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## **Preamble**

The present document presents the rules that must be met by regional entities in order to become PEFC certified and to ensure that forest owners comply with PEFC's sustainable forest management system for Belgium.

The Belgian PEFC system is managed by a national association and regional certification entities. These structures work together, each in their role and area of competence, to ensure the development of PEFC certification and implementation of the objective of promoting sustainable forest development in Belgium.

## **1. Scope of application**

This document defines the requirements for the implementation of forest management certification and the requirements to be met by regional entities to obtain PEFC certification. This document also covers the requirements that must be complied with by individual forest owners as part of their participation in regional certification.

## **2. Standards references**

PEFC B 1002: 2012 – Sustainable forest management standards for the Walloon Region

## **3. Definitions**

See PEFC B 4001: 2012: Terms and definitions

## **4. Forest management standards**

Sustainable forest management standards contain the requirements to be complied with to guarantee the economic, environmental and social functions of forests.

Forest management standards are listed in the PEFC B 1002 document: 2012.

## **5. Forest management certification**

### **5.1. *Regional certification***

Regional certification corresponds to the certification of forests located in a zone geographically delimited by regional borders. Regional entities submit their candidacy for certification in a specific region. Regional certification provides voluntary access to individual forest owners (= participants). Only owners involved in regional certification benefit from the certificate's coverage and are issued an attestation of participation.

### **5.1.1. Forest management standards implementation levels**

There are two different implementation levels: the regional entity submitting their candidacy to obtain certification and the individual forest owner participating in regional certification.

With respect to the region, forest management conformity is evaluated against the standards defined at the regional level (PEFC B 1002: 2012). The evaluation is applicable to the entire region to be certified. The evaluation of forest management standards is managed by an independent certification body. The certification body must comply with the requirements defined in PEFC B 2002: 2012.

Individual forest owners can voluntarily join regional forest certification. In this case, their compliance with standards (including legal requirements) is evaluated during internal audits carried out by the regional entity. The evaluation covers the forest owners taking part in regional certification. During the external audit, the certification body also evaluates compliance with the standards defined for individual forest management units and the quality of the internal audit, based on a sample of all forest owners taking part in regional certification.

### **5.1.2. The regional entity**

- Legal form: The candidate organisation must be a legal regional entity or several legally associated regional entities.
- Composition: the regional entity is set up on PEFC Belgium's five-chamber model. Several organisations can submit their candidacy together in order to obtain forest certification. In this case, they will have the same responsibilities as a regional entity.
- Geographical field: the geographical perimeter is the Region as defined by the Belgium Constitution.
- Articles of Association: the articles of Association must comply with the general provisions of PEFC Belgium's articles of association, notably with respect to the principle of seeking consensus.

The regional entity can hire an organisation for specific purposes to assume the responsibilities of the regional entity.

- Operation

The regional entity acts on behalf of the forest owners participating in regional certification.  
**Only forest products from their forests can carry the PEFC logo.**

Since sustainable forest management certification requires an administrative structure, the planning of actions, practices, procedures and controls, an environmental management system will be developed by the regional entity in order to implement the standards. The management system can be developed according to ISO 14001, ISO 9001 or EMAS. The following elements must be in place:

- The documented commitment of the regional entity's upper management to conform with regional standards and legal requirements
- Documentation of the structure and of responsibilities within the regional entity
- Documented procedures for internal audits, notably requirements related to the qualification of internal auditors and the definition of the sampling method
- Documented procedures for the management of non-conformities and corrective and preventive measures
- Documented procedures for the management of participant registries
- Documented procedures for the management of documentation and files.

### **Responsibilities and competences of the regional entity:**

The regional entity is responsible for the implementation of the rules governing regional certification.

