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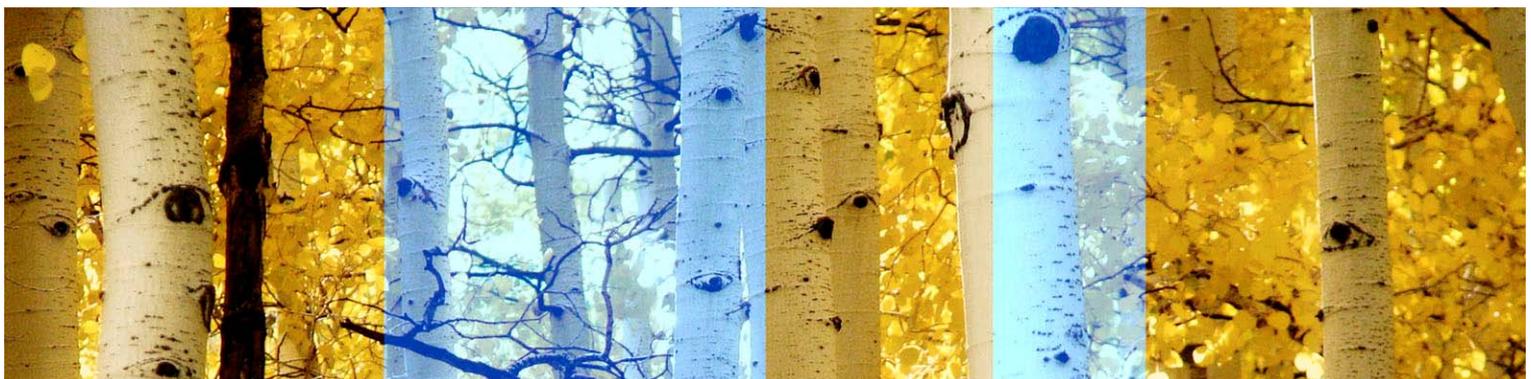
PEFC Council

Assessment of the Revised French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme against the PEFC Council Requirements

Final Report

Helsinki, Finland
February 7, 2017

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ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Administrative document
CBPS	Code des Bonnes Pratiques Sylvicoles
CGE	Certification Gateway Entities (= Entity of Access to Certification (EAC))
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COFRAC	Comité français d'accréditation
DRA	Directive régionale d'aménagement (state forests)
EA	European Accreditation Forum
ENGO	Environmental Non-Governmental Organisation
FR	France/French
GCGE	Group Certification Gateway Entity
GD	Guide
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
GS	General Secretariat
DUER	Document unique d'évaluation des risques
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ILO	International Labour Organization
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ONF	L'Office National des Forêts (France)
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes
PFE	Permanent Forest Estate
PSG	Plan simple de gestion
RCGE	Regional Certification Gateway Entity
RTG	Règlement Type de Gestion
SRA	Schéma régional d'aménagement (communal forests)
SRGS	Schéma Régional de Gestion Sylvicole (private forests)
ST	Standard
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes
PEFCC	PEFC Council



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PREFACE

This report provides an independent conformity assessment on the revision of the French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme against the PEFC Council requirements. The report is prepared to provide information for the PEFC Council for its decision on the potential endorsement of the Revised French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme.

The report or its information may not be used for other purposes. PEFC Council has the right to publish the final version of the report on the Council's Internet site.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective and Scope of the Assessment

The assessment covers the conformity of the third revised version of the French Certification Scheme for Sustainable Forest Management and for Sustainable Plantation Management (Scheme). The assessment analyses the conformity of the French Forest Certification Scheme (hereon the Scheme) to the PEFC requirements and provides the PEFC Board of Directors all the relevant information for decision-making on the endorsement of the Scheme.

The Scheme is managed by the PEFC France – a non-profit organisation that has been the PEFC member since 1999. The Board of Directors of the PEFC France approved the revised scheme in October 2015 and submitted it for the PEFC endorsement on June 21, 2016.

The assessment will cover standard setting procedures and processes, the Scheme organisation and implementation as well as applied standard requirements for forest management, chain of custody and labelling. The Scheme has separate forest management standards for Metropolitan France and French Guiana. It also includes a standard for sustainable harvesting of cork from oak tree stands. The Scheme has options for individual, group, and regional certification.

The French standard on cork harvesting is not included into the assessment for the reasons described below. The international PEFC Council (PEFCC) can endorse standards that conform to the international requirements the PEFCC has defined for sustainable forest management or other elements of a certification scheme. As PEFCC does not have a reference standard for cork production, this assessment cannot give an opinion on the sustainability of the described cork harvesting methods.

The first draft assessment report was exclusively based on submitted application documentation and included several gaps and requests for further information on e.g. legislation and national forest management planning systems. PEFC France provided the information and clarifications requested and they have been taken into consideration in this final draft report. This final report takes into consideration the feedback that the panel of experts has provided to the final draft report.

1.2 Assessment Process

In detail the assessment process included the following phases:

1. International public consultation

The international public consultation was organized by the PEFC Council in June-August 2016.

2. National consultation of interested parties

Indufor sent out the questionnaire on standard setting process to 70 organisations in August – September 2016. The selected organisations were listed in the stakeholder mapping that was complemented with a few additional parties. The objective of the national consultation was to verify that the planned procedures were implemented and the principles of open access, fair decision-making, consensus-building, and availability of grievance procedures were respected.

The reply rate was low with only six replies received. A compilation of the comments received during the consultation is presented in Chapter 12.

3. Desk study

The desk study on the French Forest Certification Scheme 2017-2022 was made against PEFC requirements using the PEFC Checklist (PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012) as a reference template and the references to French Forest Certification Scheme documentations given by PEFC France as a reference guide. Evidence on conformity was verified from the original PEFC France documentation or another document referred to by PEFC France. In the case where the referred



document did not provide satisfactory evidence on the conformity to PEFC requirement, PEFC France was requested to provide additional information.

4. Elaboration of draft report

The draft report was sent to the PEFC Council on October 13, 2016 and with its permission to PEFC France. The draft report presented all PEFC requirements that lacked adequate evidence on conformity by the French Forest Certification Scheme 2017-2022 as non-complying, without a classification into minor or major non-conformities.

PEFC France was requested to provide comments and further information.

5. Elaboration of the final draft report

The clarifications and additional information and documents PEFC France provided on the non-conforming issues were taken into consideration when drawing the conclusions for the final draft report.

The final draft report was sent to the PEFC Council on November 28, 2016, and the PEFC Council further submitted it to the PEFC Panel of Experts for review.

6. Review of the Panel of Experts

PEFC Council sent the Panel of Experts' comments on January 30, 2017.

7. Elaboration of the final report

The comments are taken into consideration in this Final report. The Appendix 4 provides justifications for the consideration of each comment received from the Panel of Experts.

1.3 Report Structure

Chapter 1 describes the objective and process of the independent assessment.

Chapter 2 states the Indufor's recommendation to the Board of the PEFC Council on the endorsement of the revised French Forest Certification Scheme 2017-2022.

Chapter 3 describes a summary of findings and gives justifications for the given recommendation.

Chapter 4 presents the assessment method and material used.

Chapter 5 describes the structure of French Forest Certification Scheme and the procedures for scheme revision. It also evaluates how the written procedures were implemented in the standard and rules development.

Chapter 6 describes the requirements of the French PEFC forest management standards 2017-2022 in view of PEFC requirements. The assessment covers the standards of the Metropolitan France and that of French Guiana.

Chapter 7 describes the Scheme requirements for group certification.

Chapter 8 describes French Forest Certification Scheme 2017-2022 arrangements for chain of custody standard certification and gives an opinion of possible revision requirements.

Chapter 9 addresses French Forest Certification Scheme 2017-2022 regulations on the use of the PEFC logo.

Chapter 10 reviews French Forest Certification Scheme 2017-2022 requirements for certification and accreditation procedures including notification of certification bodies.

Chapter 11 reviews procedures for appeals and dispute resolution and their application in practice.

Chapter 12 summarizes received stakeholder comments and explains their consideration in the assessment.



