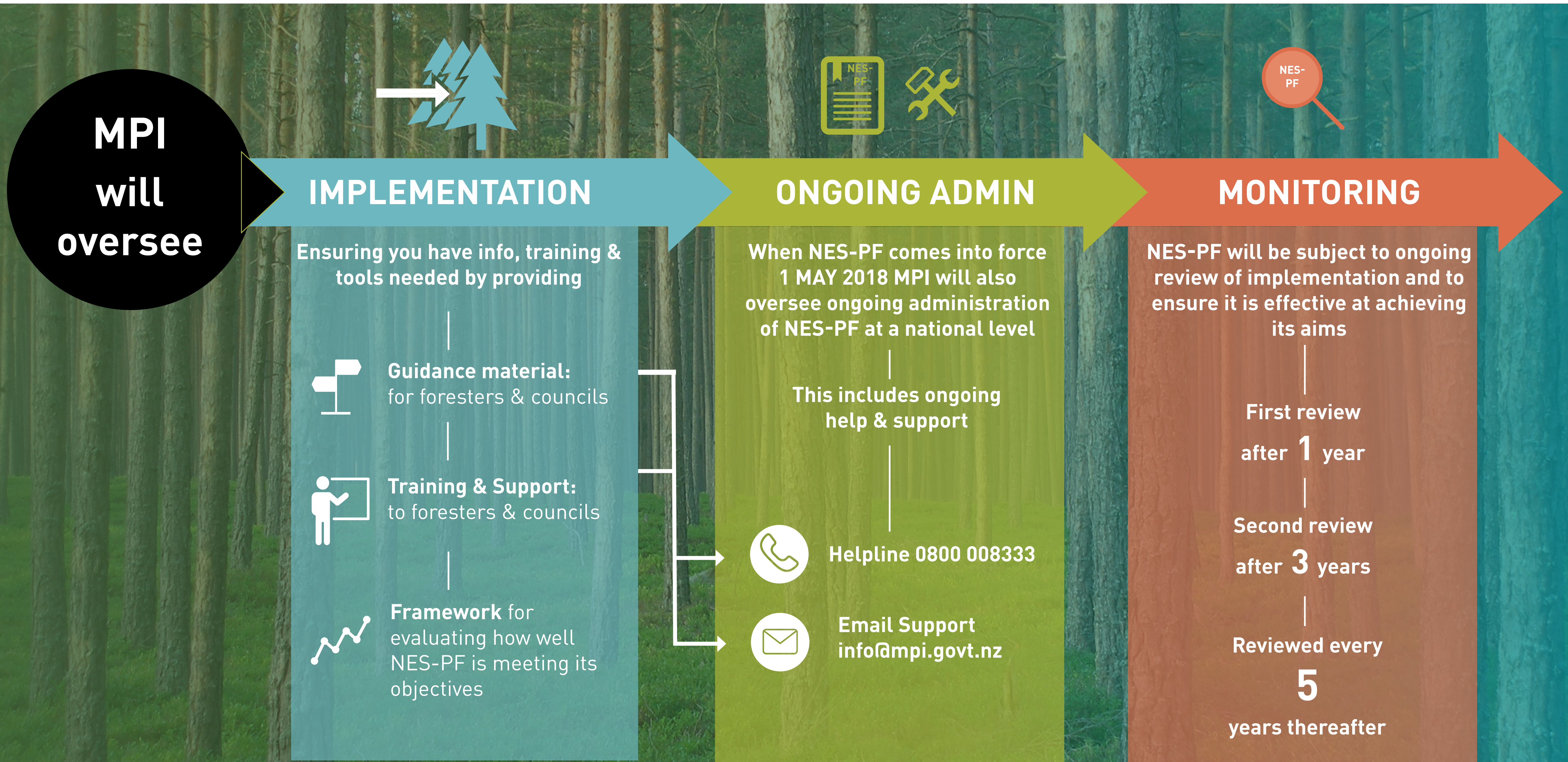
- 1** Spread vigour of the tree species
- 2** Palatability of tree species to livestock
- 3** Topographical placement of the site to be planted
- 4** Land-use characteristics of planted land
- 5** Surrounding vegetation
- 6** Wind conditions




# **PART 5**

**ROLLING OUT /  
ADMINISTERING  
NES-PF**

# IMPLEMENTING, ADMINISTERING & MONITORING NES-PF



A photograph of a dense forest with many tall, thin tree trunks and a green undergrowth. Two large, overlapping circles are centered on the image. The left circle is white and contains the text 'PART 6'. The right circle is dark grey/black and contains the text 'IMPROVED ALIGNMENT WITH THE RMA'.

