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## **Terms and definitions**

Draft revised standard March 2012

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## 1. Introduction

This document is a part of the Danish PEFC certification system for sustainable forest management (in the following mentioned as “the Danish scheme”). This document defines the basic and fundamental terms relating to certification of sustainable forest management.

The definitions cover the relevant terms from Annex 1 “terms and definitions” to PEFC councils technical document. The definitions are as far as possible based on the existing references, within various international standardisation and certification processes. Some further special Danish definitions have been added.

PEFC Denmark’s Board of directors has approved this document on 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2012.

## 2. Definitions

**Accreditation:** A procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition that a body or person is competent to carry out specific tasks.

**Accreditation body:** A body that conducts and administers an accreditation system and grants accreditation.

**Activities impacting negatively on particularly vulnerable areas:** Activities with an intensity and/ or form that can threaten the forest’s natural amenities or potential for cultivation. E.g. where mountain bikes are allowed outside roads and paths.

**Audit:** Systematic, documented and objective activity to find out the extent to which requirements related to an agreed subject matter are fulfilled. The audit is performed by one or more persons who are independent of what is audited.

**Auditor:** A person who has the qualification to perform audits.

**Audit plan:** A plan jointly prepared by the applicant and certification body for carrying out an audit.

**Audit report:** A report on observations on the compliance of operations with the criteria. The report focuses on information on non-conformities.

**Audit team:** A group of auditors, or a single auditor, designated to perform a given audit. The audit team may also include technical experts and auditors-in-training.

**Biodiversity areas:** Biodiversity areas are areas with forest and nature containing ecological important values that shall be prioritised in the management of the property. The area can consist of forest and other nature types and habitats on the certified area. The purpose of biodiversity areas is to preserve or create areas where the main purpose is to maintain biodiversity. Biodiversity areas may both contain non-intervention areas and areas with an active nature management that ensures and increases biodiversity and natural amenities. It may contain:

- Untouched forest.
- Old management practices which increases natural values, e.g. coppiced forest or liberation of old oaks.
- Grazing meadows.
- Managed heath lands.
- Old forest fringes dominated by broadleaved species.
- Wetlands with a high nature value.
- Also look at the list with key habitats in appendix 4.

**Biologically rich nature associated with continuity in forest cover and/or stable hydrology:**  
Presence of a flora and fauna associated particularly to continuity in forest cover, undisturbed soils

and stable hydrological conditions. It will typically be present at un-drained locations that have not been regenerated through clear cuttings during the last two rotations nor regenerated with heavy soil scarification.

**Certificate:** A document issued under the rules of a certification system, providing confidence that a duly identified product, process, or service, is in conformity with a specified standard or other normative document.

**Certification:** A procedure by which a third party gives written assurance that a product, process or service conforms to specified requirements.

**Certification body:** An independent third party that assesses and certifies organizations with respect to forest management or chain of custody standards and any supplementary documentation required under the system.

**Certified forest:** A forest area to which an independent certification body has granted certification or an area included in a group certificate.

**Characteristic old trees:** Trees that have reached a high age for the species and location and which are valuable in relation to:

- Biodiversity or
- Perception of landscape or
- Cultural history

**Clear cutting:** Simultaneous felling of all trees in a larger area, often followed by planting as the method of regeneration.

**Consensus:** general agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. Consensus need not imply unanimity.

**Continual improvement:** A process of enhancing the management system and performance to achieve improvements in economical, environmental and social aspects of forest management.

**Criterion:** Requirement against which conformity assessment is made.

**Coppice forest:** Are typically old hazel forest with oak and hornbeam, alder forest, oak thickets and mixed stands of ash, oak, hazel, etc., where the tree's ability to make rootsuckers has been utilized and in that way the forest has been possible to manage in regular rotation without the need to plant new trees.

**Deep soil preparation:** Soil preparation that reaches deeper into the soil than the top parts of the mineral soil, typically with the purpose of breaking up root stopping layers (hard pans) , and/or surfacing deeper lying soil layers. An example of a deep (reaching) soil preparation method is deep grounded ploughing.