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Appendices provide detailed information on the assessment. The most relevant is Appendix 1 describing Indufor's conclusion on conformity of the French Forest Certification Scheme 2017-2022 to each PEFC requirement and lists the reference documents that provide the basis for the conclusion. Appendix 2 presents the conformity of the forest management standard of French Guiana with the PEFC requirements.



2. RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation of Indufor is that the PEFC Council endorses the revised French Certification Scheme for Sustainable Forest Management taking into consideration the following minor non-conformities.

Minor non-conformities

Standard revision:

1. The information on launching of standard revision process and invitation of stakeholders was done properly by PEFC France. However, the information published e.g. on the Internet did not clearly describe that parallel stakeholder processes for standard revision would take place in Metropolitan France and French Guiana.

The public announcement or invitation letter to the stakeholder Forum did not provide information on how the stakeholders in French Guiana could participate in the standard revision process. The process was run by PEFC Guiana. Four participating stakeholder groups were most likely well-informed on the process, but in any case, the invitation should also provide an option for other parties to participate.

Forest management standard for French Guiana:

2. In French Guiana PEFC certification is applicable only to land areas classified as Permanent Forest Estates (PFE). A forest manager cannot change the land use on these areas. However, when regional planning allows the change in the land use, e.g. for mining, the transitional conversion may take place in line with policies and regulations. This approach is in line with PEFC requirements. The standard requires actions to prevent illegal mining. The standard prohibits ad hoc forest conversion but sees even large-scale conversion as inevitable if it is done in line with the regional planning and with decisions that overrule the status of a PFE.

PEFC standard cannot stipulate on activities that are not in power of a forest manager, i.e. forest administration in French Guiana. The standard should, however clearly specify that timber from such conversion area should not be sold as originating from certified forests.

Comments

Standard revision:

1. The Scheme documentation should include a description of the scheme revision procedures and process in French Guiana as a supplementing document to the national level development process.
2. PEFC French Guiana does not present any methods to identify local stakeholders.
3. Information on decision-making procedures within the standard setting working group should be disclosed to increase transparency of the process.

Forest management standard for Metropolitan France and French Guiana:

4. France has not ratified the ILO Conventions of Indigenous people (ILO 169) and Health and safety at work (ILO 155). The ILO Convention 169 is not relevant in Metropolitan France, but the Scheme should justify why it is not relevant in French Guiana. The standard should list the key laws that address the fundamental ILO Conventions. Currently the standard does not communicate the scope of requirements certified forest management shall comply with to a forest owner/manager.
5. PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 relies in many requirements on legislation and regulations, e.g. on regional planning and environmental protection. The Scheme should clearly list the relevant laws and regulations that set provisions that are relevant for the Scheme.
6. The standard does not set requirements for multiple use of forests. The provisions for multiple use are stated in the regional planning.



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Group certification:

7. In group certification, a certificate demonstrates compliance with group certification rules and not explicitly with the forest management standards. However, group managers have the responsibility to ensure that all forest management conforms to the management standard and certification bodies control that the group monitors the compliance with forest management standards.

PEFC is in the first place a framework for sustainable forest management, therefore the Scheme should also consider to formally include a full compliance to the forest management standard (i.e., PEFC FR ST 1003-1 or 1003-2) to the scope of an issued certificate.

8. The Scheme requires information sharing on suspension and withdrawal of certificates but not on non-conformities as required by the PEFC standard. However, the Scheme obliges group managers to ensure that all identified non-conformities are corrected in forests with valid SFM certificates.

Chapter 3 provides a summary of the findings and Chapters 5 to 11 discuss further non-conformities and comments identified in the assessment. Appendices 1 and 2 give detailed justifications for each conclusion.



3. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

3.1 Assessment Scope

The conformity assessment for the PEFC re-endorsement of the French Scheme covers revision of the content of the forest management standards for Metropolitan France and for French Guiana and related certification and accreditation arrangements.

The Scheme provisions for individual, regional, and group certification are also part of the assessment. The Scheme provisions for PEFC chain of custody and labelling provide evidence on appropriate procedures for PEFC logo licensing.

The standard on sustainable harvesting of cork (PEFC ST/FR 1003-3) is part of the Scheme but is not included into the assessment because PEFC Council does not have international reference requirements for cork production. The Scheme can claim that cork is produced in PEFC certified forests, but it cannot claim that the cork is PEFC-certified.

3.2 General Scheme Structure

The French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme is managed by the "Association Française de Certification Forestière", i.e. PEFC France. The PEFC France consists of three chambers representing forest producers, timber processors, and forest users. Environmental interest groups represent the chamber of forest users.

The forest management standard for Metropolitan France (1003-1) is applicable in France. The French Guiana has its own PEFC organisation (established 2012) and the forest management standard (1003-2) that is part of this assessment. The Scheme's provisions for group certification, accreditation of certification bodies, as well as chain of custody certification and PEFC labelling apply equally in Metropolitan France and French Guiana.

Regional and group level certification is organized through Certification Gateway Entities (CGE) that act as group managers. The CGEs are responsible for ensuring that all participants comply with the requirements of forest management standards and labelling rules. They are also contractual parties with certification bodies and are the holders of group certificates. The group certification standard also applies in French Guiana.

PEFC France has adopted the international PEFC chain of custody standard (PEFC ST 2002:2013) and applies PEFC Logo Usage Rules (PEFC ST 2001:2008). The scheme has different formats for logo use contracts for CGEs, companies involved in primary or secondary production and category D organisations using the logo for promotional purposes. The Scheme gives the CGEs a mandate to further share the logo use license with participants in group certification.

The Scheme requires that a notified certification body, that is accredited by a member of the International Accreditation Forum, carries out forest certification audits. Notification requirements are also set for bodies doing chain of custody certification.

3.3 Standard-setting Procedures and Processes

PEFC France is responsible for launching the standard-setting process. It launched the process and published an invitation to participate in line with the PEFC requirements. The invitation was applicable in Metropolitan France and in French Guiana, but it did not make any reference to the process or issue an explicit invitation to participate in this overseas region. A comment and a non-conformity have been raised on poor records on any information on stakeholder engagement in French Guiana.

The Scheme procedures for the standard revision (PEFC/FR AD 4001:2016) outline the responsibilities of PEFC France, standard setting Forum and Working Group and the applied revision process of two forest management standards. The overseas regions shall develop



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regional working groups that draft the regional standard (e.g. that of French Guiana) and submit it to the Forum and PEFC France for approval.

The written procedures applied in 2015 and those updated in 2016 comply with the PEFC requirements. The development report and related records demonstrate that the procedures were applied in Metropolitan France.

PEFC France has made a stakeholder mapping and invited about 80 representatives from different interest groups to show their willingness to participate in the standard revision. A stakeholder organisation informed the assessment team that, although listed in mapping, it had not received an invitation.

A stakeholder Forum of 38 persons was responsible for the standard revision. About 55% of the participants represented the chamber of forest owners and managers, 32% forest industry and 13% forest users (including ENGOs). Each chamber had to support unanimously the revisions it proposed to the standard. The stakeholder survey disclosed that the chamber 3 (forest users) was not operational from the beginning of the revision process, thus it could not influence early decisions.

The Forum nominated a Working Group with 27 members that prepared changes to the forest management standard. Working Group members were Forum participants and experts. It focused on revision of the forest management standard for Metropolitan France.

The Forum submitted the standard to the Board of PEFC France for consideration. The standard was approved by the decision of the General Assembly of PEFC France.

Information on the participatory standard-revision process in French Guiana was not readily provided. Descriptions and records provided on request served as an evidence on a revision process that included a limited scale of different interest groups. Invitations published on the Internet provided information on the process to any interested party.

Based on the information obtained during the assessment the standard revision in the overseas regions shall be organised under the local PEFC organisation. PEFC Guiana was responsible for the revision and it called upon a working group of interested parties with three chambers. Formally the forest management standard for French Guiana (1003-2) is submitted to the Forum that then issues it to PEFC France for approval. However, the stakeholder survey indicated that the standard was not discussed very much in the Forum but rather developed by parties in French Guiana. The standard is also backed by forest management guidelines, i.e. *Charte de l'exploitation forestière à faible impact* that is a document dating from 2008-2010. There is no information if it has been updated e.g. with references to the relevant legislation.

