

PEFC ITA 1000: 2025

Description of the PEFC Italy Sustainable Forest and Trees outside Forests Management Certification Schemes



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1 INTRODUCTION

This document describes the Italian PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) scheme for the certifications of sustainable management of forests and Trees outside Forests, covering all their forest and tree-based products and services.

The Italian scheme is composed by the following standards: Sustainable Forest Management (SFM-PEFC ITA 1001-1); Sustainable Management of Poplar Plantations (SPM - PEFC ITA 1001-2); Sustainable Management of Medium to Long term Plantations (SPMm-I - PEFC ITA 1001-3); Sustainable Management of Polycyclic Plantations (SPMP - PEFC ITA 1001-4); Sustainable Management of Agroforestry Systems (GSAF - PEFC ITA 1001-5); Sustainable Management of Urban Green areas (GSVU - PEFC ITA 1001-6).

PEFC ITA 1000, PEFC ITA 1001-1, PEFC ITA 1001-2, PEFC ITA 1001-3, PEFC ITA 1001-4, PEFC ITA 1001-5, PEFC ITA 1001-6 are the PEFC reference standards at the Italian level.

PEFC ITA 1000, with PEFC ITA 1002 and PEFC ITA 1003, constitutes the official reference of PEFC-Italy for the different certification schemes.

PEFC ITA 1002 is the translation of PEFC ST 2002 concerning Chain of Custody (CoC) certification. PEFC ITA 1003-1 and PEFC ITA 1003-2 describe the operational procedures for certification, the procedures for accreditation of Certification Bodies to the National Accreditation Body and the requirements for auditors.

The following general principles are compulsory and must be applied in the PEFC Italy certification system:

- genetically modified organisms (GMOs) must not be introduced, at least until science proves conclusively that they do not cause an impact on natural ecosystems;
- any use of biotechnology must be based on the precautionary approach, after adequate scientific experimentation with appropriate field trials;
- the organization shall maintain an inventory of geolocation data related to the certified area where forest and tree-based products are harvested. The geolocation data can be limited to active operational sites of the organization.
- use levels must be planned in such a way as to ensure their sustainability for at least 10 years;
- harvest levels of non-wood forest products and non-wood products from TOF areas should not exceed those that can be sustained over a long period;
- harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products shall not exceed a rate that can
 be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested products.
 The capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and
 services on a sustainable basis shall be maintained.
- harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood products from TOF areas shall not exceed a
 rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested
 products. the capability of the TOF area to provide wood products, non-wood forest products
 and/or services from trees on a sustainable basis shall be maintained.
- forest management operations must also consider the aesthetic values of forests, compatible with the forms of governance and treatment in place;
- managers are encouraged to consider the broad spectrum of environmental services and to consider the market for these services:

- the management must contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organizations, as appropriate.
- property rights, tree ownership and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognized and respected.

PEFC Italy supports forestry research aimed at improving the health, productivity and management of forest resources and the provision of ecosystem services.

Owners and managers are invited to evaluate the ecosystem services resulting from their management and also to consider this information when developing management strategies.

PEFC Italy ensures that Tree outside Forest (ToF) areas included in certification are clearly identified, categorized, and traceable. Certified entities shall distinguish ToF from non-ToF areas in all certification documentation and indicate the applicable ToF category, according to a classification defined by PEFC Italy. This information shall be registered in the PEFC database to ensure transparency. Any changes in certified ToF areas must be reported to the certification body. During audits, certification bodies shall verify the correct identification, categorization, and consistency of ToF areas with the data published in the PEFC database.

A transition period of 12 months from the date of international endorsement of the present standard shall apply. During this period, both the previous and the current version of the standard may be used for certification purposes. After the transition period, only the current version shall be valid and applicable for all certifications.

1.1 Purpose and scope of the certification scheme

This document may apply to:

- natural and semi-natural forests (forestry sector);
- plantations (poplar plantations, medium-long term plantations, polycyclic plantations)
- agroforestry systems (silvoarable, silvopastoral, agrosilvopastoral)
- urban green areas (linear or diffuse trees, parks and gardens, urban forests)

Certification, which can take place at individual, group and territorial group level (the latter only for SFM), is described in section 3 of this document.

1.2 Regulatory and normative references

- PEFC International Reference Standards (PEFC ST 1001, PEFC ST 1002, PEFC ST 1003)
- PEFC ITA 1001-1 "Criteria and Indicators for Individual, Group and Territorial Group Certification of SFM".
- PEFC ITA 1001-2 "Criteria and Indicators for Individual and Group Certification of SPM".
- PEFC ITA 1001-3 'Criteria and Indicators for individual and group certification of SPMm-I'.
- PEFC ITA 1001-4 'Criteria and Indicators for individual and group certification of SPMP'.
- PEFC ITA 1001-5 "Criteria and Indicators for Individual and Group Certification of GSAF".
- PEFC ITA 1001-6 "Criteria and Indicators for Individual and Group Certification of GSVU".
- PEFC ITA 1002 "Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products Requirements"
- PEFC ITA 1003 1 " SFM and SPM accreditation scheme; minimum requirements".
- PEFC ITA 1003 2 "CoC Accreditation and CoC Audit Personnel Qualification".
- UNI ISO 19011:2018: Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems
- RG 01 rev 5 ACCREDIA "Regulation for the Accreditation of CBs" UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17065:2012. Conformity assessment Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services.

The applicable legislation for the requirements non-specified on PEFC Italy standards is the following:

- Legislative Decree No. 42 of 22 January 2004.
- d.lgs. 34/2018 "Testo unico in materia di foreste e filiere forestali"
- Working condition: Constitution, Art. 36, par. 3; Italian Civil Code art. 2109, paras. 2 and 3; Legislative Decree No. 66 of 8 April 2003 (amended by Legislative Decree No. 213 of 2004); Directive 93/104/EC (amended by European Parliament and Council Directive 2000/34/EC); Legislative Decree No. 151 of 14 September 2015. Legislative Decree No.D. Lgs. 81/2008 as amended.
- Equal opportunities, non-discrimination and freedom from workplace harassment: Law No. 4 of 15 January 2021.
- EU REG n. 1107/2009 and by the Legislative Decree n. 150/2012.
- Decree 28 oct 2021: Provisions for the definition of the national minimum criteria concerning the purposes, types and technical-constructive characteristics of forest and forestry roads, works related to forest management and hydraulic-forestry accommodation.
- Law 157/92 (implementing the EU Birds Directive), for other species and habitats the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (linked to the Natura 2000 network), then there is the Cites-Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora ("Habitats" Directive).

1.3 Definitions and abbreviations

1.3.1 Definitions

- Accreditation body: a body (in Italy, ACCREDIA) that directs and administers an accreditation system and issues accreditation (UNI CEI EN 45020).
- Accreditation: a procedure by which a recognized body formally certifies the competence of a body or person to perform specific functions (UNI CEI EN 45020).
- Affected stakeholder: a stakeholder who may experience a direct change in living and/or working conditions as a result of the implementation of the Standard or a stakeholder who may be a user of the Standard and therefore subject to its requirements.
- Agricultural plantation: Tree stands in agricultural production systems, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantations, olive orchards and agroforestry systems. Note: Agricultural plantations are excluded from the definition of 'forest'.
- Agricultural use: use of land for the purpose of agriculture, including for agricultural plantations, and includes livestock and set-aside agricultural areas.
- Agroforestry: Agricultural plantation where trees and shrubs are consciously and rationally integrated with crops and/or animal husbandry, in the same land unit, and where there are important ecological and/or economic interactions between trees and agricultural and animal components (see: agrosilvopastoral, silvopastoral and silvoarable systems).
- Agrosilvopastoral system: Association of herbaceous and tree crops, often grazed by herds and flocks (Pardini and Nori 2011).
- Ancient woodlands: natural or artificial woodland formations wherever located that due to their
 age, shape or size, or for historical, literary, toponomastic or landscape, cultural and spiritual
 reasons present characteristics of pre-eminent interest, such as to require recognition for
 special conservation action.
 - Source: Art.16 paragraph b) of Legislative Decree No. 34 of 3 April 2018.
- Applicant: entity that signs the application for certification (owner or its legal representative).
- Arboriculture: agricultural plantation where the cultivation of tree is aimed at the production of wood for industrial or energy use and which is freely reversible at the end of the cultivation cycle (Consolidated Text on Forests and Forest related supply chains - Legislative Decree No 34 of 3 April 2018)
- Astons: Poplar cuttings of a particular length of 1 to 2 metres
- Audit team leader: an auditor of the audit team is generally referred to as the team leader (UNI EN ISO 19011).
- Audit team: one or more auditors performing an audit supported, if required, by technical experts (UNI EN ISO 19011).
- Audit: a systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining audit evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the audit criteria have been met (UNI EN ISO 19011).
- Auditor: a person who has the competence to carry out an audit (UNI EN ISO 19011).
- Autochthonous (native) tree species: a tree species found within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (e.g. within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without introduction by humans, either directly or indirectly).
- Certificate of Participation in Group or Territorial Group Certification: a document issued to an individual participant that refers to the Group Certificate or Territorial Group Certificate and confirms that the participant is guaranteed the scope of the group/territorial certification.
- Certification body: body performing conformity certification. (UNI CEI EN 45020).