**Deviation:** Conditions which are not in compliance with a given criterion.

**Dispute settlement body:** A body charged with handling appeals of decisions, disputes and complaints.

**Eternity trees:** Trees of value or which can become of value for:

- Biodiversity or
- Perception of landscape or
- Cultural history

**Expert statement:** Written statement by a technical expert (like a researcher, consultant, etc.) with knowledge possible to document, about the subject the information is sought for.

**External audit:** Audit carried out by an external part – for example a certification body.

**Forest certification:** A procedure to assess the quality of forest management in relation to the criteria of a forest management standard.

**Forest certification scheme:** Set of standards, guidelines and rules covering forest management criteria, chain of custody of wood requirements (where applicable), certification arrangements and procedures and requirements for certification bodies.

**Forest Climate:** The forest is a complicated ecosystem, dependent of light, micro climate, soil and water conditions, and where all living organisms interact. The balance between these different elements creates the forests climate. Compared to the open land, there is less wind, less temperature fluctuations and more moist in the forest. Overall this gives more beneficial conditions for tree growth and the flora and fauna present in the forest.

**Forest fringe:** Two types of forest fringe exist: inner and outer.

Outer forest fringes are characterised by high variation in herb species, bushes and broad-leafed trees – in many cases small trees with regional characteristic – and therefore usually easy to distinguish from the production stand behind, which typically consist of one or few tree species. In the forest fringe the age of the trees and bushes can vary, while the production stands behind normally are even aged.

Broad-leafed trees in the forest's outer boundary are not always a part of the forest fringe and can only be characterised as such if the above-mentioned conditions exist. Trees with low crowns in the fringe are therefore not normally covered of the provision. But because of the high landscape values and often low production value of these trees, it is advised to retain them.

Forest fringes established in connection with afforestation projects will differentiate from the above-mentioned criteria by being even aged, but the choice of tree species and the distribution of species will often be characteristic.

Where a large public road transects a forest area, forest fringes on each side of the road will be considered as outer fringe (from the Guidance for interpretation of the Forest Act).

Inner forest fringe are fringes around lakes, meadows, heath lands and similar areas, which constitute a natural part of the forest.

**Forest manager:** An individual or organisation that is responsible for the management, planning and supervision of operations in a forest area.

**Forest management proof:** The group leader issues a forest management proof to all group members participation in a group certification. A forest management proof is not the same as a certificate.

**Forest meadows:** Light open grass areas in the forest, not included in a silvicultural managed area. Forest meadows are valuable whether they are untouched, grazed or cut, but they are vulnerable to fertilizers.

**Forest owner:** An individual or organisation (state, industry or private) that has the registered, legal property rights over a forest area.

**Grazing forest:** Forest areas grazed by or formerly grazed by domestic animals (horses, sheep or cattle) or deer. The typical grazing forest is open with trees with wide crowns and thorny bushes.

**Group certification of forest management:** Certification of forest management of a group of small and medium sized forest owners under one certificate.

**Group leader:** is an organisation that organises and administers certification of groups of forest properties under the Danish PEFC scheme. The group leader represents all the group members in the group in relation to the certifying body and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements from PEFC-Denmark.

All group members in a group shall have a legal or contractual connection to the group leader and be the subject to supervision from the group leader to secure the compliance with PEFC-Denmark's Forest Management Standard.

This means, that the group leader has the right to impose corrective actions in regard to any member in the group, when necessary.

**Group members:** Forest properties, which have signed a written agreement with a group leader about participation in a group certificate and are prepared to implement the requirements in the Danish PEFC scheme.

**Indicator:** A quantitative or qualitative parameter which can be assessed in relation to a criterion. It describes objectively and unambiguously a relevant element of a criterion.

**Intensive management:** management dependent on continual supply of supporting agents (pesticide and/or fertilizer), like e.g. Christmas trees, greenery and fields created for the game.

**Internal audit:** Audit carried out internally at the forest property or in the company.

**Key biotopes:** Key biotopes are areas with importance for preservation of biological values in the forest. They contain nature types, structures, elements or species that can secure the biodiversity. As key biotopes are considered the biotopes listed in annex 4.

**Locally adapted:** The tree species and provenances notoriously adapted to the local conditions i.e. soil conditions (water and nutrition supply, drainage) and climate (temperature, precipitation, wind/storm, salt, etc.).