The regional entity must:

- a. **Represent the Region (= group organisation) in the certification process. For this, the regional entity must send its candidacy for certification** and must be contractually tied to an accredited and notified certification body. The latter must comply with the requirements defined in PEFC B 1002: 2012. The regional entity must communicate general information about itself and provide a complete list of participants in the regional certification.
- b. **Provide a commitment** on behalf of the Region (= group organisation) to comply with the forest management standards defined in the Scheme in Chapter PEFC B 1002: 2012.
- c. **Develop, implement, supervise, and evaluate a five-year action plan** in response to the regional Progress Plan defined in the forest management standards (PEFC B 1002:2012). The regional entity will rely on a regional multi-actor work group whose operations are governed by internal rules for the development and implementation of this action plan. The regional entity defines and establishes the commitment of the actors involved in programme application, the deadlines it sets for itself, and the resources implemented in the action files.
- d. **Develop and make available an individual commitment document for forest participants** who want to join the regional certification. The document must contain the following information:
  - name, address and legal status of the forest owner, contact person, location and area of the forest property(s), name and address of the responsible regional entity, regional certificate number, issue and validity dates of the regional certificate
  - A sustainable management charter (standards for the management unit) for individual forest owners. The charter should list the practical application measures that participants in regional certification must implement after committing to regional certification
  - A practical guide to assist with charter implementation. It is an explanatory document with recommendations appended to the charter to help owners meet requirements as well as possible.
- e. **Internal audits** to ensure that the commitments made by the participants with respect to forest management standards defined at the forest management unit level are implemented. The regional entity defines procedures for corrective and preventive measures.

The evaluation is carried out every year based on a sampling of properties. The size of the sample is minimum  $\sqrt{n}$ , where  $n$  is the number of individual forest owners taking part in regional certification. Among the  $\sqrt{n}$  sample, 80% are random and the remaining 20% can be selected either from among signatories where non-conformities were found in previous periods, or as second check of signatories that have already been controlled.

The draw is determined by classifying properties by growing area and order by taking the median of this. One-third of the audits will be carried out in the first median (lower part) and two-thirds in the second median (upper part)

$\sqrt{n}$  ( $n$  = number of individual forest owners taking part in regional certification)

<b>1st median</b> (lower part)	$1/3 \sqrt{n}$
<b>2nd median</b> (upper part)	$2/3 \sqrt{n}$

Internal audits will be carried out according to the documents listed in Appendix 1 of this document. This document was created during the Forum to better objectivize the compliance of certified owners with their commitments. A set of questions associated with each commitment makes it possible to better measure the compliance and quality of forest management. This method makes it possible to show long-term improvement (a commitment can be met by being satisfactory or excellent) and, at the same time, provides a more standardised tool for internal auditors (both public and private parties) that leaves little room for personal interpretation by auditors.

- f. Issue an **attestation** (Appendix 2) for each individual participant who has signed the charter. This attestation demonstrates their participation in regional certification. At a minimum, it includes the following information: owner name, area and location of the certified property(s), regional certification membership number, name address and signature of the regional entity manager, the regional entity's PEFC logo, the regional certificate number and the name and address of the certification body, and the validity period of the attestation.
- g. Offer all participants **information** and provide direction for the effective implementation of forest management standards.
- h. **Record and consign:**
  - Proof of the regional entity's conformity and that of all the participants in forest management standards (PEFC B 1002: 2012) and other requirements applicable to the forest certification scheme
  - A register of certification participants (personal contact information, identification of forest property(s) and of their area)
  - The total certified area
  - Implementation of the internal audit programme.

These data must be transmitted to PEFC Belgium in compliance with the specifications defined in the internal rules of the PEFC Council for the registration system.

- i. **Exclude participants** if they do not comply with the standards and do not take the required corrective measures.  
The regional entity must inform the relevant certification body of the inclusion and exclusion of participants at least once a year.
- j. **To operate a review of conformity** with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance; corrective and preventive measures if required; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken.

- k. Request a **licence for use of the PEFC** logo.
- l. Be able to **handle complaints** related to the non-respect of standards by a forest owner participating in regional certification.
- m. Make the results of **the certification report** written by the certification body available to the public.

### ***5.1.3. Regional certificate and confirmation of participation in regional certification***

Once it has successfully passed the audit procedure, the regional entity will receive a forest management certificate issued by the certification body.

The certificate stipulates that sustainable forest management standards are being complied with in the region in question. The certificate is valid for a maximum period of five years.

Only owners in possession of a valid attestation of participation in regional certification will benefit from the coverage of the regional certificate.

**No form of multiple PEFC certification is allowed, as per criterion 4.1.2. of PEFC ST 1002 :2010.**

### ***5.1.4. Participant membership in regional certification***

The membership of public and private owners in the PEFC system is individual, voluntary, documented, and recorded.