- Certification: a procedure whereby a third party gives written assurance that a product, process or service complies with specified requirements (UNI CEI EN 45020).
- Certified area: the area covered by management system in accordance with the PEFC Sustainable Management Standard (PEFC ST 1003) as an individual certificate or group certificate relating to the sum of the participants' forest areas.
- Chain of custody: all changes of custody of forest and wood and non-wood products, during harvest, transport, processing and distribution from the forest to final use.
- Conformity: fulfilment of a requirement (UNI EN ISO 9000:2000).
- **Criteria**: aspects considered important and by which the success or failure of a management can be judged. The role of criteria is to characterise or define the essential elements or a set of conditions or processes by which sustainable management can be assessed.
- **Degraded forest**: forest (or woodland) with a long-term reduction in the overall potential to provide ecosystem services (FAO 2003).
- **Disadvantaged stakeholder**: a stakeholder who may have difficulties or limitations in participating, for economic or other reasons
- Ecologically important forest areas: these are areas: a) that contain protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems; b) that contain significant concentrations of endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in the relevant legislation; c) that contain threatened or protected in situ genetic resources; d) that contribute to the creation of extensive landscapes of global, international and national significance with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species; e) covering primary forests.
- Ecologically important non-forest areas: non-forest areas: a) Containing protected, rare, sensitive or representative non-forest ecosystems; b) Containing significant concentrations of endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognized reference lists; c) Containing endangered or protected genetic in situ resources; d) Contributing to globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscapes with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.
- Ecosystem services: the multiple benefits provided by ecosystems to humankind
- Entity: see group representative (RG)
- Erosion-sensitive soil: Soil water erosion is an extremely complex and unavoidable natural phenomenon that depends on climatic conditions, geological, pedological, hydrological, morphological and vegetation characteristics of the land but can be accelerated by human activities, in particular agro-sylvo-pastoral activities, to the point of causing serious economic and environmental problems. Sensitive soils are the soils of those agroforestry lands that fall under this definition. (Source: ISPRA)
- Forest: areas covered by tree forest vegetation, whether or not associated with shrub vegetation, of natural or artificial origin at any stage of development and evolution, with an extension of not less than 2,000 square metres, an average width of not less than 20 metres and with a forest tree cover of more than 20 per cent (Consolidated Text on Forests and Forest related supply Chains Legislative Decree No. 34 of 3 April 2018). It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural use or urban land use
- Forest conversion to agricultural use: change of forest to agricultural use whether humaninduced or not.
 - Note: Regeneration by planting or direct seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, to the same dominant species as was harvested or other species that were present in the historical species mix is not considered a conversion to agricultural use.
- Forest conversion to other land use: direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest and non-agriculture uses.

- Forest degradation: structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of: a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or b) primary forests into planted forests.
- General and police forestry prescriptions: set of rules by means of which the modalities of use of territories subject to hydrogeological constraints are regulated.
- Geolocation: geographical location of a plot of land described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and one longitude point and using at least six decimal digits; for plots of land of more than four hectares used for the production of forest and tree-based products, this shall be provided using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land.
- Group (RG): a group of participants represented by the group representative for the purpose of implementing the sustainable forest management standard and its certification.
- Group Certificate (CG): a document confirming that a group meets the requirements of sustainable management and any other requirements of the certification scheme.
- Group certification: certification of a group by means of a single certificate.
- Group Representative (RG) or Entity: entity representing the participants, with overall responsibility for ensuring that management within the certified area complies with the Sustainable Management standard and other applicable certification scheme requirements. To this end, the group entity uses a group management system.
- Historical parks and gardens: these are all green areas, public or private, on which a specific constraint has been placed on the basis of Article 10 of Legislative Decree 490 of 29 October 1999 "Consolidated text of legislative provisions on cultural and environmental heritage" and Article 10 paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree 42 of 22 January 2004.
- Indicators: quantitative, qualitative or descriptive measures that, when periodically determined and monitored, indicate the direction of change (Intergovernmental Workshop on Criteria and Indicators for a SFM).
- Individual certificate (IC): a document confirming that an individual forest owner or manager (e.g. single forest consortium or in the case of several owners fully and unequivocally delegating the management and administration of forest resources) meets the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable certification scheme requirements.
- Interested parties: an individual or groups of individuals with a common interest, involved in or affected by the operations of an organization (ISO 14004).
- Linear or diffuse (or tree-lined) trees: systems of trees in rows, in groups or in isolated form along city streets, such as roads in residential districts, transit roads, traffic arteries, cyclepedestrian routes, car parks and squares. (elaboration from text Alberto Pirani -2004, "Il verde in città" Edagricole + UNI/PdR 8:2014 standard areas)
- Low management intensity: forest holdings larger than 100 ha where the area of intervention with areas subject to felling is less than 50 ha during the period of validity of the certificate.
- Main ILO Conventions: Eight conventions (ILO 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182) identified by the Governing Body of the ILO as "fundamental" in terms of principles and rights at work: freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
- Mature main plants: plants from which it is possible to obtain at least one of the products for which the plantation was designed.
- Medium-Long-Term Tree Plantations: Plantation forest characterized by polycyclic tree systems in which the main tree has a cycle of more than 20 years, the period required for some species to reach commercial size. Currently among those used in timber arboriculture, the following are considered medium-long-cycle: walnut trees, wild cherry, ash trees, maples,

rowan trees, elms, oaks, wild apple and pear trees, linden trees, hornbeams, and poplars. In many regional rural development programs, the minimum number of medium-long cycle main plants is 70 per hectare. (Buresti Lattes E., Mori P., Pelleri F., 2017; Sherwood n.189, pag.12-16, 2013)

- Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM) for public green areas: CAM (Minimum Environmental Criteria) as defined by Ministerial Decree 10 March 2020 Ministry of the Environment).
- Monitoring: ability to determine the status of a system, process or activity.
- Naturally regenerating forest: forest predominantly composed of trees established through
 natural regeneration; it includes any of the following: a) forests for which it is not possible to
 distinguish whether planted or naturally regenerated; b) forests with a mix of naturally
 regenerated native tree species and planted or seeded trees, and where the naturally
 regenerated trees are expected to constitute the major part of the growing stock at stand
 maturity; c) coppice from trees originally established through natural regeneration; d) naturally
 regenerated trees of introduced species.
- Non-conformity: failure to meet a requirement (UNI EN ISO 9000:2000).
- Non-native species: a tree species that is not within its natural range (past or present) and potential for dispersal (e.g. within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without introduction or vehicle by humans, either directly or indirectly).
- Non-wood forest products: products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from forests.
- Non-wood products from TOF areas: products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from trees.
- Other wooded land: land not classified as forest, excluding land that is predominantly under agricultural use or urban land use.
 - The Italian National Forest Inventory defines other wooded land as: land not classified as Forest, spanning more than 0.5 hectares, with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of 5-10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ; or with a combined cover of shrubs, bushes and trees above 10%. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. It includes areas with trees that will not reach a height of 5 meters in situ and with a canopy cover of 10% or more, e.g. some alpine tree vegetation types, or vegetation of arid zones.
- Owner/manager: any person, public and/or private, who is the owner or possessor (including manager by proxy) in good faith within the meaning of Article 1175 of the Civil Code.
- Parks and gardens: public or private areas, regardless of their size, with a pre-eminent environmental function and a predominantly green surface, but with a structure of paths and pedestrian areas that guarantees a high degree of usability and the performance of public activities with a social purpose or of private interest that in any case provide ecosystem services of collective interest. Note: In these areas the accessibility regulations contained in Presidential Decree 503/96 and Ministerial Decree 236/89 must be respected. This definition includes all municipally owned green areas that do not have special constraints due to their historical or monumental characteristics. Examples: public parks, municipal villas, neighbourhood green, sports green, school and cemetery green, theme parks and gardens.
- Participant: an owner/manager or other entity guaranteed by an individual or group certificate
 who has the legal right to manage the area in a well-defined area and who has the capacity
 to apply the requirements of the reference standards in that area. In a TG, the term
 "participant" can also refer to a group of owners identified by the TG itself.
 Note: the definition "ability to apply the requirements of the reference standards" requires that