**Management system:** System that includes organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining the stated policy and criteria.

**Native species:** As indigenous species are considered the species on the list in annex 2, while trees and shrubs to be used in forest fringes (inner and outer) can be found in annex 3.

**Natural value:** As natural value are considered areas with high biodiversity or with rare animals/plants.

**Natural regeneration:** Regeneration based on natural semination. The artificial interventions consist usually only of cuttings.

**Natural succession:** The natural overgrowth of larger, bare areas after disturbance of the existing ecosystem (e.g. clear cutting or windfalls).

**Non-conformity:** Situation in which the audit evidences indicate that operations are not carried out in compliance with a certification criterion.

**Non-timber products:** Other products from the forest than timber. These can e.g. be berries, moss, Christmas trees from a not intensive production, etc..

**Normative document:** A document that provides rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results. It covers such documents as standards, technical specifications, codes of practice and regulations.

**Oak thickets:** Old oak stands characterized by grazing, coppicing or frost or wind damage. They might be both old thickets and younger thickets growing over former moor or meadow.

**Observation:** Registered conditions, which do not comply with the Forest Management Standard but do not deviate considerably so to create a deviation.

**Paths and roads in forest:** Human made traffic lanes. These shall be seen in contrast to visible tracks after transport, thinning and similar activities, as well as animal tracks (Guidance for interpretation to the Nature Protection Act).

**Poor and better soils:** Illustrated on the map in annex 1.

**Selective felling:** In principal the oldest type of forest management, selective felling is a management form by which the products that were needed were selected from the forest and the forest were then left for natural regeneration. Forests characterized by selective felling, contain trees of different ages and dimensions in all stands and clear cuttings do not occur.

**Shallow soil scarification:** Soil preparation that operates in the top layers of the soil. The typical purpose will be to break a grass cover or a layer of litter and mix this with the topmost layer of the mineral soil to ensure beneficial conditions for self-regenerations. An example of shallow soil scarification is treatments with a Lindenberg spading harrow.

**Significant damages caused by machine:** Damages from use of machines that result in erosion, changes the water's natural flow, creates deep tracks that changes the soil structure on soft grounds, inflicts damages in areas with particular valuable natural amenities or of a particular significance for recreation.

**Stakeholder:** An individual or group of individuals with a common interest concerned with or affected by the operation of an organisation.

**Standard:** A document established by consensus and approved by a recognized body that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines, or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.

**Stump removal:** Removal of stumps after felling. Removal of uprooted root systems of fallen trees after storm is not considered as stump removal.

**Sufficient stocking density:** The concept can not be exactly defined through a figure. The concept covers the consideration that the forest's growing stock must be held at such a level, so it is not a lack of growing stock in it self, that is the main reason for the forest appearing windswept and without a forest climate.

**Surveillance audit:** An audit carried out to verify that the corrective action requirement has been implemented.

**Suspension:** Situation where a forest certificate loses its validity for a specified period of time, for example if there has been found significant deviations.

**Sustainable forest management:** The stewardship and use of forests and forest land in a way and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels and does not cause damage to other ecosystems. (MCPFE)

**Technical expert:** A person who provides specific knowledge or expertise to the audit team, but who does not participate as an auditor.

**Temporary worker:** An individual with a contract of employment – i.e. an employee. The person may be found through a temporary employment agency. The forest owner employing the temporary worker ensures payment of taxes and other social contributions.

**Terminate:** The act where the owner, group leader or group member withdraws an agreement about certification where this is not related to deviation from the standard, e.g. following a sale of the forest.

**Third party:** person or body that is recognized as being independent of the parties involved in relation to the issue in question.

**Timber production:** The traditional production of timber from the forest. It includes e.g. logs, lumber, fire wood, chips, etc..

**Unconventional woodland practises:** Practises where the main aim is different from the classical wood production within a forest.

**Withdrawal:** Situation where a certificate permanently loses its validity. It may happen due to gross misuse or no follow-up on significant deviations.