- a) Individual forest owners (private or public) participate in regional certification by signing and returning the individual commitment sent by the regional entity. The commitment can also be signed by the forest manager if they are not the owner and if they have received a mandate to do so from the forest owner.

All forms of forest ownership groups, created in compliance with regulatory provisions, can become members (under the same conditions as individual owners) on behalf and in lieu of their members on the dual condition that the social object of the group includes forest management and that the individual member has given a mandate to the group. With respect to domanial forests, the DNF becomes a member on behalf of the State which is the owner.

By signing this document, owners commit to complying with the requirements defined in the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme and by the regional entity and, in particular, forest management standards.

- b) National laws, policies and programmes must be conformed to with respect to forest management. In the event of a non-conformity identified by the internal/external auditor, the forest owner must implement owner suitable corrective and preventive measures established by the regional entity.
- c) Owners must provide the regional entity and the certification body with all documents required for audits, answer all requests for relevant data or documentation, authorise access to the forest and other installations related to audits.
- d) Participants in regional certification must pay dues to their representative within the regional entity to cover certification audit expenses. The amount of the dues is set by the regional entity.
- e) Individual forest owners accept the certification rules defined by the regional entity.

- f) Individual forest owners can request a sub-licence for use of the PEFC logo from PEFC Belgian once all regional certification requirements have been met and the attestation of participation has been issued. Requests submitted for logo use must contain a copy of the attestation of participation. PEFC ST 2001: 2008 v2 of the PEFC Technical Document (*PEFC Logo Rules of Use*) and the rules of use of the PEFC Belgium logo must be complied with.

**5.1.5. *Withdrawal of the certificate and of the attestation of participation in regional certification***

The regional entity can lose its certificate if it does not comply with the sustainable forest management standards defined at the regional level (non-compliance with the progress plan) and if corrective measures are not implemented. It can also lose its certificate if the external auditor demonstrates an inability to verify that the forest owners belonging to the regional certification have conformed to the charter and have not addressed the nonconformities.

A participant in regional certification can be excluded if a major non-conformity with certification requirements is found by the regional entity and/or by the certification body and/or if corrective measures are not implemented.

# Appendix 1: Guide to implement internal audits by regional entities (in the Walloon region)

## 1. Auditor references

Auditor's name: .....  
Audit date: .....

## 2. Auditee references

Owner name: ..... Forest location: .....  
Member number: ..... Forest area: .....  
Membership date: .....

## 3. Scope of the audit

Knowledge and implementation of the charter for sustainable forest management in the Walloon Region.

## 4. Audit summary

<p><b><u>Overall strong points</u></b></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p><b><u>Recommendations/Main points to be addressed</u></b></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>



**1. Regulations**

Comply with the laws, decrees and regulations applicable to my forest

**Application evaluation:**

- The owner or their manager has the legal texts
- The owner consults their manager or a legal service
  
- No major infraction was found beforehand at the property
  
- No major\* non-compliance with legal provisions was found in the field
- No minor\* non-compliance with legal provisions was found in the field

Comments.....  
.....  
.....

<b><u>Conclusion</u></b>	<b><u>deadline</u></b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to address .....	.....
.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....
.....	.....

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

\* based on the area, duration and reversibility of the impact

## 2. Information – training

- take regular refresher courses on sustainable forest management
- refer to (and/or ensure its mandated manager refers to) the guide for the implementation of the PEFC charter, a copy of which I have received, as well as its regular updates;
- Inform everyone involved in the management of my property (owner, manager, service providers and hunters) on a regular basis of the details of membership of the PEFC.
- Inform professional and non-professional forestry workers about safety at work

### Application evaluation:

The owner/manager has specialised magazines

The owner/manager consults the help guide

The owner or their employees (other than the manager):

Have a diploma in silviculture or a related field

Is taking additional training courses in silviculture or related fields

The owner employs a manager

The manager(s) is (are) taking complementary training courses

The certification is mentioned in

Sales specifications

Works specifications

Hunting leases

Other: ....

The owner/manager has informed the public about the certification:

Municipal/information bulletin

PEFC panel

Other: .....

For heating wood sales

The certification is shown in the specifications for sales to the public

A safety information card is provided

Comments.....  
 .....  
 .....