- the entity has a long-term management right that can exclude any temporary contractors from the possibility of joining a group certification"¹.
- Plantation forest: planted forest that is intensively managed and meets, at planting and stand
 maturity, all the following criteria: one or two species, even age class, and regular spacing. It
 includes short rotation plantations for wood, fibre and energy, and excludes forests planted
 for protection or ecosystem restoration, as well as forests established through planting or
 seeding which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble naturally regenerating forests.
- Planted forest: Forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding, provided that the planted or seeded trees are expected to constitute more than 50% of the growing stock at maturity; it includes coppice from trees that were originally planted or seeded.
- Polycyclic Plantation: Plantation forest with dual role plants and/or accessory plants in addition to the main plants. The minimum number of plants of various roles in total present at the beginning of planting in a Naturalistic-type Polycyclic Plantation is 600 per hectare. (Buresti Lattes E. e Mori P., Manuale InBioWood 2016)
- Poplar plantations: Plantation forest with poplar tree planting for the production of veneer toppings for the plywood industry, involves planting densities of 200-280 plants ha-1 and variable cycle from 8 to 12 years. Poplar planting also includes Short Rotation Coppices (SRC), which, with shorter rotations than traditional poplar planting, aim to produce small-scale material for energy or other industrial uses (Proceedings of the 18th Conference AISSA).
- Primary forest: naturally regenerating forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly
 visible indications of human activities, and the ecological processes are not significantly
 disturbed.
- **Principles**: fundamental rules that serve as the basis for reasoning and actions. Principles are explicit elements of an objective such as the SFM (PEFC International).
- Rare, threatened, in risk of extintion or endangered tree species: Endangered tree species according to IUCN (https://www.iucnredlist.org/)
- Reforestation: Re-establishment of forest through deliberate planting and/or seeding on those lands that, until then, had a different land use, implying a transformation of land use from non-forest to forest (Source: FAO 2018)
- Region: homogeneous territory clearly delimited geographically or administratively.
- Renunciation: voluntary behavior on the part of the applicant (AZ, RG, TG) or its associates (in the case of GR or TG) to no longer adhere to a certification scheme.
- Representative Ecosystem: an ecosystem that reflects the typical characteristics of a specific region.
- Requirement: a need or expectation that may be expressed, generally implicit or binding (UNI EN ISO 9000:2000).
- Review: an activity carried out to ascertain the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of something to achieve the established objectives (UNI EN ISO 9000: 2000).
- Revocation: withdrawal of the certificate by the CB.
- Secretariat: PEFC-Italy Secretariat.

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¹ In these areas the accessibility regulations contained in Presidential Decree 503/96 and Ministerial Decree 236/89 must be respected. This definition includes all municipally owned green areas that do not have special constraints related to their historical or monumental characteristics. Examples: public parks, municipal villas, neighbourhood greens, sports greens, school and cemetery greens, theme parks and gardens. Management can include processes of integrating private activities (commercial businesses aimed at the public such as bars, restaurants, bookshops, newsagents) that make the spaces vital and that collaborate in the maintenance aspects of the environmental quality of the places.

- Sensitive Ecosystem: Sensitive ecosystems are natural or semi-natural environments that are
 particularly vulnerable to changes, even minor ones, which can compromise their ecological
 balance and the biodiversity they support
- Silvoarable system: system with widely distributed tree vegetation associated with annual or perennial crops. Trees/shrubs can be distributed following a design according to arboreal rows, isolated/spread trees, hedges or boundary strips. (Mosquera-Losada et al. 2018)
- Silvopastoral system: a system where there is a combination of arboreal areas with areas for fodder or animal production. It includes pasture in forest or woodland and grazed areas with hedgerows, isolated or scattered trees or trees in rows or bands (Mosquera-Losada et al. 2018).
- Sporadic tree species: any tree species that is rarely encountered in the forest ecosystems of a given area. Mori P, Pelleri F 2012. PProSpoT: a LIFE+ for sporadic tree species. Sherwood Forests and Trees Today, 179:7-11. Compagnia delle Foreste (AR).
- Stakeholder: a person, group, community or organization affected by the themes of the Standard.
- Suspension: momentary interruption of the certification process or of the validity of the certificate.
- Sustainable development: the satisfaction of the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs (ISO/TR 14061:).
- Sustainable Forest Management: management and use of forests and forest lands in a way
 and to an extent that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regenerative capacity, vitality
 and their potential to ensure important ecological, economic and social functions now and in
 the future at local, national and global levels and that does not lead to damage to other
 ecosystems (PEFC International).
- Sustainable management of an agroforestry system: management of agroforestry, silvicultural and silvopastoral systems in such a way and to such an extent as to maintain their capacity to deliver ecosystem services, biodiversity, regenerative capacity, vitality and their potential, to ensure important ecological, economic and social functions now and in the future at local, national and global levels, in a manner that does not lead to damage to other ecosystems. (Source: PEFC definition adaptation ST 1003:2024)
- Sustainable management of plantation forests (poplar plantations, medium-long term plantations, polycyclic plantations): management and use of tree plantation areas in a manner and extent that maintains their biodiversity, productivity and potential to ensure important local, national and global ecological, economic and social functions now and in the future, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.
- Sustainable Urban Green Areas Management: management of trees, parks and gardens and
 urban forests in a manner and to an extent that maintains their capacity to provide ecosystem
 services, biodiversity, regenerative capacity, vitality and their potential to ensure important
 ecological, economic and social functions now and in the future on a local, national and global
 level, in a manner that does not lead to damage to other ecosystems. Source: PEFC
 International definition adaptation.
- Territorial Group (TG): an organization recognized by PEFC-Italy and created by forest owners and/or managers as participants. Each "region" must be represented by a single TG; this entity must aim to represent forest owners/managers representing and/or managing more than 50% of the planned forest area of the region
- Territorial Group Certificate (CGT): a document confirming that the Territorial Group in the
 certification of SFM meets the requirements of the Sustainable Forest Management Standard
 and other applicable forest certification scheme requirements. The certificate is issued to the
 Territorial Group in respect of the entire region (see definition) and relates to the voluntary
 participation of forest owners and/or groups; only those who are participants of the CGT, the

forest areas belonging to them and the forest products from these areas will be considered certified.

- **Territorial Group Certification**: certification of a recognized Territorial Group by means of a Territorial Group Certificate.
- Third party: a person or body recognized as independent of the parties involved with regard to the subject matter in question (UNI CEI EN 45020).
- Trees outside Forests (TOF): trees growing outside areas of forest land. Such areas will normally be classified as agricultural use (agroforestry) or urban areas (linear or diffuse trees, parks and gardens and urban forests).
- Urban and peri-urban forest: area with a tree cover of more than 10%, over an extension of more than 0.5 ha and with trees at least 5 metres tall at maturity, which has a direct and functional relationship in terms of ecosystem services with the urban environment and which is managed in accordance with these or, in any case, those areas identified as such by current urban planning instruments. (elaboration from FAO definition)
- Urban green: trees, parks and gardens and urban and peri-urban forests
- Valuable trees: trees in Italian forests noted for the quality of their wood and their aesthetic and ecological functions (Bernetti, 1984)

1.3.2 Abbreviations

AC: corrective actions

ACCREDIA: Accreditation Body for Certification Bodies in Italy

AZ: owner/manager

CFI: Individual Forestry Certificate

CoC: Chain of Custody CGT: Territorial Group Certificate

DT: Technical Document GR: Group of participants

SFM: Sustainable Forest Management SPM: Sustainable Plantation Management

SPMm-I: Sustainable Management of Medium- and Long-term Plantations

SPMP: Sustainable Management of Polycyclic Plantations

GFAF: Sustainable Agroforestry Management GSVU: Sustainable Urban Green Management TG: Group applying for Territorial Group Certification

NC: non-conformity CB: certification body OA: accreditation body

PEFC: Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes

PMPF: Maximum and Forest Police Prescriptions

RG: Group Representative, entity representing the participants of a group

2 PEFC-ITALIA ELEMENTS

2.1 Certification schemes

The 'PEFC-Italy' system consists of seven schemes:

- a) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certification PEFC ITA 1001-1
- b) Sustainable Poplar plantation Management (SPM) certification PEFC ITA 1001-2
- c) Sustainable Medium-long term tree Plantation Management certification (SPMm-I) PEFC ITA 1001-3
- d) Sustainable Management of Polycyclic Plantations (SPMP) certification PEFC ITA 1001-4
- e) Sustainable Agroforestry Management (GSAF) certification PEFC ITA 1001-5
- f) Sustainable Urban Green areas Management (GSVU) certification PEFC ITA 1001-6
- g) CoC certification of forest- and tree-based products (translation of PEFC ST 2002).

The certification of SFM, SPM, SPMm-I, SPMP, GSAF, GSVU only concerns the management sector (forests, plantations, agricultural and urban green areas) and its products until their change of custody (considered in PEFC ITA 1002).

The claim "100% PEFC certified" or other scheme-specific claims shall be used to communicate the origin of products from a certified area to PEFC chain of custody certified customers. The "100% PEFC certified" or other scheme-specific claims are only made by owners/managers covered by a specific recognized certificate issued against the standard.

When transferring a product to a PEFC Chain of Custody certified customer, the following information must be provided (e.g. on an invoice or transport document)

- a) supplier identification;
- b) product identification;
- c) quantity of product(s);
- d) delivery identification based on date of delivery, delivery period, or accounting period;
- e) the organization's name as the PEFC customer of the delivery;
- f) the applicable PEFC claim specifically for each claimed product covered by the documentation
- g) the certificate number of the supplier's PEFC recognized certificate.