**Litterateur:**

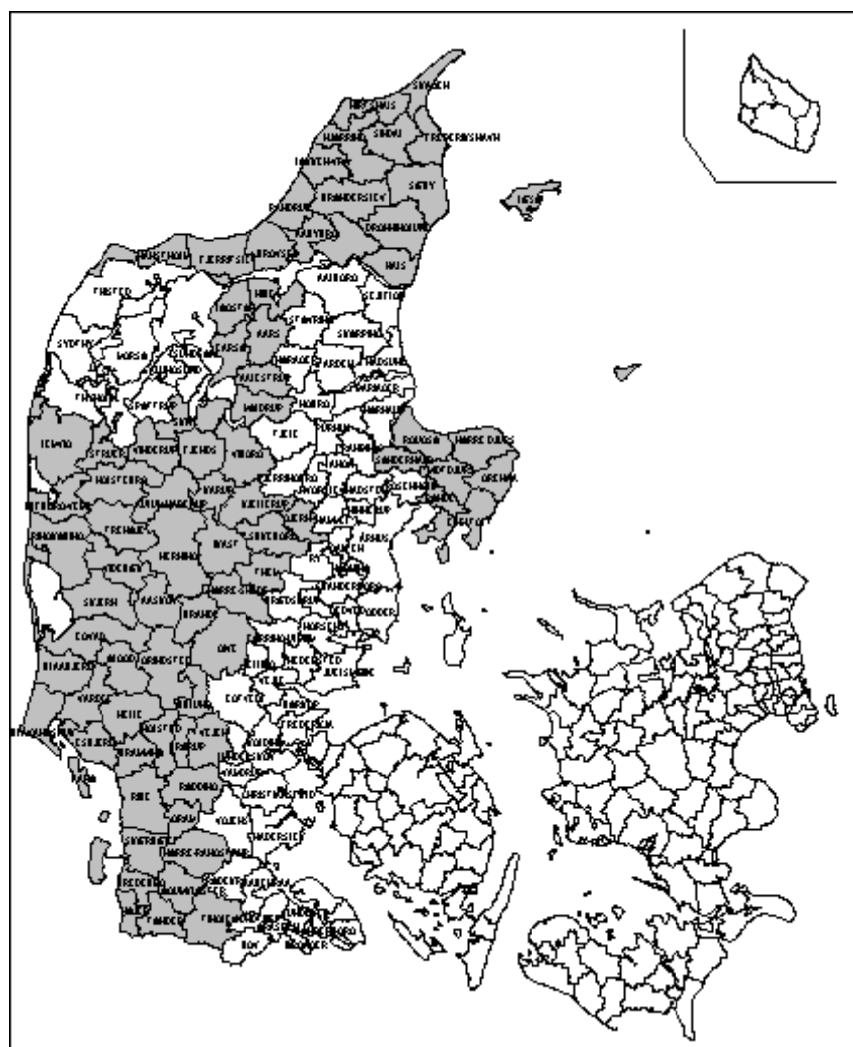
Guidance to the nature protection act -

<http://www.naturstyrelsen.dk/Lovstof/Lovomraader/Naturbeskyttelsesloven.htm>

Guidance to the forest act – <http://www.naturstyrelsen.dk/NR/rdonlyres/5B89FE2A-8494-4790-B57A-AF5F5281C180/53180/Helevejledningen.pdf>

MCPFE Ministerial Conferences on Protection of Forests in Europe, Resolution H1, Helsinki 1993

## Annex 1: Poor and better soils:



	Municipalities with mainly poor soils
	Municipalities with mainly better soils

## Annex 2: Native tree species

In Danish/Latin

Ask (*Fraxinus excelsior*)  
Avnbøg (*Carpinus betulus*)  
Dunbirk (*Betula pubescens*)  
Vortebirk (*Betula pendula*)  
Bøg (*Fagus sylvatica*)  
Stilkeg (*Quercus robur*)  
Vintereg (*Quercus petraea*)  
Rødel (*Alnus glutinosa*)  
Fuglekirsebær (*Prunus avium*)  
Småbladet lind (*Tilia cordata*)  
Ær (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)  
Spidsløn (*Acer platanoides*)  
Bævreasp (*Populus tremula*)  
Skovfyr (*Pinus sylvestris*)

From: *Bæredygtig skovdrift – tilskud til foryngelse af nåletræesarealer, vejledning nr. 2, bilag 1, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen.*