The standard revision procedures comply with PEFC requirements but the invitation process did not clearly engage different interest groups to the revision process in French Guiana. Documentation of the process is not compiled and properly submitted for the assessment. In addition to one non-conformity, four comments were raised to be considered in the future Scheme revision (Table 3.1).



Table 3.1 Summary of Comments and Non-Conformities in Scheme Revision

Non-conformity/ Comment	PEFC ST 1001:2010	Description
Comment	4.4	The Scheme documentation should include description scheme revision procedures and process in in the French Guiana, including the establishment of the working group under the PEFC Guiana. Currently the information needs to be collected from different sources.
Comment	5.1	PEFC French Guiana does not present any methods to identify stakeholders. On the other hand, it has reached out to relevant stakeholders representing forest owners', i.e. state's, forest industrie's and forest users' interests. For full compliance with PEFC requirements the Scheme should describe how stakehoders are identified also in French Guiana, not only on Metropolitan France. The national Forum include only 1-2 stakeholders that have representation both in Metropolitan France and in French Guiana.
Comment	5.3a	The invitation for standard revision did not make any reference to the parallel standard revision process launched in the French Guiana. The announcement and invitation should be more explicit on the two processes giving clear information on their special characteristics and level of integration e.g. in the final standard approval.
Minor non-conformity	5.3b, c	The public announcement or invitation letter to Forum did not provide information how the stakeholders in the French Guiana could participate in the standard revision process run by the PEFC Guiana. The stakeholder groups (4) were most likely well informed on the process, but in any case, the invitation should allow an option also to other parties to participate.
Comment	5.5b, c	Information on internal working procedures of the standard revision working group of PEFC France was not available. Thus, information is not available to conclude if the views of the working group members were taken into consideration in an open and transparent way.

Appendix 1 Part I describes the justifications for the comments.

3.4 Forest Management Standard

The forest management standard for Metropolitan France (PEFC/FR ST 1003-1) has six thematic areas covering training, forest management planning, biodiversity, soil and water protection, risk management, work contracts and promotion of PEFC certification. From two to ten criteria (41 in total) define the required performance level under each of them.

The standard requirements rely to a significant extent on regional forest management plans for public and private forests. The plans are available on the Internet and they draw the general principles for forest management in the region.



Table 3.2 Summary of Comments to Forest Management Standard

Non-conformity/ Comment	PEFC ST 1003:2010	Description
Comment	5.4.2	The PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 relies in many requirements on legislation and regulations, e.g. on regional planning and environmental protection. The Scheme should clearly list the relevant laws and regulations that set the provisions that are relevant for the Scheme
Comment	5.6.1	The standard does not set requirements for multiple use of forests. The provisions for multiple use are stated in regional planning
Comment	5.6.13 5.7.1	France has not ratified the ILO Conventions of Indigenous people (ILO 169) and health and safety at work (ILO 155). Thus, the core requirements of the most Conventions are integrated into national legislation. The ILO Convention 169 is not relevant in Metropolitan France, but the Scheme should justify why it is not relevant in French Guiana. The standard should either list the key laws that address the fundamental ILO Conventions. Currently the standard does not communicate to forest owner/manager, the scope of requirements certified forest management shall comply with.

In French Guiana PEFC certification is applicable only to permanent forest estates that are public forests. The French legislation and forest management planning system with strong regional planning applies in French Guiana.

The forest management standard for French Guiana (PEFC/FR ST 1003-2) has five principles covering legal compliance, planning and silviculture, monitoring, as well as adoption of new information and non-timber forest uses. More specific criteria and indicators specify the performance requirements. The standard is developed for tropical forests that are managed with selective harvesting and regenerated through natural regeneration in small openings. A detailed practical guideline document *Charte de l'exploitation forestière à faible impact en Guiana*, complements the standard requirements. The standard requires compliance with the Charte.

The standard complies with the PEFC requirements apart from the PEFC restrictions on forest conversion (Table 3.2, Table 3.3).



Table 3.3 Non-conformity in Forest Management Standard

Non-conformity/ Comment	PEFC ST 1003:2010	Description
Minor non-conformity	5.1.11	<p>Land areas classified as Permanent Forest Estates (PFE) are <i>from a regulatory standpoint, areas that are strictly forest-orientated</i>. Forest manager may not on his decision change the land use.</p> <p>However, when regional planning allows the change of land use, e.g. for mining, the transitional conversion may take place in line with policies and regulations. This approach is in line with PEFC requirements. The standard requires actions to prevent illegal mining.</p> <p>In summary, the standard prohibits ad hoc forest conversion but sees it inevitable if it is done in line with regional planning and with the decisions that overrule the status of PFE. In such case, e.g. in mining, the conversion will not be small scale and is likely to have negative impacts on valuable habitats and species.</p> <p>PEFC standard cannot stipulate on activities that are not in the power of forest manager, i.e. forest administration in French Guiana. Issuance of mining rights may be one such activity. The standard should, however clearly specify that timber from such conversion area should not be sold as originating from certified forests.</p>

3.5 Group and Regional Certification

The Scheme is applicable to individual and group certification. Group managers are called Certification Gateway Entities (CGE). The CGEs are legal entities that make contracts with certification bodies and hold the issued forest management certificates. They also share the right to use the PEFC logo licence based on the group certification and control the logo use.

The certificates are issued against the PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016 standard on *Regional and group forest certification rules*, that oblige, among other, CGEs to ensure that participants comply with the forest management requirements (standard PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 or 1003-2).

The group certification rules comply with the PEFC requirements but two comments were raised to consider in the future scheme revision.



Table 3.4 Summary of Comments on Group Certification

Non-conformity/ Comment	PEFC ST 1002:2010	Description
Comment	4.1.1e) 4.2.1 i)	The Scheme is slightly unclear on the scope of a group certificate. The rules for group certification (PEFC/FR ST 1002) state that the certificate demonstrate compliance with group management rules. On the other hand, the standard on accreditation (PEFC/FR 1004) states that certificate document shall include reference to standards on group certification rules (PEFC/FR ST 1002) and sustainable forest management (PEFC/FR ST 1003) The Scheme should consider to include formally also a full compliance to the forest management standard (i.e., PEFC FR ST 1003-1 or 1003-2) to the scope of an issued certificate. PEFC is in the first place a framework for sustainable forest management
Comment	4.1.2	The Scheme requires information sharing on suspension and withdrawal of certificates but not on non-conformities as required by the PEFC standard. However, the Scheme oblige group managers to ensure that all identified non-conformities are corrected in forests with valid SFM certificates. It is concluded that the outcome is in line with the PEFC requirement, although the Scheme procedure do not fully comply with PEFC specifications.

3.6 Certification and Accreditation Procedures

Forest Management Certification

The Scheme standard PEFC/FR 1004:2016 requires that certification bodies doing forest management certification shall be accredited and comply with the ISO standard 17021 on *Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems*. Certification bodies shall be accredited by the national accreditation body (COFRAC) or any other member organisation to EA (European Accreditation Forum) or IAF (International Accreditation Forum) that implements the accreditation procedures defined in the standard of ISO 17011 (*General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*).

Certification bodies are responsible for publishing summaries of certification reports, but the Scheme does not specify if the reports should be freely accessible or available at a request.

Chain of Custody Certification

PEFC France has adopted the international *PEFC standard Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products - Requirements* (PEFC ST 2002:2013) and the related accreditation standard of *Certification Body Requirements – Chain of Custody* (PEFC ST 2003:2012 v2).

3.7 Notification of Certification Bodies

The notification procedures for bodies doing forest management certification are defined in the PEFC/FR AD 4005:2016 on *Sustainable Forest Management Certification and Audit Body Authorization Procedure* which provides a template for a notification contract.

Similar procedures for the chain of custody certification are stated in PEFC/FR AD 4004:2016 on *Chain of Custody Certification and Audit Body Authorization Procedure*.