Only products from certified areas can be sold with the declaration "100% PEFC certified" or other scheme-specific declarations.

Except for serious and proven reasons, in the event that membership of the certification system is terminated by the owner or manager prior to the natural end of validity of the certificate, the owner or manager and the certified area may not re-access the certification system until the date of the natural expiry of the contract.

Group participants excluded from any certification group based on nonconformities cannot be accepted within 12 months after exclusion.

In order to guarantee these protection mechanisms, the CB communicates these situations to PEFC Italy, which assesses, registers and communicates to the other CBs the status of the owner or manager and the previously certified area.

A change from one CB to another during the period of validity of the certificate is not considered as an interruption and is governed by the IAF MD2 procedure.

In relation to the type of certification requested and the level of individual, group, and territorial group application (the latter only for SFM), in order to obtain certification, the applicant must demonstrate - as far as relevant - compliance with the requirements referred to in the PEFC documents and - once certification has been obtained - their maintenance.

The obligation to comply with existing regional, national and international regulations on forest management practices; agriculture and agroforestry; nature and environmental protection, protected and endangered species; propriety, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; crop damage compensation; anti-corruption, trade, customs and the payment of royalties and taxes is a prerequisite.

All reports of violations of applicable regulations must be taken into account in internal and external audits.

The certification requirements and standards are regularly checked and updated by PEFC-Italy for appropriate changes and/or additions, made necessary by any new knowledge, at least every five years.

Periodic monitoring is in fact an essential element of the PEFC's continuous improvement process. The transition period for implementing changes in the scheme will last 12 months from the moment the scheme is approved by PEFC Italy, for all new certificates and renewals. For certificates issued before the end of the transition period, changes must be implemented by the next surveillance visit.

2.2 PEFC-Italy system actors

They take an active part in the Italian PEFC certification system:

- the applicants for certification;
- the PEFC-Italy;
- Certification Bodies (CBs);
- Accreditation Body (AB).

2.2.1 Applicants

Applicants are the candidates for certification.

The following are identified as applicants:

- 1) the legal representative of the Territorial Group (or his delegate for certification) for SFM only;
- 2) the legal representative of the GR or his delegate for group certification;
- 3) the owner, the manager or their delegates for individual certification.

Legal compliance is an obligation for applicants wishing to start a certification process according to PEFC certification schemes.

All actors involved in the certification (individually or as participants of GRs or TGs) are responsible for ensuring that the activities and operations of subcontractors comply/meet the criteria and indicators.

2.2.1.1 Territorial Group

The TG is the only organization recognized by PEFC Italy for a specific territorial or geographical unit. The TG shall implement and comply with the ITA 1001-1 standards and its appendix 3, as well as with any subsequent additions and/or amendments thereto.

TG must:

- a) representing the group participants in the certification process, in communication and relations with the CB, in the submission of the certification request and in contractual relations with the CB;
- b) provide a commitment on behalf of the entire membership group to comply with the SFM standard and other applicable certification scheme requirements by integrating the PEFC group certification requirements into the management system of the represented group.
- c) bear the cost of territorial certification and its maintenance (through the collection of fees set by TG for forest owners/managers);

- d) initiate the territorial certification procedure by instructing its legal representative to submit the application for certification;
- e) prepare a SFM Manual for the application of the SFM standards to the whole group of members (see § 3. 2). If a decision is made to meet the requirements of the sustainability standard at the group level, a group management plan/document shall be prepared that takes these requirements into account;
- f) prepare, update and distribute the necessary documentation, information and forms for participants to enable their voluntary participation in the scheme. This documentation must be available and retrievable at a location communicated by the TG and must be adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use or loss of integrity;
- g) inform participants, ensuring their full awareness, and the parties involved in certification, about the group management policy and about their rights and duties and put in place procedures to ensure the fulfilment of their obligations, with particular reference to the obligation on the part of owners to comply with 2.2.1.1, enabling communication processes to raise awareness of their contribution to the effectiveness of the groups management system and sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improving group performance, as well as the implications of non-compliance with group management system requirements;
- h) organize annual internal audits with a monitoring program based on sampling to allow the verification of all TG participants during the five years of validity of the certificate and collaborate in the audits conducted by the CB;
- i) keep the territorial certificate issued by the CB;
- j) submit a formal application to PEFC-Italy for the use of the logo;
- k) establish and apply written procedures for collecting for the management of Group Organization (in addition of evaluating and accepting individual membership applications from participants) accompanied by the deed of commitment to the PEFC-Italy SFM standard and other applicable PEFC-Italy certification scheme requirements; the written agreement shall cover the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective and preventive measures and to initiate del exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the standard.
- keep and update the register and documented information of all participants (names, contact details, cadastral location and sizes of areas involved/certified) of the TG and the certification participants, transmitting it periodically to the CB; any new participant to a TG certification may only be included by signing a TG membership contract in which they agree to adhere to the standard;
- m) keep the register of the certification participants and transmit it to CB within one month of the audit, specifying the names, location and areas involved, subsequently communicating exclusions and new adherences. The commitment of participants can be based on an individual commitment or on a majority decision of an owners' organization on behalf of the forest owners/managers represented in the region;
- n) provide owners with a "Territorial Group Certification Participation Certificate" indicating the number and terms of validity of the territorial group certificate, relevant information on the TG that obtained the certificate and the CB that issued it;
- o) informing participants when NCs are found and collaborating in the definition of the necessary CA, organizing any additional audits and providing them with the appropriate support;
- p) establish written procedures for the exclusion of those participants who, at the end of the agreed period, have not remedied the nonconformities, consequently cancelling the sublicense to use the logo and informing the CB so that the PEFC Logo usage contract is revoked. The participant must undergo an internal audit by the group Entity before being

- allowed to re-join the TG. The internal audit must not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.
- q) where a participant is covered by an additional individual or group management certification, ensure that the participant's NC found under another forest certification scheme are assessed and addressed under PEFC certification;
- r) register and transmit to the CB any complaints raised by interested parties;
- s) in the event that a TG wishes to develop territorial group certification standards independently, it must set up a consultative forum in which all parties interested in forest management can participate, with the same operational procedures used to identify standards at national level; the standards must be more restrictive than the national ones, and must therefore be approved by PEFC Italy and subsequently by PEFC International;
- t) organize meetings with 'interested parties' on a regular basis (at least once during the period of validity of the certificate), possibly also involving the CBs;
 - a. Public consultation must consider the environmental (e.g. forests of special conservation value), social (e.g. cultural values and community impact) and economic components of forest management in the area being certified. Public consultation must explicitly include local stakeholders and experts. Information gathered during such public consultation (through any medium, whether written, video or audio) must be retained and displayed as documentary evidence during audits by the CB;
- u) make public the summary of the audit activity (prepared by the certification body), including a summary of the findings on compliance with the forest management standard,
- v) make public the summary of the forest management plan² (or similar planning instruments) of the certified forest, through a document containing the following list of criteria:
 - size of the planned area (in hectares) and percentage of planned forest in relation to the total of the certified amalgamated property;
 - description of the main forest stands on the certified property (extract from the forest management plan, if any, or from public documents/scientific research/sector publications);
 - proportion of the total certified forest property of productive area, protective area, total protected area, if any;
 - duration of the forest management plan or similar planning instruments, who drafted it, who approved it;
 - principles and objectives that served as guidelines for the management plan (or provincial/regional planning criteria assumed by planning instruments);
 - harvesting rate (indicating the objective of this choice with respect to maintaining or increasing the forestry commission);
 - any other information useful for understanding the management plan adopted (non-compulsory examples: activities aimed at the promotion of biodiversity; initiatives undertaken to safeguard sensitive, protected areas, areas of historical value, etc.; particular wood harvesting techniques adopted in specific forest areas; silvicultural choices aimed at fire prevention; evaluation of coppice to promote the local economy; motivations for the choice of conversion to high forest trees; initiatives undertaken to increase landscape value, to increase tourism; etc.).
- w) provide appropriate mechanisms for the resolution of complaints and disputes relating to forest management and group management;

² The publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive features of natural resources.

- x) where a group participant acts as a trader of forestry material not covered by the group certificate, set up a PEFC chain of custody system;
- y) internal and external communication, including identification of relevant topics to be communicated and the appropriate time to do so, target groups and communication channels. External communication will cover local communities and other stakeholders related to sustainable forest management;
- z) provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requirements from Certification Body Accreditation Body, PEFC International or the PEFC Italy for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organization and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related with implication for the management system.