<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

**3. Simple management document/Development plan**

- **(specific to private forests)**, draw up a Simple Management Document and send a copy to the SRFB within a year of signing the charter. This will include, as a minimum, the information requested in the "PEFC Simple Management Document" which I read when I joined. A summary containing non-confidential parts of the Simple Management Document will be made available to the public on request to the SRFB in accordance with the procedure described in the help guide.
  
- **(specific to public forests)** draw up or have drawn up a forest management plan that is revised periodically, including at least the initial inventory of my forest property, taking into account the various functions of the forest, the identification of areas whose main role is to protect water and soil and to preserve its characteristic or rare facies, the determination and establishment of a hierarchy of objectives, and the planning of management actions in space and time. The management plan will be publicly available.

*(Specific to private forests)*

**Application evaluation:**

DSG transmitted to the SRFB

The DSG contains:

- Management goals
- Property description/parcels
- Average volume harvested annually

The DSG is documented and prepared:

- Insufficiently
- Sufficiently
- Very well

Comments.....  
.....

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*(Specific to public forests)*

**Application evaluation:**

Complete development plan

Or, existing documents:

- Management goals
- Initial property inventory: up-to-date parcel plan
- Identification/cartography of priority water and soil protection zones
- Identification/cartography of conservation zones with characteristic or rare features
- Operations table

Comments.....  
.....

<u><b>Conclusion</b></u>	<u><b>Deadline</b></u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....
.....	.....

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

**4. Appropriate silviculture**

- apply appropriate silvicultural measures so as to maintain the growing stock at a desirable level from an economic, ecological and social point of view.

Not applicable to the property

**Application evaluation:**

The silvicultural choices made are appropriate

The density (land areas) of the stands is:

- Compatible with multipurpose management
- Excessive
- Too weak

Rotations are suited to the species and the age of the stands

Training cuts are done in regeneration areas

Pre-designations are carried out

Pruning very high up is done at the appropriate time

Changes in allocation (non-reforestation, etc.) are justified and conform to DSG/Development plan objectives

Comments.....  
.....  
.....

<u><b>Conclusion</b></u>	<u><b>Deadline</b></u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

**5. Regeneration**

- To ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources, think through and carry out the most appropriate regeneration using natural regeneration and/ or by planting with species adapted to the biotope, in particular, by referring to the ecological species file. The sources used will be sufficiently varied and will have an entry in the Walloon Dictionary of recommended sources. Preference will be given to sources found in the Walloon Catalogue of Basic Materials and the sources will be archived in the management plan.
- take account of the presence of elite trees or stands on my property so as to consider seed harvesting there;
- not to use GMO or invasive species (included in List A of invasive species in Belgium) on my plantations.

- Not currently applicable to the property
- Included in the DSG/Development plan

**Application evaluation:**

For recent regeneration:

- The owner implemented appropriate regeneration
- The choice of species conforms to the environmental file
- The sources are documented
- The owner knows about the presence of elite stands
- The owner accepts the potential harvesting of seeds from the property by the seed bank
- The on-site visit did not reveal the presence of any planted invasive species

Comments.....  
 .....  
 .....

<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....

**6. Mix**

- Diversify my forest by using a mixture of species (in groups, strips, clumps or plant by plant), ages and structures, provided that the conditions of the biotope and the structure of the property so permit, and preferring rare or companion species when undertaking clearances, sapling thinning and tree marking"

- Not currently applicable to the property
- Included in the DSG/Development plan

**Application evaluation:**

Principles applied on the property:

- Species mix
- Age mix
- Structure mix

Generally speaking, the mix is done:

- In groups
- In strips
- clumps
- plant by plant

Are the rare/accompanying species maintained?  yes  no

**Observations in the field:**

Visit of a recent natural/planted regeneration area  
 Diversification present in the form of .....

.....

.....

Visit to a parcel that was marked/recently thinned out  
 Rare species or accompanying growth maintained

Obstacles to diversification .....

.....

.....

Comments .....

<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....