The notification procedures comply with the PEFC requirements.

3.8 PEFC Logo Licensing and Logo Use

PEFC France has a mandate to issue PEFC logo use rights. Group managers (CGEs) may share the right to use the logo under the license with members of group certification.



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PEFC France has adopted the international standard on PEFC Logo Usage Rules (PEFC ST 2001:2008 v2) but it has also specified them in draft licensing contracts separately for CGEs (PEFC/FR AD 4006:2016), companies holding chain of custody certificates (PEFC/FR AD 4007:2016), and distributors of finished products (PEFC/FR AD 4008:2016).

Certification bodies and CGEs shall report any incorrect use of the PEFC logo. In addition, CGEs are responsible for controlling the logo use among group members.

Scheme procedures for logo licensing and logo use comply with the PEFC requirements.

3.9 Complaints and Dispute Resolution Procedures

The complaints in the domain of PEFC France are registered by the secretariat. An ad-hoc Executing Committee is established to address appeals and to decide on a solution. Appeals are also registered and reviewed by the PEFC France Board. The Board may also carry out additional investigations if it deems it necessary. PEFC/FR AD 4003:2016 on *Procedures Dealing with Complaints and Appeals* describes grievance procedures for conflicts related to PEFC France or its members' decisions or activities that are linked to PEFC France decisions or to failures to comply with the PEFC France rules and regulations.

In addition, CGEs have the responsibility to address complaints related to group certification as defined in the group certification rules (PEFC/FR 1002:2016).

The complaint and dispute procedures comply with the PEFC requirements.



4. MATERIAL AND METHODS

4.1 PEFC Documentation

The following international PEFC standards and normative guidelines set the requirements for compliance for the French PEFC Forest Certification scheme. The assessment reviews in detail the conformity of the French PEFC Forest Certification scheme to the PEFC requirements.

Standard Setting

1. PEFC ST 1001:2010, Standard Setting – Requirements

Forest Management and Chain of Custody Requirements

2. PEFC ST 1003:2010, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements
3. PEFC ST 2002:2013, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements

Implementation of Certification

4. PEFC ST 1002:2010, Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements
5. Procedures for complaints and dispute resolution: PEFC GD1004:2009, Administration of PEFC scheme, chapter 8

Requirements for Certification Bodies

6. Procedures for notification of certification bodies: PEFC GD1004:2009, Administration of PEFC scheme, chapter 5
7. Certification and accreditation procedures, as defined in the PEFC Council Technical Document, Annex 6 and
8. PEFC ST 2003:2012 (2nd edition of 2014), Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard

PEFC Logo Usage

9. Procedures for logo licensing: PEFC GD1004:2009, Administration of PEFC scheme, chapter 6

Other Documentation

10. A stakeholder survey to verify stakeholder invitation and participation in standard revision along with stakeholder views on process implementation.

The *PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist* (PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012) will provide a template for detailed conformity assessment PEFC requirements.

4.2 Documentation of the French PEFC Scheme

The assessment has been based on the following documentation of the Applicant Program (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme 2017-2022

Document
1. Standards
PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016 Sustainable forest management rules – Requirements for Metropolitan France
PEFC/FR ST 1003-2:2016 Sustainable forest management rules – Requirements for French Guiana
PEFC/FR ST 1003-3:2016 Sustainable forest management rules – Requirements for harvesting of cork
PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016 Regional and group certification rules – Requirements



Document
PEFC/FR ST 2002:2013 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements
2. Administrative standards
PEFC/FR AD 4001:2016 French sustainable forest management standards revision procedure
Procédure révision standards français validée par CA 02.09.2015
PEFC/FR AD 4002:2016 CGE accreditation and registration procedure
PEFC/FR AD 4004:2016 Chain of custody certification and audit body authorization procedure
PEFC/FR AD 4005:2016 Sustainable forest management certification and audit body authorization procedure
PEFC/FR AD 4006:2016 Trademark license contract between PEFC France and a Certification Gateway Entity
PEFC/FR AD 4007:2016 Trademark license contract between PEFC France and a firm holding a chain of custody certification
PEFC/FR AD 4008:2016 Trademark license contract between PEFC France and a distributor of finished products
PEFC/FR AD 4009:2016 Trademark license contract between PEFC France and a category D user
3. Requirements for certification bodies
PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 Rules governing organizations involved in the auditing and certification of sustainable forest management - Requirements
PEFC/FR ST 2003:2012 Requirements for certification bodies operating certification against the PEFC International chain of custody standard
4. Procedures for complaints and inquiries
PEFC/FR AD 4003:2016 Procedure for dealing with complaints and appeals
5. Procedures for notifications
PEFC/FR AD 4005: 2016 ¹ Notification procedure for organisations involved in the auditing and certification of sustainable forest management
PEFC/FR AD 4005: 2016 Chain of Custody certification and audit body authorization procedure
6. Supporting and guiding documents
PEFC/FR ST 2001:2008 PEFC Logo usage Rules - Requirements
Charte de l'exploitation forestière à faible impact en Guiana
PEFC FR 0001:2016 INTRODUCTION
Rapport de developpement - Development Report– Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022
PEFC/FR GD 3001: 2016 Completion of investigations on participants in regional forest certification – Guide
PEFC/FR GD 3002: 2016 Completion of internal audits by regional CGE – Guide
PEFC/FR GD 3004: 2016 Contributions document for participants in forest certification
PEFC/ FR GD 3005: 2016 Management review - guide

To address the gaps identified in the Scheme revision, the PEFC France provided examples of announcements and information sent out during the process and records on consideration of

¹ NOTE - PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 page 8, section 8.2 and Appendix 2 refer incorrectly to standard PEFC/FR AD 3005: 2016, *Notification procedure for organisations involved in the auditing and certification of sustainable forest management*. Should be PEFC/FR AD 4005: 2016.



comments. Examples of regional plans provided evidence on required procedures in forest management planning and legislation (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2 Additional Information Sources Used

Issue	Information
Public announcement	ANNONCE PUBLIQUE LANCEMENT TRAVAUX DE REVISION Communiqué de presse PEFC schéma de certification_30 09 2015 Mini newsletter d'annonce de consultation publique Alerte média PEFC France ouverture de la consultation publique révision Annonce sur site internet PEFC France Mail d'information EAC 02.03.2016 Mail d'information MEMBRES 02.03.2016
Invitations	INVITATION FORUM REVISION STANDARDS PEFC – Membres et EAC » INVITATION FORUM REVISION STANDARDS PEFC – Autres organisations Mail d'invitation membres et EAC 04.09.20163
Records on comments	CR GT Processus 1-26.10.2015-Vdef CR GT Processus 1-16.11.2015-Vdef RESULTATS CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE SUITE FORUM 09.05.2016 CR FORUM processus 1-09.01.2016 validé
Regional plans	Examples of regional plans for private forests (SRGS), for public state forests (DRA) and for public communal forests (SRA). The plans are available in Internet under a specific region or Office national des forests (http://www.onf.fr/).
Legislation	https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr
Land use conversion	French administration website: https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31667
Chemical use	http://e-phy.agriculture.gouv.fr

4.3 Methods

The assessment has been done as a desk study based on (i) the documentation listed above, (ii) on the feedback received from the stakeholders and (iii) on the additional clarification provided by PEFC France. Indufor sent a questionnaire on the standard setting process to 70 parties that participated in the standard setting. The questionnaire is presented in Appendix 3. Only six replies were received (9% reply rate).