2.2.1.1.1 Duties of Territorial Group Certification Participants

Participants must:

- a) have a valid, adopted or revised forest management plan or similar planning instruments;
- b) pay the membership fee to TG, in order to financially support the costs of the territorial group certification and its maintenance;
- c) indicate to the TG, in writing, all owned/managed forest areas within the "region" in their entirety and those that are candidates for certification as planned; all owned/managed areas within the "region" are to be submitted for certification, in their entirety, if these forests are merged production units;
- d) sign a binding deed of commitment with the group representative in which he/she complies with the requirements imposed by the PEFC-Italy certification scheme and the group's management system, giving information on any membership of previous groups; a person excluded from a certification group may not apply for membership of any other group within 12 months of exclusion.
- e) demonstrate that forest management activities are carried out in compliance with the criteria set by PEFC-Italy both by its own personnel and by external suppliers;
- f) make available to the TG and the CB all documents and records necessary for the conduct of internal audits and the CB:
- g) report to the TG on silvicultural activities in certified areas;
- h) confirm TG membership at least every five years by the form of confirmation defined by the TG:
- i) communicate any withdrawal of certification and the relative withdrawal of TG membership at least two months in advance in order to allow the TG representative to fulfil his obligations towards the CB and PEFC-Italy;
- j) provide full cooperation and assistance in responding correctly to all requests from the TG or the CB for relevant data, documentation or other information; provide access to woods and other appurtenances, whether in the case of formal audits, audits or in any other case;
- (k) implement relevant corrective and preventive actions as determined by the TG.

2.2.1.2 Group

The GR may operate in a specific territorial or geographical unit without being recognized by PEFC Italy if it does not have the characteristics required of the TG (see definition of TG). The RG must implement and comply with what is established by the relevant reference standards (PEFC ITA 1001-1, PEFC ITA 1001-2, PEFC ITA 1001-3, PEFC ITA 1001-4, PEFC ITA 1001-5, PEFC ITA 1001-6) as well as by any subsequent additions and/or amendments to them. The GR must:

a) represent GR participants in the certification process, in communication and relations with the CB, in the submission of the certification request and in contractual relations with the CB;

- b) provide a commitment on behalf of the entire group of participants to comply with the applicable reference standards and other requirements of the certification scheme by integrating PEFC group certification requirements into the management system of the represented group;
- c) bear the cost of group certification and its maintenance through the collection of fees set by the GR for participants;
- d) initiate the organization's certification procedure by instructing its legal representative to submit the application for certification;
- e) prepare a Management Manual for the application of the reference standard to the entire group of participants (see § 3.2) as proof of sustainable management in the areas subject to certification. If a decision is made to meet the requirements of the sustainability standard at the group level, a group management plan/document shall be prepared that takes these requirements into account;
- f) prepare, update and distribute the necessary documentation, information and forms to GR participants, in order to enable their voluntary participation in the system. This documentation must be available and retrievable at a location communicated by the GR and must be adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, misuse or loss of integrity;
- g) inform the participants, ensuring their full awareness, and the parties involved in the certification, about the group management policy, their rights and duties and put in place procedures to ensure the fulfilment of their obligations, with particular reference to the obligation on the part of the participants to comply with the points set out in 2.2.1.2.1, enabling communication processes to raise awareness of their contribution to the effectiveness of the groups management system and sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improving group performance, as well as the implications of non-compliance with group management system requirements;
- h) organize annual internal audits with a monitoring program based on sampling to allow the verification of all GR participants during the five years of validity of the certificate and collaborate in the audits conducted by the CB;
- i) keep the certificate issued by the CB;
- j) submit a formal application to PEFC-Italy for the use of the logo;
- k) establish and apply for the management of Group Organization (in addition of written procedures for collecting) evaluating and accepting individual membership applications from participants, accompanied by the deed of commitment to the standard and other applicable PEFC-Italy certification scheme requirements; the written agreement shall cover the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective and preventive measures and to initiate del exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the standard.
- keep and update the register and documented information of all participants of data (names, contact details, cadastral location and sizes of areas involved/certified) of the GR and the certification participants, transmitting it periodically to the CB; any new participant to a GR certification may only be included after the surveillance or extension audit by the CB;
- m) keep the register of certification participants and transmit it within one month of the audit to CB, specifying the names, location and areas involved/certified, subsequently communicating exclusions and new adherences;
- n) provide participants with a certificate of 'adherence to group certification' indicating the number and terms of validity of the regional certificate, relevant information on the GR that obtained the certificate and the CB that issued it;
- o) inform participants when NCs are found and collaborating in the definition of the necessary CA, organising any additional audits and providing them with the appropriate support;

- p) establish written procedures for the exclusion of participants which, at the end of the agreed period, have not remedied the NC, consequently cancelling the sub-licence to use the logo and inform PEFC-Italy and the CB thereof. For readmission to the group, the participant shall be subject to an internal audit by the group Entity before being authorised to re-join the GR. The internal audit shall not take place earlier than 12 months after exclusion;
- q) where a participant is covered by an additional individual or group management certification, ensure that the participant's NC found under another certification scheme are assessed and addressed under PEFC certification;
- r) register and transmit to the CB any complaints raised by interested parties;
- s) organize meetings with "interested parties" on a regular basis (at least once during the period of validity of the certificate), possibly also involving the CBs; the public consultation must consider the environmental (e.g. forests of special conservation value), social (e.g. cultural values and impact on the community) and economic components of forest management in the area being certified. Public consultation must explicitly include local stakeholders and experts. Information gathered during such public consultation (through any medium, whether written, video or audio) must be retained and displayed as documentary evidence during audits by the CB;
- t) make public the summary of the audit activity (written by the certification body), including a summary of the findings on compliance with the management standard;
- u) make public the summary of the management plan³ (or similar planning instruments) of the certified area, through a document containing the following list of criteria:
 - contact person with references;
 - location and size of the planned area (in hectares) and percentage of planned forest in relation to the total certified bundled property;
 - description of the main forest/tree areas on the certified property (extract from the forest management plan, if any, or from public documents/scientific research/sector publications);
 - Proportion of the total certified property of productive area, protective area, total protected area, tourist-recreational use;
 - duration of the forest management plan or similar planning instruments, who drafted it, who approved it;
 - principles and objectives that served as guidelines for the management plan (or provincial/regional planning criteria assumed by planning instruments);
 - if present in the management plan, rate of harvesting (indicating the objective of this choice with respect to maintaining or increasing the forestry provision);
 - any other information useful for understanding the management plan adopted (non-compulsory examples: activities aimed at the promotion of biodiversity; initiatives undertaken to safeguard sensitive, protected areas, areas of historical value, etc.; particular wood harvesting techniques adopted in specific forest areas; silvicultural choices aimed at fire prevention; evaluation of coppice to promote the local economy; motivations for the choice of conversion to high forest trees; initiatives undertaken to increase landscape value, to increase tourism; etc.);
- v) provide appropriate mechanisms for the resolution of complaints and disputes relating to forest management and group management;
- w) where a group participant acts as a trader of forestry material not covered by the group certificate, set up a PEFC chain of custody system;

³ The publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive features of natural resources.

- x) Organize internal and external communication, including the identification of relevant topics to be communicated and the appropriate time to do so, target groups and communication channels. External communication will cover local communities and other stakeholders related to the sustainable management of certified areas;
- y) provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requirements from Certification Body Accreditation Body, PEFC International or the National Governing Body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organization and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related with implication for the management system.

2.2.1.2.1 Duties of Group Certification Participants

Participants in group certification must:

- a) have a valid, adopted or revised management plan or similar planning instruments;
- b) pay the GR membership fee (to financially support the GR and the costs of certification and its maintenance) when required;
- c) indicate, in written form, to the GR the areas managed and which they intend to include in the group certification; all areas owned/managed within the 'group' must be certified, in their entirety, if these forests are merged production units;
- d) sign a binding deed of commitment with the representative of the group in which one complies with the requirements of the PEFC-Italy certification scheme and the group's management system, giving information on any membership of previous groups; a participant excluded from a certification group may not apply for membership of any other group within 12 months of exclusion.
- e) demonstrate that the management activities are carried out in compliance with the criteria set by PEFC-Italy both by its own staff and by external suppliers;
- f) make available to the GR and the CB all documents and records necessary for the performance of internal audits and CBs;
- g) report to the GR on harvesting and silvicultural treatments in certified areas;
- h) confirm membership in GR at least every five years;
- i) communicate any renunciation of certification and the relative withdrawal of GR membership at least two months in advance in order to allow the GR representative to fulfil his obligations towards the CB and PEFC-Italy;
- j) provide full cooperation and assistance in responding efficiently to all requests for data, enquiries and information from the GR or the CB; provide access to forests and other appurtenances, both in the case of audits or formal reviews and in other situations;
- k) implement the relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the GR.