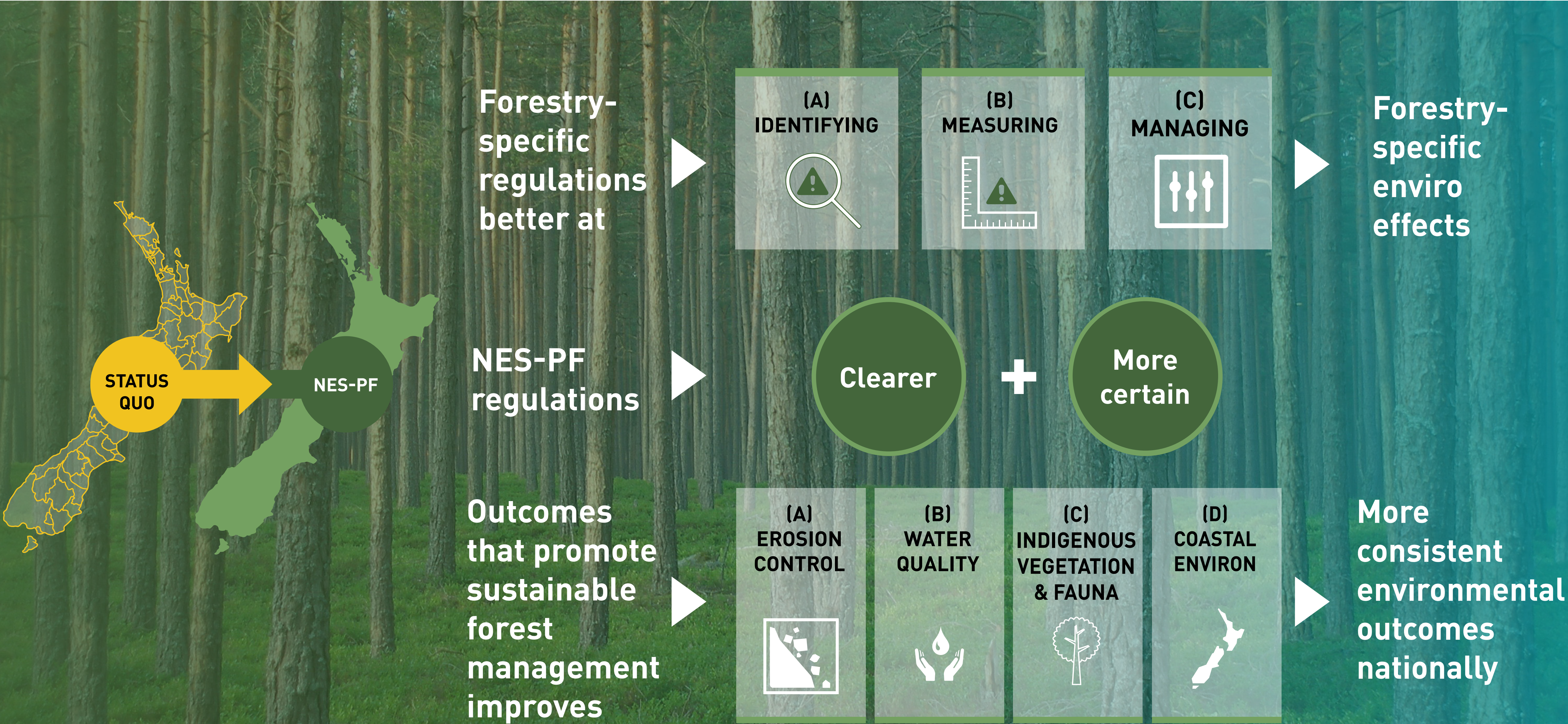
# **PART 6**

**IMPROVED  
ALIGNMENT  
WITH THE RMA**

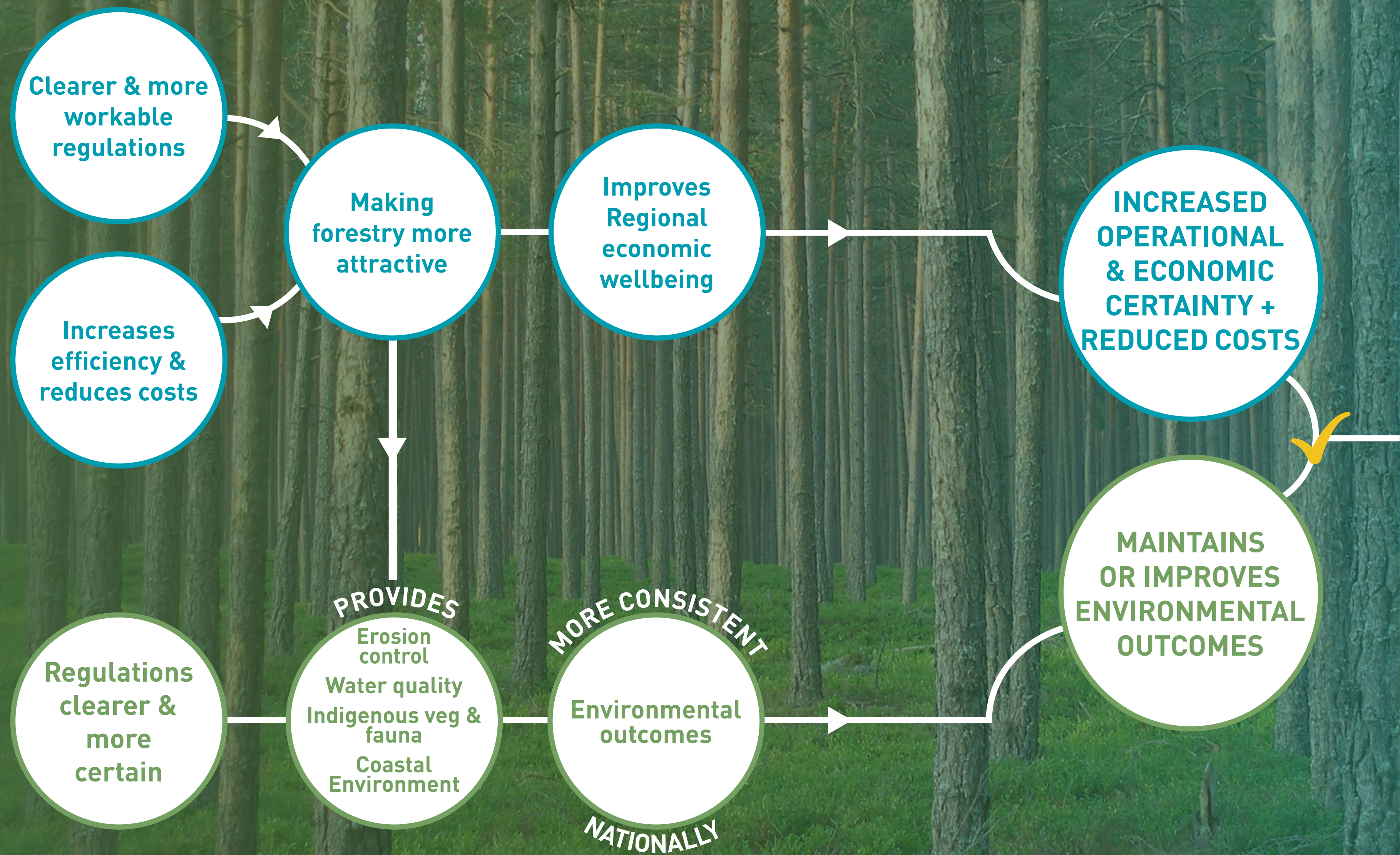
# ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF NES-PF



# ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF NES-PF



# IMPROVED ALIGNMENT WITH RMA PURPOSE



## RMA Purpose (5)

Use, development & protection  
of natural & physical resources

that  
provides  
for



Economic →



Social →



Cultural →

Wellbeing

While

Safeguarding  
ecosystems




Meeting future  
generation's needs



Avoiding, mitigating or  
remedying adverse effects





# **PART 7**

**IMPLICATIONS  
FOR  
FORESTERS**

# MAIN IMPLICATIONS

## BENEFITS FOR FORESTERS



Reduced need to advocate on regional and district plans



Regulation set for plantations spanning regional & district boundaries



Reduced costs over time



Increased operating efficiency

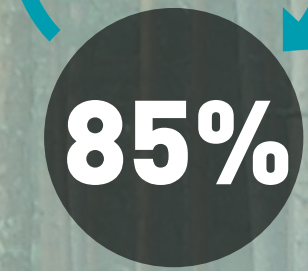


Greater regulatory and investment certainty over time

## OTHER IMPLICATIONS



Regulations risk based: low environmental risk = activity typically **permitted**



Of forestry activities permitted if relevant conditions met



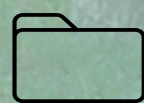
Initial compliance costs increase during transition



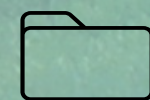
Understand when & how to apply risk-assessment tools