This conformity assessment presents the consultant's conclusions on the conformity of the French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme to PEFC requirements. The conclusions are based on the available evidence. Conformity to the PEFC requirements would assure that the scheme is developed in line with PEFC requirements and that it will operate in a consistent and reliable way. The assessment covers scheme development and provisions for scheme implementation as described in



Table 4.3 Assessed Elements and Core Issues

Element	Core issues
Standard setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder participation • Transparency • Consensus building • Consistency in planned procedures and in their implementation
Criteria for forest management (standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance requirements • Practical applicability of the criteria considering natural conditions, forest tenure, organizational and administrative structures • Auditability of compliance with the criteria
Certification arrangements (individual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicability and governance of planned arrangements • Reliability of arrangements to deliver full conformance to the scheme requirements • Methods to indicate certification status
Certification and accreditation procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements set for certification bodies and procedures: competence requirements, independence and impartiality • Applied procedures • Access for CBs to enter the market • Compliance of scheme provisions with PEFC requirements • Availability of eligible accreditation body to provide the service

The results and conclusions on the conformity analysis are presented in detail in Appendix 1 where the revised French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme 2017-2022 is assessed. For standard setting, the assessment includes separate conclusions for procedures and applied processes, i.e. rules for standard setting and the processes implemented in standard setting in practice.

Appendix 2 presents in detail the conformity of forest management requirements for French Guiana to the PEFC Council requirements.

The following grading of conformity levels will be used in the final draft report (Box 4.1). This draft report does not classify any non-conformity into minor or major, because the intention is to take every non-conformity duly in consideration when looking for further evidence or clarification.



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Box 4.1 Assessment Scales Used in Conformity Evaluation (final draft report)

Conformity

A procedure described by the Scheme documentation fully meets the particular requirement of PEFC Council.

Minor non-conformity

A minor non-conformity does not violate the integrity of the certification Scheme, and is not a bar to endorsement. The assessor recommends appropriate corrective action. Generally, a minor non-conformity should be corrected within 6 months. The assessor may recommend a longer period where justified by particular circumstances.

Major non-conformity

A major non-conformity violates the integrity of the certification Scheme and must be corrected before the endorsement of the Scheme.

Comment

A comment gives an explanation to the conclusion on conformity or points out an important issue related to the Scheme.

NA Not applicable.

Only a positive conclusion on the conformity is considered to comply with the PEFC requirements. Any minor or major non-conformities in the scheme to the PEFC requirements demonstrate that the scheme does not meet with the PEFC endorsement requirements.

PEFC requirements are classified as not applicable (NA) e.g., if they address a scheme development phase that is not relevant (i.e., testing of revised standard or description of dispute resolution process in the case where no disputes have been raised during revision).

The conformity assessment process is described in Section 1.2.



5. STRUCTURE OF THE FRENCH PEFC SCHEME

5.1 Scheme Organisation

The "Association Française de Certification Forestière" (PEFC France) manages the French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme.

The French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme requires that an independent third party intending to carry out certification audits is accredited by COFRAC (French Accreditation Committee) or another accreditation body belonging to the EA (European Accreditation) or the IAF (International Accreditation Forum).

PEFC French Guiana was established on June 18, 2012 with the aim of promoting sustainable forest management and implementing the PEFC forest certification scheme in French Guiana.

5.2 Standard Setting and Revision Procedures

The Scheme has written procedures for standard setting and revision. PEFC France is responsible for launching the standard setting process. The Scheme procedures for standard revision (PEFC/FR AD 4001:2016) outline the responsibilities of PEFC France, standard setting Forum and Working Group and procedures to be applied in the revision of forest management standards.

The Forum is composed of three chambers: i) forest owners and managers; ii) wood processing and forestry companies; and iii) forest users, i.e. NGOs, academia. It is nominated by the Board of Directors of PEFC France. The Forum may establish working groups to prepare standard formulations on specific issues.

The Secretariat of PEFC France coordinates the standard setting between the Board of Directors, the Forum, and working groups. It also registers Forum applicants, supports the Forum in administrative matters, announces the beginning of the revision process, manages public consultations, and publishes the SFM standards.

The Forum submits the standard proposal to the Board for approval. The Board calls upon an Extraordinary General Assembly of PEFC France that formally approves and adopts the revised standard to the Scheme.

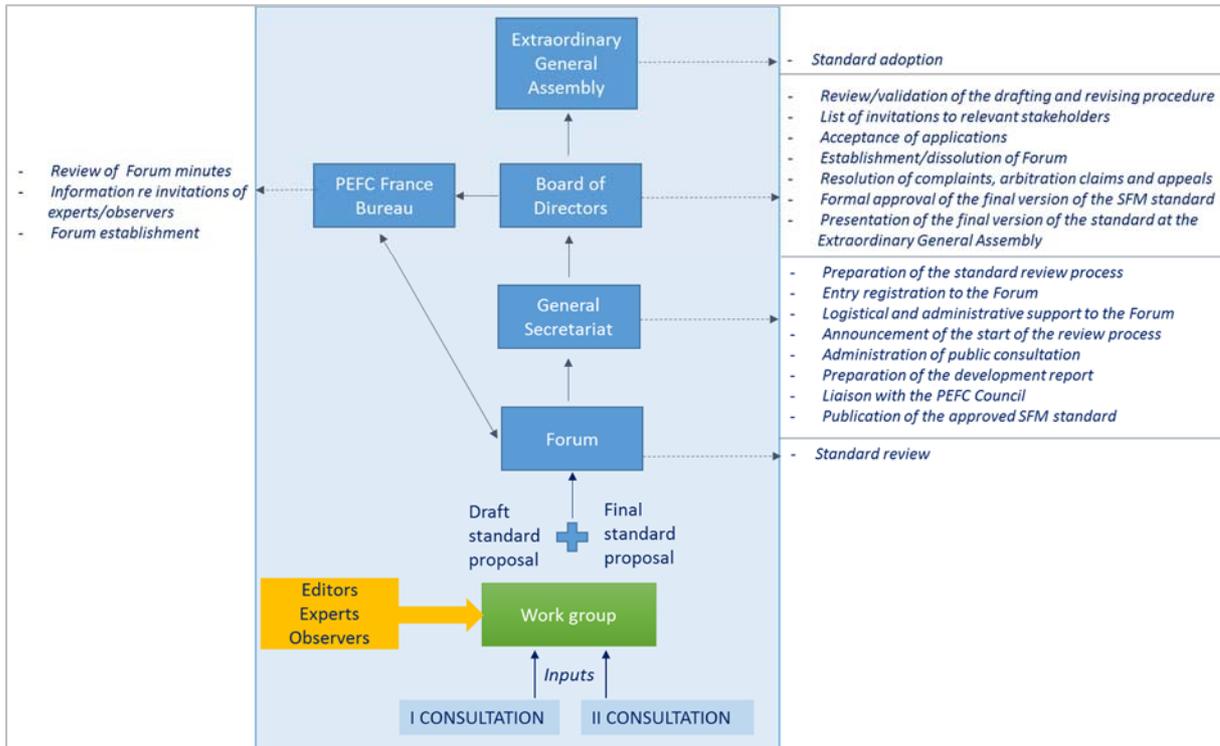
The Board is also responsible for stakeholder-mapping, nomination of Forum members and grievance procedures.

The record keeping and decision-making procedures connected with the standard development are well described. The Secretariat is obliged to keep updated paper and electronic versions of documentation related to the standard-setting process for at least five years, but does not explicitly require publication of the development report.

The organization of the standard revision is illustrated in Figure 5.1.



Figure 5.1 Organization of PEFC France Standard Revision



The written standard revision procedures as described for the Metropolitan France comply with the PEFC requirements. The procedures applied at the time of the standard revision were available only in French but they are largely identical to the PEFC/FR AD 4001:2016 *French sustainable forest management standards revision procedure* approved in 2016. The standard revision procedures also apply to the French Guiana. However, the standard should communicate in a more explicit manner the required steps in the local standard revision and the transfer of decision-making from the local working group to the national Forum. Currently the guidance focuses only on the Metropolitan France and does not support the adaptation of the requirements in overseas regions.

The standard revision in French Guiana is conducted in a local participatory process. The final draft is submitted to the national Forum for approval and adoption to the Scheme documentation.

5.3 Forest Management Standard Revision Process

Metropolitan France

The standard development was launched by the Board of Directors of PEFC France on September 2, 2015. Two days later, on September 4, 2015 invitations to standard revision were sent to 80 identified stakeholders. The stakeholder list formed as a result of a stakeholder mapping did not include stakeholders that clearly represented the interests of the overseas regions.