2.2.1.3 Owner/manager

AZ must:

- a) be the owner or manager of the area concerned by the certification;
- b) have a valid, adopted or revised management plan or similar planning instruments;
- c) initiate the organization's certification procedure by instructing its legal representative to submit the application for certification;
- d) bear the cost of certification and its maintenance:
- e) comply with the requirements of the PEFC-Italy certification scheme;
- f) demonstrate that management activities are carried out in compliance with the criteria set by PEFC-Italy both by its own staff and by external suppliers;

- g) guarantee that areas owned by the owner (or managed by an operator) that are to be certified are be certified in their entirety if they represent a merged production unit;
- h) prepare a Management Manual containing the relevant elements (see § 3.2) to prove sustainable management in the areas subject to certification;
- cooperate in audits conducted by the CB by providing full cooperation and assistance in responding efficiently to all requests for data, enquiries and information from the CB; provide access to woods and other appurtenances, both in the case of audits or formal reviews and in other situations; implement relevant corrective and preventive actions as determined by the CB;
- i) keep the certificate issued by the CB;
- k) submit a formal application to PEFC-Italy for the use of the logo;
- I) update and keep the register of the parcels subject to certification (cadastral location and areas concerned) by forwarding it to the CB;
- m) register and transmit to the CB any complaints raised by interested parties;
- n) commit to the correct use of the PEFC-Italy certificate and logo;
- o) organize meetings with 'interested parties' on a regular basis (at least once during the period of validity of the certificate), possibly also involving the CBs;
- p) organizing public consultation considering the environmental (e.g. forests of special conservation value), social (e.g. cultural values and community impact) and economic components of management in the area being certified. The public consultation must explicitly include local stakeholders and experts. Information gathered during such public consultation (through any medium, whether written, video or audio) must be retained and displayed as documentary evidence during audits by the CB;
- g) make public the summary of audit activities (prepared by the certification body) including a summary of findings on compliance with the management standard;
- r) make public the summary of the management plan⁴ (or similar planning instruments) of the certified area, through a document containing the following list of criteria:
 - contact person with references;
 - location;

- size of the planned area (in hectares) and percentage of planned forest in relation to the total of the certified amalgamated property;
- description of the main forest/tree areas on the certified property (extract from the forest management plan, if present, or from public documents/scientific research/sector publications);
- Proportion of the total certified forest/tree property of productive area, protective area, total protected area, tourist-recreational use:
- duration of the management plan or similar planning instruments, who drafted it, who approved it;
- principles and objectives that served as guidelines for the management plan (or provincial/regional planning criteria assumed by the planning instruments);
- if present in the management plan, rate of harvesting (indicating the objective of this choice in relation to maintaining or increasing the forestry provision);
- any other information useful for understanding the management plan adopted (noncompulsory examples: activities aimed at the promotion of biodiversity; initiatives undertaken to safeguard sensitive, protected areas, areas of historical value, etc.; particular wood harvesting techniques adopted in specific forest areas; silvicultural

⁴ The publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive features of natural resources.

- choices aimed at fire prevention; evaluation of coppice to promote the local economy; motivations for the choice of conversion to high forest trees; initiatives undertaken to increase landscape value, to increase tourism; etc.);
- s) have appropriate mechanisms in place to resolve complaints and disputes related to forest management.

3 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

The scheme provides for the following levels of application:

- individual certification;
- group certification;
- territorial group certification (SFM only).

Candidate for regional certification is the TG, for group certification the GR, for individual certification the AZ.

The forest property management system can take its cue from the logic and principles of the management systems adopted in documents issued by standardizing bodies (e.g. ISO 14001, ISO 9001, ...), conforming to the points of greatest affinity with PEFC (e.g. objectives, organizational structure, operational control).

The cost of the certification audit is borne by the applicant.

3.1 Documents required for certification

The documented information must be relevant and updated as appropriate. The documents that the applicant must submit to the CB are:

- a) the application for certification, which is duly filled in and signed by the applicant and sent to the CB, containing general information on the applicant, i.e.: name, company name, chosen certification level, address, person in charge of liaising with the CB, the name of the consultant and main data characterizing the surfaces to be certified;
- b) in the case of the legal representative, the document authorizing the applicant to submit the application to the CB;
- c) the Manual in which there is evidence of the overall management framework also through reference to other documents such as: management procedures, operating instructions and registration forms of the activities carried out;
- d) in the case of an application for territorial group certification or group certification, the register of certification participants;
- e) any marks individual and collective used by the applicant for the marketing of products from certified areas;
- f) anything else required by the CB for the definition of the sampling scheme during the certification audit.

3.2. Description of Documentation

The documentation may consist of a single Manual or a set of a Manual and with related procedures. The Manual is the document that, in summary form, describes all the activities associated with the related supporting documents aimed at obtaining certification. The purpose of the Manual is to explain the owners' management choices in the face of particular situations and also to facilitate the management framework.

The documentation in it should be updated regularly to ensure that any changes over time are properly reported. It has to be adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.

The documented information relevant to the group management system and the conformance with the requirements of the sustainable management standard shall be available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed. The management documentation - adapted to the needs of the applicant and its reference organization - must provide at least the following information:

Generalities:

- o motivations and objectives of the document;
- description of the applicant (organizational structure) and the owners (also in the case of individual certification required by AZ managing - on delegated authority - individual properties); information on the various existing forestry/company planning tools, any UNI EN ISO 14001 certificates, any EMAS registrations (Reg. (EC) 761/2001), inventories, forest typologies, other relevant information;
- o purpose and scope (level of application), with consideration of the risks and opportunities related to meeting the requirements for sustainable management with reference to the size and scale of the organization's operations;
- o possible definitions and abbreviations;
- management policy, described in a document that must be publicly available upon request.
 AZ, TG or GR in their the management policy must clearly state the commitment to comply with the requirements of Chapter 3.3;
- In the case of TG or GR certification, group management plan showing any changes to the group management system;
- register of applicable legislation (also list for the mandatory provisions applicable in the municipality, region/autonomous province) with a determination of how these compliance obligations apply to the organization;
- the way in which forest owners are involved (clarification of any delegations to the applicant for certification, even in the case of individual certification requested by AZ, which manages on the basis of specific delegations individual properties);
- implementation with indication of the information sources that generated the data of the requirements:
 - for individual (AZ) and group (GR) certification by PEFC ITA 1001-1, PEFC ITA 1001 2, PEFC ITA 1001-3, PEFC ITA 1001-4, PEFC ITA 1001-5, PEFC ITA 1001-6;
 - o for territorial group (TG) certification by PEFC ITA 1001-1 and by Appendix 3 of PEFC ITA 1001-1; territorial group certification envisages the application of both territorial (Appendix 3 PEFC ITA 1001-1) and individual/group (PEFC ITA 1001-1) requirements; the individual AZs forming part of the TG must consequently apply both PEFC ITA 1001-1 and Appendix 3 of PEFC ITA 1001-1;
- Improvement Program relating to those indicators for which the scope for improvement is envisaged; the Improvement Program must guarantee the enhancement of one or more indicators that are improvable during the period of validity of the certificate. Each certified entity shall indicate in its manual the areas of improvement chosen to be implemented during the certification cycle. The Improvement Program must indicate at least: the number of the indicator, the ultimate objective for the 5 years of validity of the certification; the actions envisaged to reach the ultimate objective; the timeframe envisaged; the human and financial resources allocated (or expected to be used); and the person responsible for reaching the ultimate objective;
- management of NCs and CAs;
- handling of complaints (with related register), appeals and disputes;
- management of internal controls (with related continuous monitoring records) conducted through annual internal audits and review of management related activities; the internal monitoring program shall include all applicable Criteria and Indicators and management requirements (for TG or GR certification these activities shall be centrally administered and reviewed -TG or GR); all certification participants shall be subject to these activities during the five-year period.

As stipulated in the continuous monitoring program, TGs and GRs must analyze, measure and evaluate the following minimum requirements annually in order to provide sufficient assurance of compliance of the entire group organization with the management standard:

- a) minimum number of participants to be audited;
- b) hectares of Certified Surface of the TG or GR to be internally audited (monitoring may be distributed among the sample participants);
- c) geographical distribution of the main management type;
- d) form of management of trees management (e.g. high forest, coppice);
- e) corrective and/or preventive actions, their status and effectiveness;
- f) internal and external complaints (e.g. from stakeholders);
- description of the document system (document management, records and communication within and outside the organization);
- possible management of traceability of products obtained from management.

3.2.1 Ways of involving stakeholders

The certified organization shall organize meetings with stakeholders periodically, at least once during the period of validity of the certificate, in order to identify their needs and expectations.

The public consultation must consider the environmental (e.g. forests of special conservation value), social (e.g. cultural values and impact on the community) and economic components of management of the certified area. The information gathered during such public consultation (by any means, whether written, video or audio), as well as the invitations, must be retained and displayed as documentary evidence during audits by the CB.

The certified organization identifies stakeholders through stakeholder mapping based on the definition of which stakeholders are relevant and why.

For each group thus identified, the organization selects the key stakeholders and disadvantaged stakeholders and the best means of communication to reach them, addressing any difficulties in their participation.

At least the following stakeholder groups must be included in the organization's stakeholder mapping activity:

- indigenous people;
- associations and groups in the area;
- other territory managers;
- scientific and technological community;
- workers and trade unions;
- business/processing industry.

Other groups should be added if relevant to the scope of management activities.

The certified organization publicly announces the dates, contents and modalities of the organized meetings and sends a specific invitation to the identified stakeholders.

The invitation must be made in a timely manner (at least four weeks before the meeting) with appropriate means to give stakeholders the opportunity to actively participate. The invitation should contain at least the following elements:

- Objectives to be achieved through certification;
- Updates on certification status;
- Opportunities for stakeholders to participate to the meetings;
- Access to the organization's management manual;

Program of the meeting.

