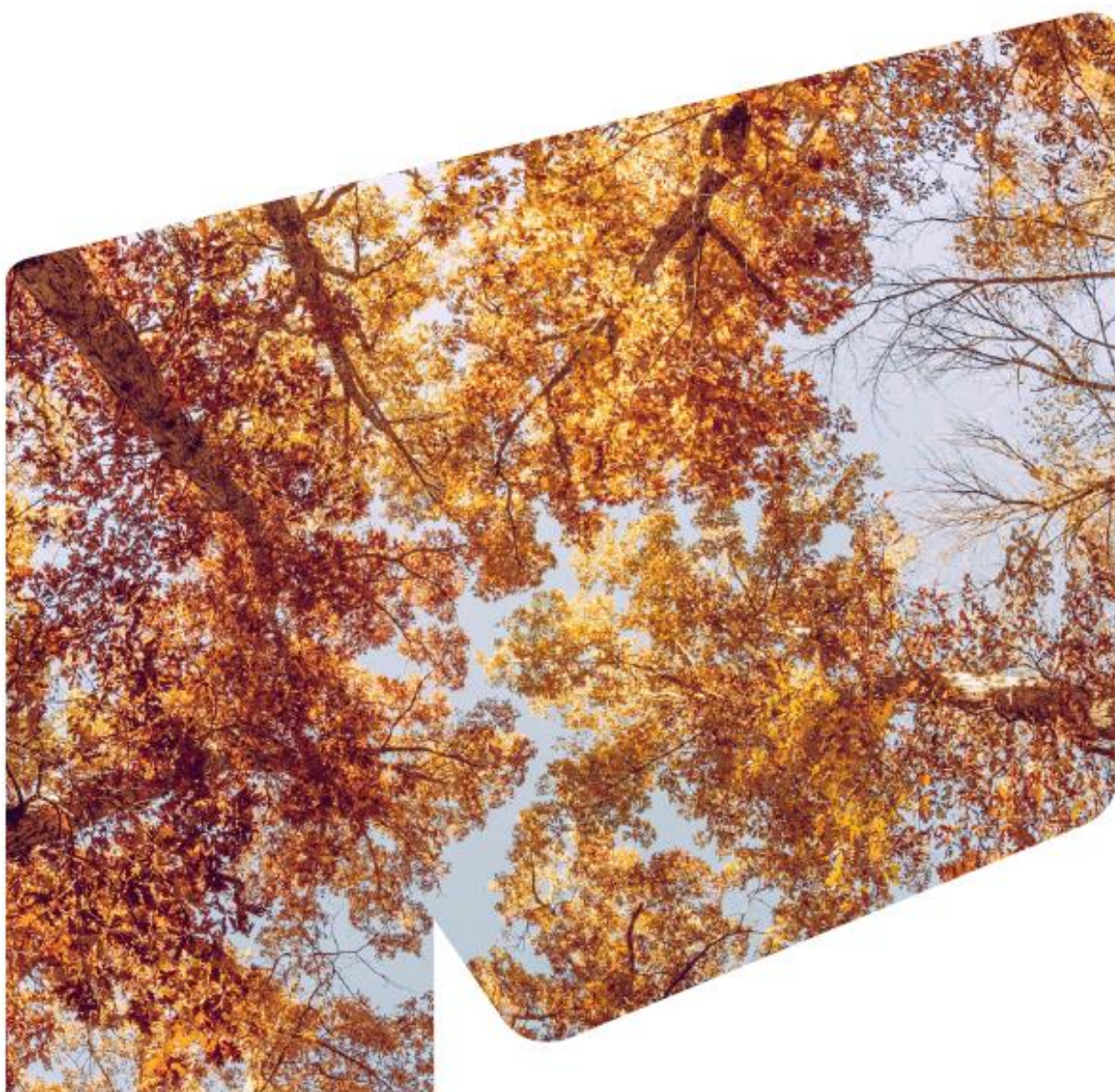


Development report- PEFC Belgium



1. Summary of the standard setting process with timetable.

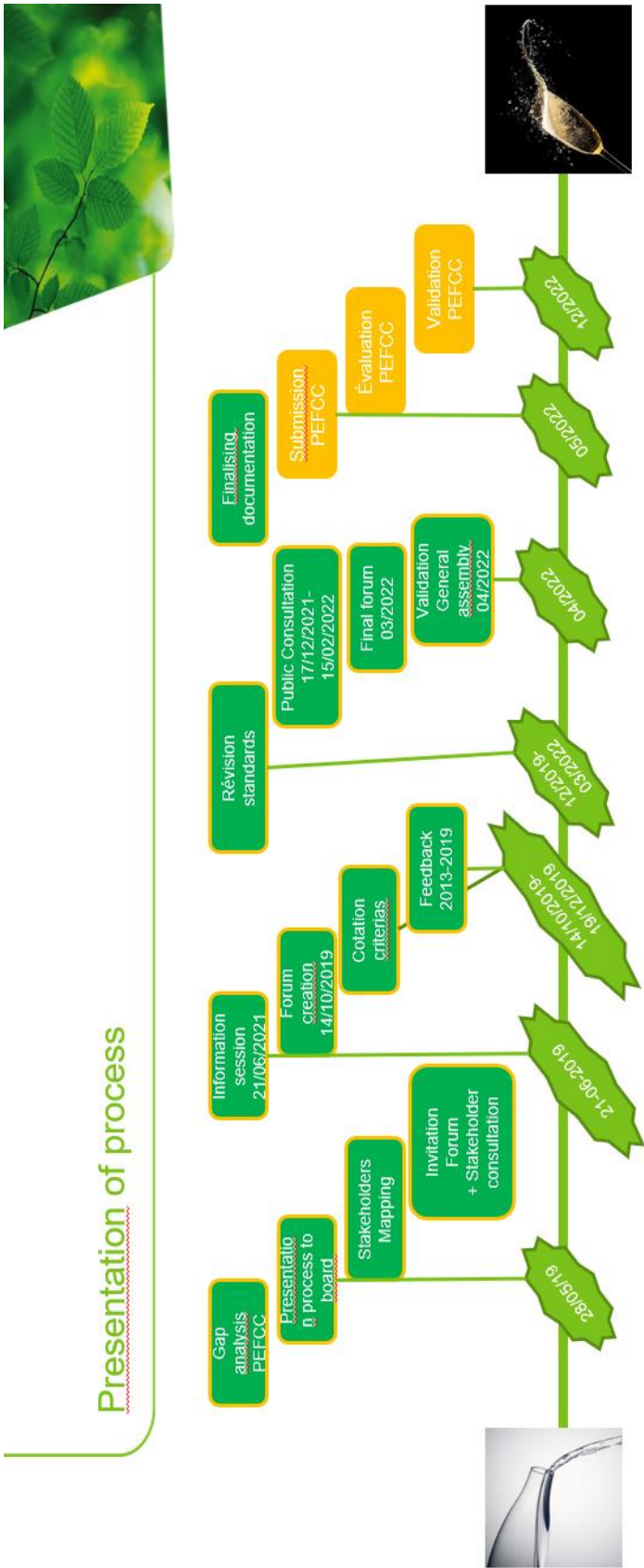
The standard setting process has been organised at **two levels**:

- a. The scheme documentation has been developed by the PEFC-Belgium Team based on the international documentation and best practices in order to ensure the auditability and credibility of the PEFC-Belgium certification
- b. The local forest management standards have been developed by a stakeholders Forum based on the result of a stakeholders consultation process. When needed, the Forum has been organised in thematic groups that had to manage on theme, come to a consensus, and propose the consensus to the Forum. The Forum held 6 formal meetings.

c. *Five thematic groups have been initiated:*

- i. Forest management: 3 meetings in May-June 2020 – conducted to a consensus*
- ii. Forest/Game balance: 6 meetings and multiple bilateral meetings were held in 2020-2021 conducted to a consensus between all the stakeholders after having considered and managed a sustained opposition with constructive proposition*
- iii. Economy: 2 meetings in March-April 2020 – conducted to a consensus*
- iv. Windmills in forests – evolved towards conversion – 4 meetings where held from June to October 2020 – conducted to a decision of the BoD of PEFC Belgium to regard it on a higher level “on a conversion perspective” and to follow the international standards.*
- v. Public access to the forests: 2 meetings in March-April 2020 – conducted to a consensus*

d. Timeline of the process.



* Organisation of the Forum in plenary sessions and thematic groups (based on stakeholders' expectations, feedback from past periods and PEOLG rating) to optimise the workload

Validation of the themes to be discussed: plenary
Constitution of thematic groups: plenary
Validation of thematic groups' deliverables: plenary

2. **List of stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping (contact details, preferably email addresses, shall be available to the assessor).**

See document in map 4_b1