The standard revision procedures and processes applied in the revision of the forest management standard for French Guiana are not fully disclosed. According to the stakeholder survey the Forum focused on the revision of the standard for Metropolitan France.

PEFC France published the beginning of the revision process on its website on September 8, 2015.



The Board nominated the Forum of 38 members of which 21 represented forest owners of managers, 12 forest industry and 5 forest users, i.e. NGOs, research sector or other users. The Forum established a working group of 26 members to draft the first standard versions. The work was guided by an independent expert. The regional PEFC organizations had a strong presence in the Working Group.

During the course of the standard revision process the Forum and the Working Group had three meetings between September 2015 and January 2016. The public consultation on the draft standard version of the SFM standard (PEFC ST 1003-1) was held between March 2 – May 1, 2016. The invitations to participate in the consultation were published on the PEFC France website and distributed by emails on March 2, 2016. The invitation was also published in the organization’s newsletter on March 10, 2016.

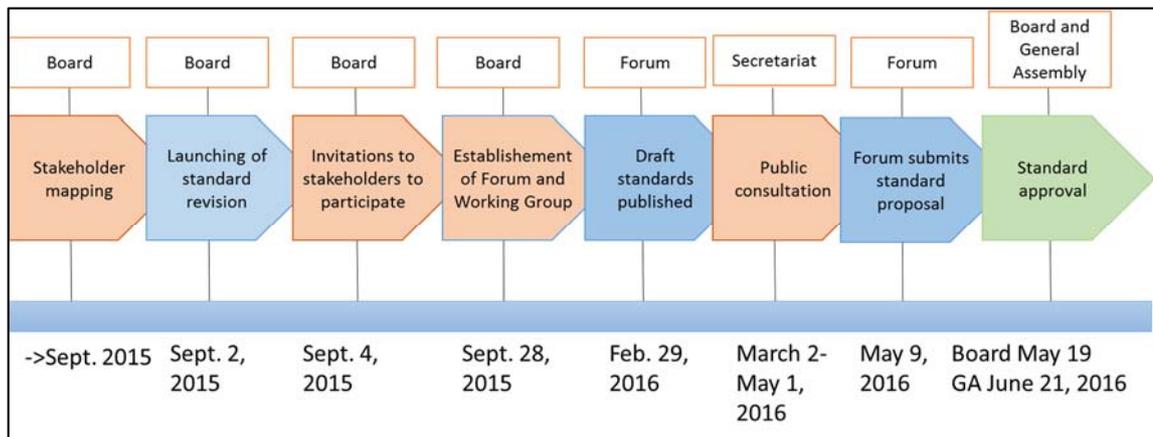
The evidence on the consultation process applied in the revision of the forest management standard for the French Guiana is lean. Information on relevant stakeholders and dates for the consultation on the standard PEFC/FR ST 1003-2 are not clearly informed.

The comments received during the consultation phase (62 comments in total) were documented and addressed by the Forum when formulating the final draft for the standard completed by the Forum on May 9, 2016.

According to PEFC France no complaints on the revision process were received.

The Board approved the standard and finally the Extraordinary General Assembly adopted it to the Scheme on June 21, 2016. The approved SFM standards were published on the website of PEFC France on July 4, 2016 (Figure 5.2). The transition time for the implementation of the revised standard is one year. The final dates for the transition period will be defined according to the endorsement decision of the PEFC Council, because the standard will enter force after the decision on the endorsement.

Figure 5.2 Standard Revision Process in Metropolitan France



French Guiana

The Scheme documentation does not fully describe launching and implementation of the standard revision process carried out in French Guiana. When requested, PEFC France provided the information. PEFC French Guiana represented by four members is responsible for standard revision in the region.

In French Guiana, the revision covered the Chart on low impact harvesting and PEFC standard on sustainable forest management (PEFC FR/STD 1003-2). The comments on the revision needs were first compiled among timber buyers between November 12, 2015 and January 15, 2016. The consultation included 10 companies and their association called Interprobois. On January 28, 2016, a consultative meeting was held among the timber buyers.



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The proposed changes to the Charte and PEFC standard were submitted to the Regional Authority of Guiana, hunters' organisation and Guiane Nature Environnement for comments. The organisation is an umbrella organisation for at least three local ENGOs.

Finally, the standard PEFC FR ST 1003-2 was presented to the Board of PEFC Guyana on February 22, 2016 and approved.

Conclusion on conformity

The Scheme documentation should include description standard revision procedures and process in the French Guiana. The evidence collected originates from different sources not coordinated by the Scheme.

A number of non-conformities have been identified in relation to revision of the French PEFC Forest Certification documentation. Many requirements in standard setting were recorded as non-conformities due to the lack of adequate evidence on compliance. A compilation of non-conformities is presented in **Error! Reference source not found.** A detailed analysis on standard revision is presented in Appendix 1 p. 3 to 30.



6. FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

6.1 General Remarks

The French PEFC Forest Certification System includes three standards for forest management:

- Sustainable Forest Management Rules – Requirements for Metropolitan France (PEFC/FR ST 1003-1: 2016)
- Sustainable Forest Management Rules – Requirements for French Guiana (PEFC/FR ST 1003-2: 2016)
- Sustainable Forest Management Rules – Requirements for the harvesting of cork (PEFC/FR ST 1003-3: 2016).

The standard PEFC/FR ST 1003-1: 2016 is applicable in Metropolitan France and overseas regions apart from French Guiana that has its own SFM standard (PEFC/FR ST 1003-2: 2016). The standard for cork harvesting (PEFC/FR ST 1003-3: 2016) is a complementing document that specifies the requirements for cork harvesting in oak tree stands managed according to the SFM standard PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016. The Scheme requires that certification of cork production to the standard PEFC/FR ST 1003-3: 2016 can take place only if the area has a valid forest management certificate. The standard for cork production is part of the Scheme but not part of this conformity assessment. The Scheme can claim that cork is produced in PEFC certified forests, but it cannot claim that the cork is PEFC certified.

The SFM rules for Metropolitan France (PEFC/FR ST 1003-1: 2016) set the following general objectives (principles) for forest owners and managers and forestry workers:

1. Seeking training and advice
2. Planning and managing forests sustainably and ensure their ongoing improvement
3. Adopting measures to preserve biodiversity and protect soil and water
4. Adopting and implementing risk management measures
5. Negotiating contracts for and ensuring the quality of forestry work
6. Promoting PEFC certification.

The objectives are complemented with more specific criteria.

The SFM standard for French Guiana includes six principles and more specific criteria and indicators (PCIs). The main principles are as following:

1. Forest legislation and policies guarantee sustainable forest management
2. Within managed forests, the forest network is managed sustainably to ensure the supply of goods and services.
3. Harvesting operations are planned to minimise the impacts on the environment.
4. Monitoring and research activities provide feedback on the compatibility of forest management operations with the objectives of sustained timber production and other forest uses.
5. Activities other than lumber production are identified and steps are taken to minimise their environmental impact.
6. The main economic and social functions of the forest are maintained within managed forests.



6.2 Analysis Results for Standard for Metropolitan France

6.2.1 Criterion 1 – Enhancement of Forest Resources and their Contribution to the Global Carbon Cycle

Requirements for Metropolitan France (PEFC/FR ST 1003-1: 2016)

The standard does not specify requirements for forest management planning but the regional planning system is comprehensive in France.

In Metropolitan France regional plans for public and private forests, *schema régionaux d'aménagement* and *schema régionaux de gestion sylvicole* respectively, outline the principles of forest management. Regional plans are publicly available and they are updated regularly as specified in the relevant legislation. More specific plans are prepared for forest management unit (FMU) level forestry operations.

Regional plans are based on regional information on forest resources and on environmental, social and economic assessments as required by relevant laws. National forest inventory updates information on forest resources at an annual basis. Forest management unit level plans also require description of forest resources and management objectives. The maximum allowable cut is in general determined by the rotation period and minimum harvest age/diameter.

Private forest owners with forest areas that exceed 25 ha are obliged to have a FMU level plan. For state and communal forests similar short-term plans are also developed. The plans are revised every 10 to 25 years.