3.3. Management system

The responsibility for the realisation and implementation of the management system lies with the legal representative of the certified organization.

Management practice must comprise the following steps: inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and must include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of management practices. This must form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement and for highlighting any needs in changing the management system.

AZ, TG or GR must provide continuous support aimed at improving the sustainable management of the certified area managed by the group participants.

The legal entity of the organization is committed to comply with sustainable forest management standard (and other applicable requirements of the certification system) and integrate the requirements of group certification into the group management system.

Group organization shall plan, implement and control process needed to implement the actions determined in Ch. 3.2 with an appropriate group management plan. This process must be done by keeping documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the process have been carried out as planned.

If there are changes to the group management system, these changes should be considered and included in the group management plan.

The organization must determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable management system.

3.4. Management plans or similar planning instruments

Management plans must be:

- a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;
- b) appropriate to the size and use of the certified area;
- c) based on applicable legislation, land use and other existing official plans; and
- d) adequately cover forest resources.

The management plans must take into account the different uses or functions of the managed area, including at least a description of the current management unit, the long-term objectives and the average annual cut allowed (for SFM), with justification.

The annually allowable use of non-wood forest products and non-wood products from TOF areas must be included in the management plan where forest management covers commercial use of non-wood forest products at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability.

Management plans must specify ways and means to minimise the risk of damage to natural ecosystems and take into account the results of scientific research.

4 PROCEDURES FOR CARRYING OUT INTERNAL AUDITS

4.1 Planning the internal audit program

The internal audit program, whether at the level of individual certification or at the level of TG and GR, must be planned at regular intervals and with documented records as evidence of the implementation of the audit program. The results of the audit must provide information on whether the management system:

- a) conforms to the group organization's own requirements for its group management system and to the requirements of the PEFC Standards;
- b) is effectively implemented at the participant level and maintained.

4.2 Internal audit program for GR and GT

In the case of group certification, the internal audit program must cover the group Entity and all group participants. The Group Entity must be audited on an annual basis. The participants may be selected on a sample basis in such a way as to allow the audit of all GR or TG participants during the five years of validity of the certificate. The results of internal audits must be communicated to the group Entity.

4.3 Activities to be carried out for internal audits

AZ, GR and TG must:

- a) Plan, establish and maintain an internal audit program that includes at least: frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, taking into consideration the importance of the process concerned and the results of previous audits. The results from monitoring and measurement must be analyzed and evaluated at the end of every internal audit;
- b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;
- c) identify auditors who can conduct audits guaranteeing objectivity, impartiality and competence (knowledge of the relevant sector and knowledge of PEFC standards)
- d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management.

Internal audit program can be performed as on-site or remote audits.

Remote audits may only be performed in cases where:

- a) the audit criteria allow for remote evaluation:
- b) evidence can be presented remotely without risk to its authenticity, reliability and representativeness;
- c) the evaluation is supported by reliable audit techniques.

Entities must ensure that internal auditors and persons doing work in the group management system (for GR and TG) have sufficient skills and knowledge related to the forest management standard (PEFC ITA 1001-x), group certification requirements (PEFC ITA 1000) and the group entity's own procedures for the internal audit program.

4.4. Selection of participants in the internal audit program

The annual internal audit program must select participants on the basis of the following procedures:

- a) determination of sample size;
- b) determination of sample categories;
- c) distribution of the sample to the categories;
- d) selection of participants.

4.4.1 Determining Sample Size

- 4.4.1.1 The sample size is to be calculated on the basis of the number of TG or GR participants.
- 4.4.1.2 The sample size should generally be the square root of the number of participants: $(y=\sqrt{x})$, rounded up to the upper whole number.
- 4.4.1.3 The size of the sample may be adjusted on the basis of a mode of operation that takes into account the following indicators:
 - a) results of a risk assessment (see 4.4.2.2)
 - b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits;
 - c) quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring program.
 - d) use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements⁵;
 - e) based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground ⁶ .

4.4.2 Determining Sample Categories

- 4.4.2.1 The sample categories are determined on the basis of the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard. The following list of indicators shall be used for risk assessment:
 - ownership type;
 - operations, processes and products of potential group participants;
 - deforestation and forest conversion to agricultural use or other land use;
 - biodiversity;
 - recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;
 - dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people.
- 4.4.2.2 For each indicator, conditions for classifying the risk as low, medium or high and their implications for sampling have been defined in the following matrix. The matrix assigns numerical scores to different levels of risk and applies weighted coefficients to ensure that more critical indicators have a greater impact on the final risk assessment.

The matrix is used by evaluating each indicator individually. For each indicator, the corresponding level of risk—low, medium, or high—must be identified based on the current conditions. Each level is associated with a numerical score: 1 for low risk, 2 for medium risk, and 3 for high risk. Once the risk levels have been assigned, the score is multiplied by the indicator's weight to account for its relative significance in the assessment.

		Risk level		
Indicator	Indicator weight	Low	Medium	High
		1 point	2 point	3 point
		All Landowners with	Ownership with few	Ownership with
Ownership type	3	clear and stable legal	legal disputes (up to	frequent legal disputes
. , , ,		ownership	3% of forest	(involving more than

⁵ Such technologies may be e.g. the use of satellite data or drones and allow compliance statements for specific requirements of a sustainability standard or support the risk based sampling.

⁶One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground.

			owners/managers reported in the last 5 years).	3% of forest owners/managers reported in the last 5 years).
Operations, processes and products of potential group participants	1	Certification group in existence from more than 3 years	Certification group in existence from more than 1 year	New Certification group
Deforestation and forest conversion to agricultural use or other land use	3	No situation recorded in the last 10 years	Up to 3% of forest owners/managers involved in deforestation/forest conversion issues recorded in the last 10 years	More than 3% of forest owners/managers involved in deforestation/forest conversion issues recorded in the last 10 years
Biodiversity	3	Presence of Natura 2000 areas, protected areas, natural, regional or National Parks	All remaining situation	Areas with previously reported critical biodiversity loss and no mitigation measures in place
Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest	2	More than 90% of trails and infrastructures are well maintained and regulated.	All remaining situation	Less than 50% of trails and infrastructures are well maintained and regulated.
Dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people	1	More than three meetings with local communities and indigenous people during certification period	At least two meetings with local communities and indigenous people during certification period	One meeting with local communities and indigenous people during certification period

After determining the weighted scores for all indicators, the values are summed to obtain the total risk score. This score serves as the basis for classifying the overall level of risk and defining the appropriate measures to be taken.

Risk thresholds to determine whether adjustments to sampling procedures are indicated the table below.

Risk	Risk threshold	Sampling implication
Low	<25	-20%
Medium	25-35	=
High	> 35	+20%

4.4.2.3 For plantation forests and ToF (eg: agroforestry systems and urban green areas), interpretative risk classification matrices are provided. These matrices are based on indicators, scoring system, and weighting scheme described above for forest management, with some interpretation or simplification on indicators. The assessment procedure, including risk classification, scoring, and weighting, shall remain consistent with that defined in section 4.4.2.2.

Interpretative Table - Plantation forests

		Risk level		
Indicator	Indicator weight	Low	Medium	High
		1 point	2 point	3 point
Ownership type	3	All Landowners with clear and stable legal ownership	Ownership with few legal disputes (up to 3% of forest owners/managers	Ownership with frequent legal disputes (involving more than 3% of forest

			reported in the last 5 years).	owners/managers reported in the last 5 years).
Operations, processes and products of potential group participants	2	Plantation active for >3 years with documented good practices	Operational for 1-3 years, practices under development	New or unstructured management
Biodiversity	3	Presence of Natura 2000 areas, protected areas, natural, regional or National Parks	All remaining situation	Areas with previously reported critical biodiversity loss and no mitigation measures in place
Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest	1	Used for educational, social, or recreational purposes (e.g. green tourism, farm schools)	Occasional or informal social use	Exclusively productive use, no public benefit
Dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people	1	More than three meetings with local communities and indigenous people during certification period	At least two meetings with local communities and indigenous people during certification period	One meeting with local communities and indigenous people during certification period

Interpretative Table - ToF

		Risk level		
Indicator	Indicator weight	Low	Medium	High
		1 point	2 point	3 point Ownership with frequent legal disputes (involving more than 3% of forest owners/managers reported in the last 5 years). New Certification group Tree removal without compensation in the past 3 years Less than 50% of
Ownership type	3	All Landowners with clear and stable legal ownership	Ownership with few legal disputes (up to 3% of forest owners/managers reported in the last 5 years).	frequent legal disputes (involving more than 3% of forest owners/managers reported in the last 5
Operations, processes and products of potential group participants	1	Certification group in existence from more than 3 years	Certification group in existence from more than 1 year	New Certification group
Trees removal and land use impact	3	No tree removal without compensation in the past 5 years	No tree removal without compensation in the past 3 years	compensation in the
Recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest	2	More than 90% of infrastructures are well maintained and regulated.	All remaining situation	Less than 50% of infrastructures are well maintained and regulated.
Dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people	1	More than three meetings with local communities and indigenous people during certification period	At least two meetings with local communities and indigenous people during certification period	One meeting with local communities and indigenous people during certification period

4.4.3 Sample Distribution

4.4.3.1 The sample is distributed into categories based on the result of the risk assessment.

4.4.4 Selecting Participants

- 4.4.4.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.
- 4.4.4.2 A risk-based procedure must be specified for the selection of participants.