## Annex 3: Trees and bushes for forest fringe

The forest fringe shall contain 100% board-leaved trees and bushes. At least 20 % and as a maximum 40 % of the plants in the fringe shall be bushes from the following list (in Danish/Latin):

### Board leaved tree species:

Ask (*Fraxinus excelsior*)  
Avnbøg (*Carpinus betulus*)  
Dunbirk (*Betula pubescens*)  
Vortebirk (*Betula pendula*)  
Bøg (*Fagus sylvatica*)  
Stilkeg (*Quercus robur*)  
Vintereg (*Quercus petraea*)  
Rødel (*Alnus glutinosa*)  
Storbladet elm (*Ulmus glabra*)  
Fuglekirsebær (*Prunus avium*)  
Småbladet lind (*Tilia cordata*)  
Spidsløn (*Acer platanoides*)  
Navr (*Acer campestre*)  
Seljepil (*Salix caprea*)  
Almindelig røn (*Sorbus aucuparia*)  
Vildæble (*Malus silvestris*)

### Bush species:

Benved (*Euonymus europaeus*)  
Dunet gedeblad (*Lonicera xylosteum*)  
Hassel (*Coryllus avellana*)  
Havtorn (*Hippophaë rhamnoides*)  
Alm. hvidtjørn (*Crataegus laevigata*)  
Engriflet hvidtjørn (*Crataegus monogyna*)  
Almindelig hyld (*Sambucus nigra*)  
Almindelig hæg (*Prunus padus*)  
Kristtorn (*Ilex aquifolium*)  
Rød kornel (*Cornus sanguinea*)  
Kvalkved (*Viburnum opulus*)  
Femhannet pil (*Salix pentandra*)  
Gråpil (*Salix cinerea*)  
Krybende pil (*Salix repens*)  
Øret pil (*Salix aurita*)  
Fjeldribs (*Ribes alpinum*)  
Blågrøn rose (*Rosa dumalis*)  
Hunderose (*Rosa canina*)  
Klitrose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*)  
Æblerose (*Rosa rubiginosa*)  
Slåen (*Prunus spinosa*)  
Tørst (*Rhamnus frangula*)  
Vrietorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*)

From: *Bæredygtig skovdrift – tilskud til foryngelse af nåletræesarealer, vejledning nr. 2, bilag 2, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen.*

## Annex 4: Key biotopes in forest – only in Danish

### Sluttede bevoksninger:

- bøgeskov med flere etager og dødt ved
- gammel løvskov, tydeligt "overmoden" (f.eks. bøgeskov nær sammenbrud)
- kontinuert skov (skov med rig bundflora)
- blandingsløvskov med flere etager og dødt ved
- lindeskov (sluttet skov med lind på gammel løvskovbund)
- gammel nåleskov (mindst 100-årig gran/fyr med bundvegetation og naturforyngelse)
- stævningskov
- græsningsskov
- skovbryn (kun naturmæssigt værdifulde skovbryn)

### Krat:

- egekrat
- andre løvkrat (f.eks. birk, hassel, pil eller blanding)

### Skovsumpe:

- ellesumpe
- askesumpe
- birkesumpe
- andre træbevoksede sumpe (f.eks. pil og blandingsskov)

### Vådområder:

- søer og damme
- moser
- kildevæld
- vandløb (mere eller mindre naturligt)
- strandeng/ strandrørsump

### Lysåbne miljøer:

- overdrev
- enge (f.eks. gamle skovenge med engflora/sommerfugle og ±græsning /slåning)
- hede- og klitarealer

### Andet:

- gamle stengærder, jorddiger og kulturspor, der kræver hensyn for at bevares
- voksesteder for fredede og rødlistede plante- og dyrearter

De enkelte nøglebiotoper (på nær hede- og klitarealer) er beskrevet i Naturstyrelsens publikation:

*Nøglebiotoper i skov - billedkatalog*, som findes på

<http://www.naturstyrelsen.dk/Udgivelser/Aarstal/2000/Noeglebiotoper.htm> .

Kilde: *Bæredygtig skovdrift – tilskud til grøn driftsplan, vejledning nr. 1, bilag 1, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen.*