Regional plans are publicly available. FMU level plans or summaries of them are not required to be publicly available. Regional plans provide public with information on objectives and management measures to be applied.

The Forest Code requires that plans shall include, among other, a plan for harvesting and silvicultural works. The “level of growing stock” is ensured by an appropriate silvicultural and regeneration method and harvesting limitations (rotation period, minimum harvest age/diameter). The plans also outline the silvicultural works appropriate in the different types of forests in the region.

The standard PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 does not address forest conversion. Any conversion is regulated by laws and regulations and would require a formal impact study and authorization. The Forest Code regulating forest use does not allow conversions of forest to others types of land use.

Conversion of agricultural lands into forests is not very relevant issue in France. If afforestation threatens endangered species the environmental legislation applies making a reference to protected species and areas.

The standard requirements on enhancement of forest resources together with legislation are compatible with the PEFC requirements.

For detailed assessment see Appendix 1 p. 38 to 44.

6.2.2 Criterion 2 – Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality

The standard sets requirements to minimize the risk for erosion and run-offs to water bodies. It also addresses elimination of harvesting damages to remaining stand and thus, aims at protecting forests from subsequent degradation due to rot, diseases or insect damages. The standard also requires monitoring of forest health and taking appropriate actions in case of health risks.

An objective of the statutory regional plans is to avoid degradation of forest ecosystems. The plans include description of risks and relating damages to forest ecosystems as well as relevant actions.



Only chemical products listed on the website of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) for forest use may be used. All chlorinated hydrocarbons are prohibited in France. Allowed chemicals include Bromadiolone (1A) that is a rodenticide used against voles, mice and rats. Chemical control for these rodents take place only if especially ordered by authorities in an exceptional case where no other alternative is available.

The standard provisions on forest health comply with the PEFC requirements

For details see Appendix 1 p. 44 to 50.

6.2.3 Criterion 3 – Maintenance and Encouragement of Productive Functions of Forests

The PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 standard requirements on productive functions of forests ensure that the quantity and quality of forest resources is maintained in the medium and long term by using techniques that minimise direct and indirect damages. Also, regional and forest management unit level planning address production capacity and economic performance of forests.

The standard sets a general requirement on sustainable harvesting and monitoring of the availability of non-wood forest products without specifying any product or management regime. The separate standard for cork production (PEFC FR ST 1003-3) give detailed harvesting instructions.

The statutory regional plans outline the role of different functions of forest use in the region. Forest management unit level plans shall adapt these objectives to operational levels. The regional plans also require an analysis and classification of infrastructure and outline the principles for infrastructure development.

The standard also requires development of infrastructure that provides suitable access to forests and prompt regeneration of harvested stands.

The standard provisions and legislation on productive functions comply with the PEFC requirements.

For details see Appendix 1 p. 50 to 52.

6.2.4 Criterion 4 – Enhancement of Biological Diversity

Although PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 presumes legal compliance as a baseline in certified forestry, it is not explicit on the laws that are relevant to forest management. For example, the standard requirements on protection of biological diversity in forest management planning do not clearly specify the environmental legislation and regulations forest owners shall address in planning.

In France, the most biologically valuable areas are protected by the Environmental Code. If forest management is allowed on these areas, it is strictly restricted. Regional plans are based on the environmental impact assessment and consider environmental restrictions and impose them further to FMU level management plans. However, the current documentation does not clearly describe the procedures.

Species protection is regulated by laws and relevant lists of endangered species. The standard does not complement the legislation in this regards.

The standard and regional plans restrict the use of exotic species in forest regeneration. The standard requires that only species adapted to the site and listed in relevant guides may be used. Regional plans specify the species that can be used in the region.

The standard promotes ecological connectivity through established protection areas e.g. nature reserves, Natura 2000 or other restrictions imposed by regional plans and the Environment Code.



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The PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 standard requires only two retention trees per hectare with the purpose of increasing the biodiversity of species relying on decaying wood. The target level is modest but considered to be adequate by the stakeholder working groups and Forum.

The standard provisions on biodiversity protection comply with the PEFC requirements.

For details see Appendix 1 p. 52 to 59.

6.2.5 Criterion 5 – Enhancement of Protective Functions in Forest Management

The PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 standard complies with the PEFC requirements under the Criterion 5 on Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (soil and water).

For details see Appendix 1 p. 59 to 61.

6.2.6 Criterion 6 – Maintenance of Socio-economic Functions

The PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 standard alone does not address multiple use of forests. Multiple functions and contribution of forestry to local economy is primarily addressed in regional planning, especially in conditions characterised by fragmented ownership structure. The primary role of regional planning is to consider and balance various functions of forests.

The PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 standard requires communication with stakeholders but it does not clearly require mutual consultation where the local forest-related experience and knowledge could be used in planning and implementation of forestry activities. However, the group certification standard (PEFC FR ST 1002 2016) allows an access of regional interest groups to be members in CGE. Also, statutory regional stakeholder commissions comments regional forest management plans. These measures contribute to consideration of local experience and knowledge in forest management.

The PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 standard is very generic in its requirements concerning labour rights and conditions for safe work. The standard does not directly address the issues regulated by the relevant ILO Conventions. It claims that the international Conventions are incorporated into the French legislation, which is likely to apply to all others except the Conventions on occupational safety (ILO No 155) and Convention on indigenous peoples' rights (ILO No 169) (Table 6.1). The latter is not applicable in Metropolitan France but PEFC France should further specify why it is not relevant in French Guiana.

The standard requirements on maintenance of socio-economic functions and conditions in forestry comply with the PEFC requirements.

For details Appendix 1, p. 62 to 67.



Table 6.1 Ratification Status of Fundamental ILO Conventions in France

Fundamental ILO Conventions Number	Name and Year	Status in France
Freedom of Association and the Effective Recognition of the Right to Collective Bargaining		
ILO No 98	Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining, 1949	26 October 1951
ILO No 87	Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, 1948	28 June 1951
Elimination of all Forms of Forced and Compulsory Labor		
ILO No 29	Forced Labor, 1930	24 June 1937
ILO No 105	Abolition of Forced Labor, 1957	18 December 1969
Effective Abolition of Child Labor		
ILO No 138	Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973	13 July 1990
ILO No 182	Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999	11 September 2001
Elimination of Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation		
ILO No 100	Equal Remuneration, 1951	10 March 1953
ILO No 111	Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) 1958	28 May 1981
Other ILO Conventions referred by PEFC Council		
ILO No 155	Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981	Not ratified
ILO No 169	Indigenous and Tribal People's Convention, 1989	Not ratified

Source: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:102632

6.2.7 Criterion 7 – Legal Compliance

The PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 standard does not clearly require legal compliance in forest management practices, nature and environmental protection, species protection, tenure- and use rights (as relevant), labour and safety issues and payment of royalties and taxes.

France has a legislation covering the listed issues and in earlier more specific PEFC requirements evidence on compliance with appropriate legislation is provided. The standard should, however, list the key laws that address the listed issues. Currently it does not explicitly communicate the scope of requirement certified forest management shall comply with to a forest owner/manager.

The standard obligations to respect applicable legislation and prevent unauthorised activities conform to the PEFC requirements.

For details Appendix 1, p.67.

6.3 Analysis Results for the Standard for French Guiana

The Sustainable Forest Management Rules for French Guiana (PEFC/FR ST 1003-2:2016) comply with the PEFC requirements apart from its restrictions related to forest conversion to other land uses. A summary of the standard requirements is presented below:

6.3.1 Criterion 1- Enhancement of Forest Resources and their Contribution to the Global Carbon Cycle

The standard and PEFC certification is applicable only to the areas that are classified as Permanent Forest Estates (PFE). These areas should be under a permanent forest cover.



However, the standard indicates that some forest areas may be reserved for conversion to other uses (mining, agriculture etc.). The standard requires that forest cover shall be kept on these areas until the conversion takes place.

The standard does not specify the conditions for the conversion (e.g. government decisions, legislation or other), nor does it limit the size of the conversion (small proportion) or state any bans on conversion of areas with high environmental or social values.

PEFC France stated that conversion of abandoned agricultural lands or other open lands into forests is not relevant in French Guiana. Such a claim would need to be justified.