4.5 Specific requirements applicable to TGs

- 4.5.1 The internal audit program for TG, if TG is established on the basis of the participation of participants of pre-existing organizations or groups, or participants of owners' or managers' associations, may be developed in two steps:
 - a) step 1: internal audit of the regional group's management system, covering:
 - i. the Territorial Group's compliance with the requirements for Territorial Group certification (PEFC ITA 1000) as well as its own procedures;
 - ii. participants or delegates authorized by the Entity of the TG to conduct internal audits of forestry operations (step 2)⁷
 - a) step 2: internal audit in the certified area, covering compliance with the sustainable forest management standard (PEFC ITA 1001-1). Forest owners that requested the logo usage are audited on a sample basis. Step 2 internal audits cover the assessment of compliance with sustainable forest management requirements (PEFC ITA 1001-1).
- 4.5.2 The selection of sample participants both for step 1 and step 2 is described in chapter 4.4. The sample size in internal audits in step 2 can be reduced by 50% of the resulted sampled participants, in case of prior authorization for each individual forestry operation by the competent public authority.
- 4.5.3 Internal audits of Step 2 will be planned by the Entity of the TG and may be conducted by:
 - a) the TG itself and/or

- b) organizational units representing forest owners or organizations representing forest entrepreneurs, and/or
- c) another organization authorised by the TG (external service provider).

⁷ Participants conducting internal audits (step 2) may be representatives of forest owners in the territorial group certification.

5 POST-CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES BY THE APPLICANT

5.1 Use of the Certificate

In the case of territorial group certification, the certificate confirms that the group complies with the requirements of the standard and other applicable certification scheme requirements. After the certificate has been issued by the CB, the TG:

- a) issues to participants, upon request, a "Territorial Group Certification Participation Certificate" that refers to the Territorial Group Certificate and confirms to the participant that they are guaranteed the scope of Territorial Group Certification; and
- b) forwards these documents to PEFC-Italy.

The "certificate of participation in Territorial Group Certification" contains the following statement: "[information about the participant] manages forests in accordance with the certification criteria defined in the PEFC Italy certification scheme, approved by the PEFC Council on_____. The property is part of the Group [name of Group] which has been certified by [name of CB] with certificate n.____ in date ____, in accordance with the certification criteria defined in the PEFC-Italy certification scheme."

The certificate of participation in the Territorial Group Certification is valid from the date of verification by the CB on the TG and expires at the end of the certificate's period of validity.

In the case of group certification, GR - having received the certificate from the CB, the GR:

- issues to participants, upon request, a "certificate of participation in Group Certification" that refers to the Group Certificate and confirms to the participant that they are guaranteed the scope of Group Certification; and
- forwards these documents to PEFC-Italy.

The certificate of participation in Group Certification contains the following statement: "[Participant information] manages forests in accordance with the certification criteria defined in the PEFC-Italy certification scheme, approved by the PEFC Council on_____. The property is part of the group [name of group] that has been certified by [name of CB] with certificate n. _____ in date _____, in accordance with the certification criteria defined in the PEFC-Italy certification scheme".

The certificate of participation in Group Certification is valid from the date of verification by the CB on the GR and lapses at the end of the certificate's period of validity.

5.2 Use of the PEFC Logo

The PEFC logo may be used by the applicant (in possession of the certificate) in combination with individual or collective marks. For details see ITA 1003.

5.3 Waiver of certification

In the case of <u>individual certification</u>, renunciation of PEFC certification leads to revocation of the certificate and withdrawal of the licence for further use of the PEFC logo. Such renunciation shall be communicated in writing to PEFC Italy and to the CB.

In the case of <u>territorial group certification</u>, the withdrawal of a TG from PEFC certification leads to the revocation of the certificate and the withdrawal of the sub-licence for further use of the PEFC logo.

In the case of group certification, the renunciation of PEFC certification by the GR leads to the revocation of the certificate and the withdrawal of the sub-licence for the further use of the PEFC logo.

The renunciation of <u>individual TG or GR participants</u> is handled directly by the TG or GR; participants who renounce their membership shall send written notice to the TG or GR to be removed from the register of TG or GR members.

The TG or GR shall notify such a change in writing to PEFC Italy and the CB within 30 days of the notice of renunciation by the member.

5.4 Annual Review

The annual management review must include at least:

- a) the status of actions taken in previous management reviews;
- b) changes to external and internal aspects that are relevant to the management system;
- c) information on the organization's activities, including information and trends on:
 - non-conformities and corrective actions
 - monitoring results and their measurement
 - audit results
- d) planning of activities for continuous improvement
- e) for TGs and GRs, an assessment of the performance of group management and the effectiveness of the group management system in implementing sustainable management requirements.
- f) the status of conformity with the sustainable management standard, that includes reviewing of the results of the internal monitoring program, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance.

The documented outputs of the Management Review must show what decisions have been made regarding planned activities for continuous improvement and regarding any need for changes to the management system. AZ, GT and TG must retain all documented information.

It is the responsibility of the GR/TG to conduct a management review of the group certification and to act on the results of the review.

6 CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS AND LITIGATION, NON-CONFORMITIES AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

PEFC Italy is responsible for activities related to the creation and management of certification standards and any requests for information or complaints should be addressed to the Secretariat (references can be found in each standard document and on the website).

6.1 Management of claims against the CB

Each claim must be handled according to the procedures established by the CBs themselves, procedures that must be accepted by the applicant when the CB is appointed.

PEFC-Italy keeps records of claims and disputes filed by its participants and certified applicants. With regard to appeals against PEFC-Italy's decision on the claim, PEFC-Italy shall have the dispute examined and decided by an Arbitration Board consisting of three arbitrators:

- a representative appointed by PEFC-Italy;
- a representative appointed by the appellant;
- an independent third party acting as President of the Board appointed by both parties, or in the event of failure to agree, chosen by the President of the Court in whose district the seat of arbitration is located.

For anything not provided for in this paragraph, reference shall be made to Book IV, Title VIII of the Code of Civil Procedure.

Any appeals and disputes against the CB are handled according to its procedures.

6.2 Complaint Management

The complaint must be sent in writing by registered mail with return receipt and signed by the complainant or by Certified Electronic Mail; the complainant shall forward a copy to PEFC-Italia, when the complaint has civil or criminal relevance.

PEFC Italy keeps records of all claims with civil or criminal relevance made by:

- a) participants towards group representatives;
- b) TG/GR towards its participants;
- c) participants (AZ, GR and TG) and external third parties not mentioned in section 2.2.

With regard to such complaints, PEFC Italy shall have the dispute examined and decided by an Arbitration Board (see 6.1), if they are not already resolved at AZ, GR or TG level and are not related to the certification process.

To the extent not expressly provided for in this paragraph, the parties involved shall refer to Book IV, Title VIII of the Code of Civil Procedure.

If the complaint concerns aspects relating to the PEFC-Italy standards, the party concerned by the complaint shall also forward a copy of the complaint to the CB, which - if found positive - shall undertake a supplementary audit;

If the owners, the TG or the GR make a complaint against the CB, the latter is required to notify PEFC-Italy and the CB.

6.3 Non-conformity and Corrective Actions

When a non-conformity (NC) occurs, the organization must:

a) reacting to the NC and, where applicable, taking action to control and correct it, dealing with consequences;

- b) evaluating the need for action to eliminate the causes of the NC, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by reviewing the NC, determining its causes and also determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;
- c) implement any action deemed necessary with reference to the above points;
- d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action (CA) taken;
- e) make changes to the management system if necessary.

CA must be appropriate to the effects of the NC encountered. The organization must retain the documented information as evidence of the nature of the NC together with the actions subsequently taken and the results of any CAs.

7 SOCIAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Management practices and operations must respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and bust comply with the core ILO conventions and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which must not be infringed without the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of the rights, including the provision of compensation where applicable.

Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved, or is in dispute, procedures for a just and fair resolution must be provided.

In such cases forest managers must, in the interim, provide meaningful opportunities for parties to be engaged in forest management decisions whilst respecting the processes and roles and responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.

- 7.2 Management operations must be planned, organized and carried out in such a way to enable the identification of potential health risks, occupational diseases and accidents.
- 7.3 All reasonable measures to protect workers from work-related risks must be applied.
- 7.4 Workers must be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.
- 7.5 The wages of all workers in PEFC-certified areas shall meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards for each category of operator.
- 7.6 Working conditions must be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.
- 7.7 The organization's policies must provide for compliance with the principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, promoting gender equality.