**7. Inputs**

- avoid the use of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, except as determined by the Walloon government. For these exceptions, and including rodenticides, use them only as a last resort, and in the absence of satisfactory alternative methods. Avoid the use of pesticides within 12 metres of water courses, expanses of water and springs;
- avoid the use of fertilisers except in an appropriate matter and on the basis of a reliable soil analysis revealing the need to correct mineral imbalances hampering the good health of the stand;
- avoid the use of chemical fertilizers in my forest.

**Application evaluation:**

- Use of herbicides  
If yes, which one: .....  
Alternative methods tried?.....
- Use of fungicides  
If yes, which one: .....  
Alternative methods tried?.....
- Use of insecticide  
If yes, which one: .....  
Alternative methods tried?.....
- Use of rodenticides  
If yes, which one: .....  
Alternative methods tried?.....
- Pesticide used at less than 12m from waterways / lakes, pond / sources
- fertilisers used  
If yes  
 Soil analysis done
- Chemical fertilizers used

**Comments**.....

<b><u>Conclusion</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline</u></b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....

**8. Wetlands**

- Limit to periods of frost or "dry" soil (dried out enough), the movement of vehicles which compact the ground except on service access paths (references in the help guide)
- refrain from undertaking new drainage;
- renew my mature stands located on the banks of water courses or expanses of water with hardwood stands for a distance of 12 meters from the banks (with the exception of situations described in the help guide).

Not applicable to the property

**Application evaluation:**

Use of a specifications book

If yes,  it limits the transit of machines that exert strong pressure on the soil during periods of frost or "dry" soil

Also includes stopping work when damage to soil is noticed

***Observations in the field:***

presence of service access paths

Visit to a wet zone/marsh

If yes,  No ruts/Indication of settling

No new drainage

Visit to a NR/Planting along a waterway

If yes,  no planting or maintenance of resinous tree regrowth within 12m of the bank

Comments.....  
.....  
.....

<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....

**9. Other zones of special biological interest**

- conserve or even restore areas of particular biological interest (e.g. the edge of the forest, clearings, ponds and pools);
- identify ancient forests (defined in the help guide) and attach particular importance to my management. Refer to the management advice offered in the help guide.

Not applicable to the property

**Application evaluation:**

Identification (DSG, cartography, on-site marking, etc.) of:

- Zones of biological interest
- ancient forests

***Observations in the field:***

- Zones of biological interest found
  - If yes,  positive actions carried out in these zones
  - negative actions carried out in these zones
  
- Ancient forests found
  - If yes,  positive actions carried out in these zones
  - negative actions carried out in these zones

Comments.....  
.....  
.....

<u><b>Conclusion</b></u>	<u><b>Deadline</b></u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

**10. Dead wood and trees of biological interest**

In hardwood stands, insofar as the characteristics of the property allow, maintain a network of dead wood in the forest (standing and /or on the ground), trees with hollows and old trees, within the required phytosanitary and safety limits.

- Preserve and designate
- -when cutting, at least one of these trees of over 125 cm in circumference per hectare
- - and/or small islands of ageing or senescence representing 2% of the property.

Not applicable to the property

**Application evaluation:**

Area of broad-leaved forest in question: .....ha

- Network of standing dead wood
- Dead wood on the ground

Conservation areas:  
 If yes,  <2% of the hardwood stands  
 ≥ 2% of the hardwood stands

No cutting in hardwood stands to date

Cutting in hardwood stands  
 If yes,  < 1 tree/ha of 125 cm in circ  
 ≥ 1 tree/ha 125 cm in circ  
 designated

} At least one of these three points must be checked off

Wood of biological interest or dead outside of the zones in question

- Compliance with the N2000 standard for dead trees/trees of biologic interest
- Compliance with Art 71 of the Forest Code for public forests

Comments.....  
 .....  
 .....

<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....

## 11. Harvest

- ensure a balance between the expansion of the forest and the cutting carried out there, provided that the size of the property so permits;
- use wood sales and exploitation specifications that may reduce damage to (1) the forest tracks (and if necessary their repair), (2) the remaining trees and stands, (3) the soils (use of suitable equipment, existing clearance paths and if necessary service access paths) and (4) to water courses; the specifications will stipulate the prohibition on abandoning exogenous waste, in particular packaging and hydrocarbons, and compliance with the forestry work safety recommendations;
- Present a reasoned request in advance to the Wallonia PEFC Working Group for any clear cut exceeding an area of 5 ha of softwood and 3ha of hardwood which it must accept.
- during clearance, adapt the cutting surfaces to the risks of soil erosion on inclines, destabilisation of neighbouring stands, rising water or impact on the landscape.
- Do not strip the soil's organic horizons and take a reasoned approach to gathering stumps, remains or small waste (leaves, small branches) so as not to degrade the soil balance (using the help guide).