3. **Information on the announcement of the process and the invitation to stakeholders,**

See document 4_c

4. **Synopsis of comments from the public consultation(s),**

The public consultation was organised in two steps:

- a. Identification of the themes the stakeholders would like to discuss during the revision process of the standards: see documents in map 4_d1
- b. Public consultation related to the revised standards at the end of the process. The results can be found in map 4_d2

This consultation generated much more reaction, in particular due to one of the stakeholders using this opportunity to let its members make the same comments related to the Forest/Game balance.

5. **Evidence on the consensus, including a summary of presented oppositions and their resolution,**

Evidence can be found in the minutes of the last Forum meeting that was held on 9 March 2022. Approval by the general assembly found place on the 7th of april 2022.

Minutes of these meetings can be found in map 4_e

6. **A summary of major changes and justification (for revised standards)**

a. Regarding the structure:

- i. Alignment of the structure of the documentation to the structure of the international standards*
- ii. Segregation of the roles of the organisation, the individual forest owner and the forest operators*
- iii. Integration of the possibility to certify or recognise an accreditation for forest operators(individual or group certification)*

b. Regarding the content

- i. No significant changes have impacted the forest management standards on behalf of the alignements with the international standards requirements, only a strong evolution regarding the forest/game balance.*
- ii. Clarification of the requirements related to the internal and external audits, based on the experience gained during the last audits and the evolution of the context (availability of a yearly full coverage of the Walloon Region with aerial pictures)*
- iii. Integration of the requirements of the international standards regarding context, stakeholders, management review.*



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