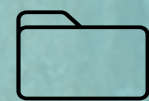
Foresters must keep good records including:



Quarry Erosion  
& Sediment  
Management Plan



Harvest  
Plan



Forestry  
Earthworks  
Management Plan

# PERMITTED ACTIVITY CONDITIONS

To be permitted an activity must meet all the permitted activity (PA) conditions



NES-PF’s PA conditions are based on extensive consultation, good forestry practice and existing council rules




All PA’s have been assessed as not having significant adverse effects when conditions are met





If PA conditions can’t be met an activity is controlled, restricted discretionary or discretionary, so resource consent will be needed


NOTICE CONDITION


Notice must be give prior to

 Afforestation

 Quarrying


 Earthworks


 Harvesting


 River Crossing

MGMT PLAN CONDITION

Plans required for:

 Harvest

 Quarry Erosion and Sediment Mgmt

 Earthworks

- ENSURES COUNCILS:
- ▶


1. have adequate warning of activities

2. can prioritise monitoring (based on asessed risk)
- PLANS MUST INCLUDE:
- ▶

1. mapping

2. risk assessment

3. mgmt processes to avoid, mitigate, or remedy risks



# **PART 8**

**IMPLICATIONS  
FOR  
COUNCILS**

# FULL PLANTATION FORESTRY REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

1

NES-PF

2

OTHER NES & NATIONAL  
POLICY STATEMENTS - E.G:


3


LOCAL RMA PLANS

4

OTHER LEGISLATION



 NES  
Drinking Water Management

 NES  
Contaminated Soil

 NPS  
NZ Coastal Policy Statement

 NPS  
Freshwater Management



  
Wildlife  
Act  
1953

  
Biosecurity  
Act  
1993

  
Electricity  
(Hazards  
from  
Trees)  
Regs 2003

  
Heritage  
NZ  
Pouhere  
Taonga Act  
2014

# HOW NES-PF WORKS | Regulations split into three parts

## 1. FORESTRY ACTIVITY REGULATIONS

Provide a **separate set** of regulations for each of the 8 forestry activities below:



## 2. ANCILLARY ACTIVITY REGULATIONS

Apply if any of the activities below are part of a forestry operation:



## 3. GENERAL REGULATIONS

Apply if forestry or ancillary activity entails 1+ of below:



# HOW NES-PF WORKS | Local authority functions

NES-PF specifies for each forestry activity and associated conditions, the functions, powers and duties of:



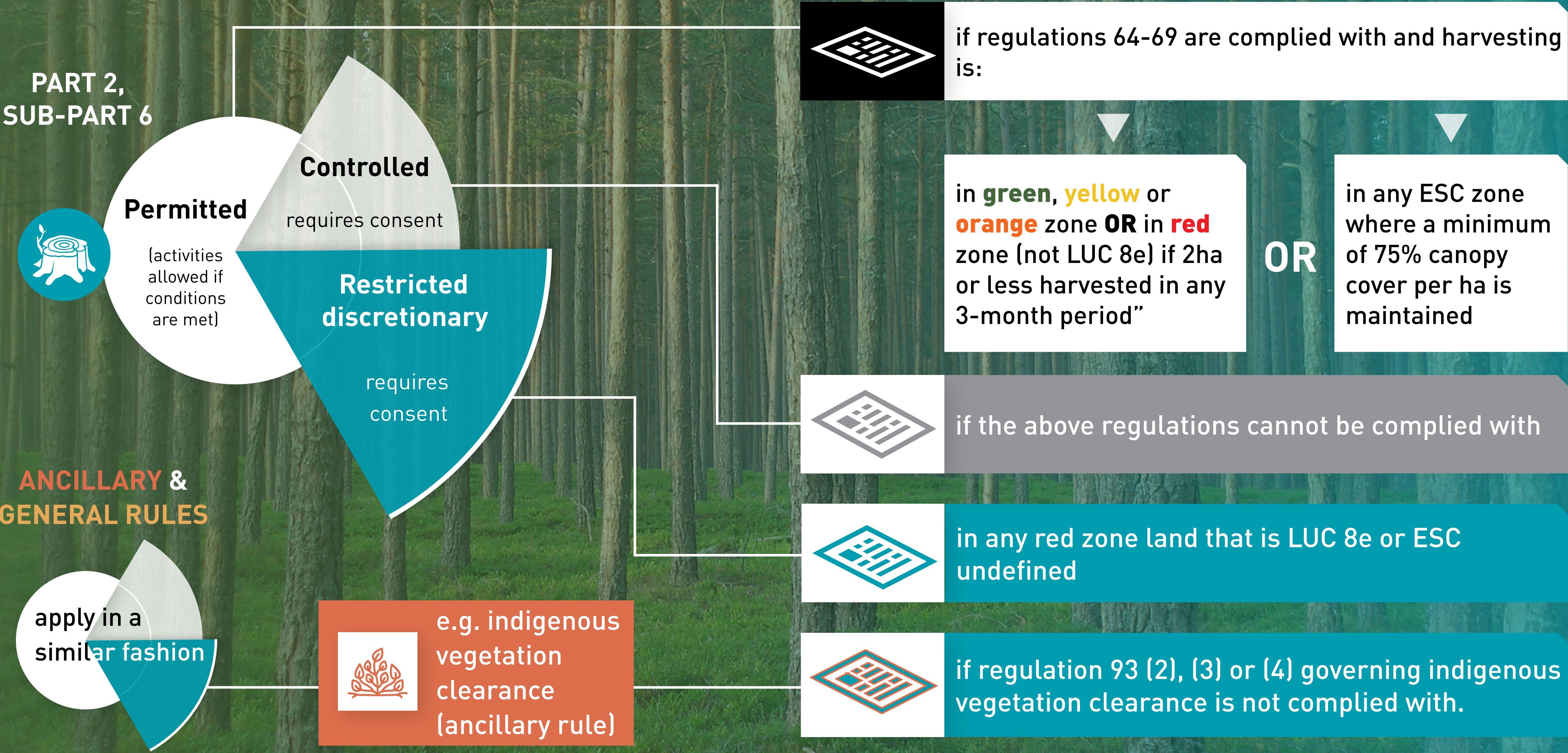
## CLARITY:

This is intended to clarify responsibilities for implementing the NES-PF and avoid duplication

## SHARED FUNCTIONS:

Note however, that in some cases, RCs and TCs will have functions in relation to the same activities

# CONSENT THRESHOLDS: Harvesting regulation example



# IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCILS

## REDUCED RULE-MAKING JURISDICTION



1

NES-PF replaces most regional and district plan rules that apply to plantation forestry.



2

NES-PF removes council's authority to create and impose forestry specific rules.



3

NES-PF reduces the cost of regional and district plan development and litigation.

### EXCEPTIONS

Limited authority to have more stringent rules

+

Retain authority to regulate matters not covered by NES-PF

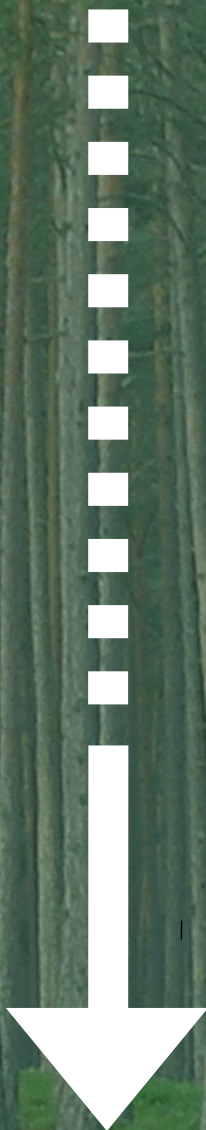
**NOTE:** There will be some initial plan alignment costs

# IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCILS

## COUNCILS FORESTRY SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS




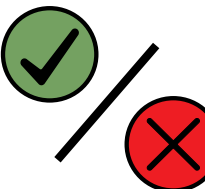
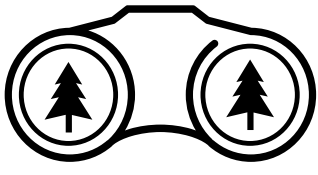

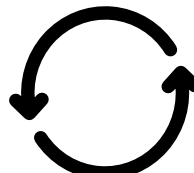
### INITIAL FUNCTIONS



IMPLEMENT  
NES-PF

### COUNCILS DAY-TO-DAY FUNCTIONS



	Administration
	Processing consents
	<b>Monitoring compliance</b> (e.g. with management plans & other permitted activity conditions)
	Enforcement
	<b>Continuous improvement</b> (includes information gathering)

# IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCILS

## PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS



### Understanding NES-PF

Councils will need to take time to understand the regulations and what they mean for them

### Up-Skilling Staff (Ongoing)

Provision of training and support tools needed to administer and implement

### Plan Alignment

All rules that duplicate or conflict with NES-PF need to be removed from district and regional plans

### Collaboration

Regional and district councils will need to work out what NES-PF requires of them

### Consenting

Some councils may have an initial increase in consents required. This will reduce in time

# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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If you have any questions after today  
please get in touch



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