Not applicable to the property

### **Application evaluation:**

The principle of harvest exists and respects growth

Use of a wood sales and exploitation specifications

If yes, it stipulates - avoiding damage

- to roadways
- to remaining trees and stands
- to soil
- to waterways

-  Forbids exogenous waste

-  Compliance with instructions for safety at work

No cutting of more than five ha of softwood or three ha of hardwood

If no,  authorisation obtained by the GT PEFC RW

Regeneration planned within 5 years following clear-cutting

### ***Observations in the field:***

No damage

- to roadways
- to remaining trees and stands
- to soil
- to waterways

No exogenous waste (tied to operations)

Visit of a recent clear-cut

If yes,  no erosion

no destabilisation of neighbouring stands

- no significant harvest of stumps
- no excessive harvest of remnants
- no stripping of organic horizons

Comments.....  
 .....  
 .....

<u><b>Conclusion</b></u>	<u><b>Deadline</b></u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

## 12. Forest equilibrium - big game

- ensure balanced management between the forest and large game using all the resources available and that allows me to comply with my PEFC charter commitments
- I undertake to objectify the pressure of large game by the most appropriate means (such as setting up enclosures-exclosures, damage assessment of bark-stripping or regeneration) to measure the appropriateness of the populations in accordance with the ecosystem.
- In the absence of a balance, I undertake:
  - to define and communicate to the SRFB (private) or DNF (public), the causes of the imbalance and the measures taken in respect of the hunting permit to restore this balance:
- provided that I am in control of it, to control populations of large game (or have them controlled) in particular,
  - through the application of the shooting plan for deer,
  - through the possibility of making a request for the game to be culled
  - by limiting the large game populations by setting a culling-target
  - Through the reasonable use of feeding and in the absence of conclusive results after 2 hunting seasons by banning it until the return to a balance
- When the balance is reached: to improve the capacity for hosting wildlife through forestry enhancement and management actions, with a concern for the balance of the ecosystem.

- When balance is reached:

Improve the capacity to host wild fauna thanks to development and silvicultural management measures to ensure ecosystem equilibrium.

### **Helpful information (owner assessment):**

The forest is located in the CC territory of .....

Is the hunting area a member of CC? .....

Is the quota sufficient - at the local level?.....

- At the CC level?.....

- Big game damage is:
- Tolerable
  - Significant
  - Not tolerable

- The damage is:
- Decreasing
  - Stable
  - Increasing

- Protection in place
- Individual
  - Overall

The significant or non-tolerable damage are due to

- Large deer
- Roe deer
- Wild boar
- Other:....

The damage is from:

- Grazing
- Old bark stripping
- Fresh bark stripping
- Regeneration
- Other:....

*Species affected:*.....



**Evaluation of the application and observation in the field:**

Has a forest-big game equilibrium been reached?  yes  no

If yes,

Improvements to the hosting capacity thanks to development and management measures to create a forest/big game equilibrium. Which ones?

.....

If no,

Damage is measured:

enclosures-exlosures

Estimate of fresh bark stripping damage

< 5%

between 5 and 10%

> 10 %

Estimate of damage to regeneration

Explanation: .....

.....

Other: .....

Communicated the causes of the imbalance and the measures taken to the SRFB/DNF

The owner **does not hunt** on their property

Rents out to hunters

Leases to hunters

Has special clauses in the lease to reach a forest/big game equilibrium.

If yes, which?

Protection: .....

Limitation on raising: .....

Target sampling: .....

Other: .....

Has informed the renter of the damage in their area

Has informed the CC of the damage in their area

The owner **hunts** on their property

He has reached the minimum quota in the hunting area

If not, why? .....

What percentage is missing?.....

Has requested destruction

Feeds the big game

Comments: .....

Has informed the CC of the damage in the area

Comments.....  
.....  
.....



<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points ..... .....	..... .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations ..... .....	..... .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed..... .....	..... .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity..... .....	..... .....

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

**13. Socio-recreational forest**

- avoid hindering or discouraging access to public forest paths crossing or bordering my property, except for temporary bans for safety reasons;
- authorise according to my terms access to private forestry tracks on my property for recreational leisure, cultural or educational purposes, and in the respect of forest ecosystems, in particular, where there is a clear advantage for safety or the creation of a slow non-motorised circuit.
- in addition to that which is provided for by law, not authorise the organisation of motorised recreational activities away from paths and trails;
- take account of elements of historical, cultural and landscape value in the management of my forest.

**Application evaluation:**

***With respect to public paths:***

- Presence of public paths through/along the property
- No obstacles/dissuasive devices seen

***With respect to access to private paths and woods (for public and private owners):***

Activities offered: - .....  
 - .....  
 - .....

- Presence of markers
- Potential presence of facilities (benches, maps, etc.)
- Agreement with third parties
- Opening of a road providing a clear advantage for safety and the creation of a slow non-motorised course

***With respect to the entire property:***

- No significant damage seen
- No waste seen
- No motorised activities are allowed outside of paths/ roads
- All valuable historical, cultural and landscape elements are taken into account

Comments.....  
 .....  
 .....

<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Strong points .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations .....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to be addressed.....	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-conformity.....	.....

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

- **14. Audit and termination**
- accept the visit of an auditor whose role will be to check that I am meeting my commitments;
- should I decide to terminate my membership of the PEFC, I am informed that I will only be able to rejoin PEFC subject to a favourable opinion from the PEFC Walloon Region Working Group.

Comments.....  
.....  
.....

Name First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Quality \_\_\_\_\_  
Read and approved on \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Auditee signature:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Auditor signature:

## Appendix 2: Sample attestation of participation in regional certification (private part)



**PEFC/07-21-01**

### ATTESTATION OF PARTICIPATION IN FOREST CERTIFICATION

This document certifies that

**Nom\_du\_ou\_des\_propriétaires**

**Forest owner of Superficie\_ hectares located at Commune\_propriété**

PEFC member since Date\_de\_premier\_paiement

has signed the "Charter for sustainable forest management in the Walloon region 20xx-20xx" as it appears in the environmental management system of the Société Royale Forestière de Belgique and the Department of Nature and Forests

Participates in "Walloon Region" regional certification as defined by the PEFC Belgium non-profit and the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme

is granted **member number:** **PEFC/ 07-21-1/ 2- Numéro\_dadhérent\_PEFC**

Its forests fall within the scope of the sustainable forest management certificate

Certificate number: B-010202

granted to the Société Royale Forestière de Belgique

by:

ECOCERT Environnement SAS

36, boulevard de la Bastille

F – 75012 Paris

Tél : 0033 (0)1 53 44 74 44

This certificate complies with the requirements defined by the Belgian Forest Certification Scheme recognised by the PEFC Council on xx xxx 20xx.

This attestation was issued by:

Société Royale Forestière de Belgique

Galerie du Centre, Block 2, 6th floor

1000 Brussels

Tel.: 02/227.56.51

Contact person: Isaline de Wilde

Drawn up Brussels on 29 June 2015

Signature:

Ir. I. de Wilde

SRFB Environmental Manager

This attestation **MUST BE KEPT**. It is valid for three years

- through Date\_fin\_validité or
- until the expiration of charter 20XX- 20XX (*When the new 20XX-20XX charter is implemented, it must be signed by the PEFC member*) and
- under reserve of maintaining the forest management certificate granted by Ecocert.

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Please contact ECOCERT or the Department of Nature and Forests for more information on the Ecocert certificate. This document certifies that the forest owner listed is a member of forest certification via a regional group or entity that has a valid forest management certificate. A copy of this document can be attached to your sales catalogues, invoices, forms, etc. as a supporting document. The PEFC/07-21-01 logo is not an individual logo, but that of the DNF + SRFB entity. A licence is required to use a personal PEFC logo for commercial purposes. A request can be made to

PEFC-Belgium asbl

Galerie du Centre, Bloc 2, 6th floor, 1000 Brussels.

Tel.02/223.44.21 Fax.02/223.42.75

info@pefc.be.