Apart from the conversion clauses, the standard conforms to the PEFC requirements on maintenance of forest resources.

For details see Appendix 2, p. 7 to 8.

6.3.2 Criterion 2 – Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality

General regional level monitoring on forests is required but not at a concession or FMU level. Selective harvesting maintains the diverse structure of ecosystems that will ensure the capacity to resist health risks.

In line with the forest management guidelines (*Charte de l'exploitation forestière à faible impact en Guiana*) the waste shall be collected in the forest on logging areas and inventories. The charter recommends sorting of waste categories and suggests the use of biodegradable oil for chainsaws and absorption kits in case of leakage.

Pesticides and other phytosanitary products are not used in the management of PFEs in French Guiana. In any case the French legislation on chemical use applies in the region.

On forest health and vitality, the standard conforms to the PEFC requirements.

For details see Appendix 2 p. 8 to 12.

6.3.3 Criterion 3 – Maintenance and Encouragement of Productive Functions of Forests

The standard conforms to the PEFC requirements under this criterion.

For details see Appendix 2 p. 12 to 14.

6.3.4 Criterion 4 – Enhancement of Biological Diversity

The standard conforms to the PEFC requirements under this criterion.

For details see Appendix 2 p. 14 to 18.

6.3.5 Criterion 5 – Enhancement of Protective Functions in Forest Management

The standard conforms to the PEFC requirements under this criterion.

For details see Appendix 2 p. 18 to 19.

6.3.6 Criterion 6 – Maintenance of Socio-economic Functions

The standard or other related descriptions do not specify the ILO Conventions it claims the legislation addresses. It should also indicate the key legislation that covers the ILO requirements. This description should be harmonized with the standard for Metropolitan France.

The standard and legislation provided for the assessment conform to the PEFC requirements on socio-economic functions.

For details see Appendix 2, p. 19 to 24.



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6.3.7 Criterion 7 – Legal Compliance

The PEFC France should provide evidence that the enforcement system applies in large native forests areas in French Guiana as well as in fragmented private forest dominated forests in Metropolitan France.

The standard requirements on legal compliance conform to the PEFC requirements.

For details see Appendix 2, p. 24



7. GROUP CERTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

The French Forest Certification Scheme recognizes group certification of forest owners at a regional level. Regional and group forest certification rules (PEFC/FR ST 1002: 2016) define the duties and responsibilities of group managers and participants. Group managers (organisations) are called certification gateway entities (CGE). Participants in group certification may be public and private forest owners, groups of owners, forest operators or forestry companies. The Scheme distinguishes between two types of CGEs - regional and group CGEs.

Forest owners and operators wishing to certify their forests shall join a regional group and sign a document on commitment presented in Appendix 1 and 2 of the group certification standard (PEFC/FR ST 1002: 2016). Certified forest area in group certification is the forest area belonging to the participating forest owners. CGE maintains a register on the forest owners and their forest areas.

A summary of the PEFC France requirements for group certification are presented in Box 7.1.

Box 7.1 Obligations of Participants in Regional Group Forest Certification

A participant commit

- *To participate in the certification of PEFC sustainable forest management for all my forests/businesses. My participation will be extended by tacit agreement every five years provided that I pay my contribution and unless I withdraw from the contract in writing.*
- *To comply with the sustainable forest management rules (PEFC/FR ST 1003-1: 2016, PEFC/FR ST 1003-2: 2016, PEFC/FR ST 1003-3: 2016) and the regional and group forest certification rules defined in the PEFC/FR ST 1002: 2016;*
- *To facilitate the tasks of the staff of the CGE and the certifying organisation who are required to carry out conformity investigations in participating owners' forests and authorise them in this context on a confidential basis to consult the sustainable management document relating to my forest;*
- *To implement the corrective action requested of me by the CGE in the event of non-compliant forestry practices subject to the exclusion of my participation in forest certification;*
- *To agree to my participation being public;*
- *To pay my financial contribution to the locally competent CGE;*
- *To accept the fact that the PEFC approach is part of an on-going improvement process and that, as a result, the sustainable forest management rules (PEFC/FR ST 1003-1: 2016, PEFC/FR ST 1003-2: 2016, PEFC/FR ST 1003-3: 2016) to which I have committed may be amended; once I have been informed of these changes, I will have the choice of pursuing my commitment (by tacit agreement) within the PEFC or terminating my participation by letter send to the CGE;*
- *To update information relating to my participation in the event of a change in my situation for the CGE or at the request of the latter;*
- *To retain for a period of at least 5 years, documents which will enable me to justify compliance with my commitments, notably sustainable management documents, training certificates, timber sales contracts, forestry work contracts, exchanges of letters, etc.;*
- *In the event of a voluntary withdrawal or exclusion, I have noted that I will no longer be authorised to participate in PEFC for a period determined by the CGE.*

Source: PEFC/FR ST 1002: 2016 Appendix 1 and 2

PEFC France requires that CGEs inform other CGEs with “non-conformities resulting in the suspension or exclusion of participants”. The described obligation does not require information



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of the minor non-conformities that do not lead to suspension or exclusion as required by PEFC ST 1002:2010 4.1.2 (see p. 35 in Appendix 1). However, the standard on group certification, PEFC/FR ST 1002, requires the CGE to resolve all identified non-conformities and if a non-conformity is not corrected it shall lead to suspension or termination of the participation in group certification. If this rule is strictly implemented the relevance of exchanging information on individual non-conformities is not so significant.

In the group certification, the certificate provides an evidence that a group conforms to the standard for group management (PEFC/FR ST 1002). The group certification rules also require compliance with the forest management standard (PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 or 1003-2) and the certificate shall include a reference to the applied forest management standard (see PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 sec. 4.3, 9.2). This provides evidence that a certification audit and decision shall also address sustainable forest management and not only measures for group management.

Group management standard requires a full compliance with all requirements set by two standards and does not accept open non-conformities. The rules require information-sharing on suspension or withdrawal of certificates due to open non-conformities.

The Scheme should also consider formally including a full compliance to the forest management standard (i.e., PEFC FR ST 1003-1 or 1003-2) to the scope of an issued certificate. PEFC is in the first place a framework for sustainable forest management. In all other aspects, the group certification standard complies with the PEFC Council requirements.

A detailed analysis on the group certification is presented in Appendix 1 p. 31 to 37.

8. CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

PEFC France has adopted the international PEFC standard for chain of custody certification (PEFC/FR ST 2002:2013). It does not have a scheme specific chain of custody standard.

9. PEFC LOGO USAGE

PEFC France has adopted the international PEFC standard for logo licensing (PEFC/FR ST 2001:2008). It does not have a scheme-specific standard covering the logo usage.

PEFC France issues the PEFC logos but also in group certification delegates the mandate to Certification Gateway Entities (group managers). PEFC Council is the owner of the PEFC Logo and according to the PEFC procedures it gives the national governing bodies (i.e. PEFC France) a mandate to issue PEFC logo usage licenses. The document on *Administration of PEFC Scheme* (PEFC GD 1004:2009) does not recognize the option to further delegate the right to issue PEFC logo usage rights.

Further evidence on the PEFC Council's approval of such an arrangement is requested.

The Scheme should also clearly describe the responsibilities in controlling of logo use. Currently any party that encounter unauthorized use is obliged to inform PEFC France but no party is given an active role in verifying the appropriate logo use.

The procedures for logo usage comply with the PEFC requirements.

For details see Part VI requirement 2 in Appendix 1, p. 74.



10. CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES

10.1 Requirements for Certification and Accreditation

Requirements for certification and accreditation in forest management are presented in PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 *Rules governing organizations involved in the auditing and certification of sustainable forest management*. A certification body shall comply with the following requirements:

- Conform to the ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 standard and the IAF (International Accreditation Forum) documents in the application of the ISO 17021-1:2015 standard.
- Have a valid accreditation issued by the COFRAC (French Accreditation Committee) or any other accreditation body that is a member of the EA (European Accreditation) or the IAF (International Accreditation Forum).
- May perform if requested regional group or individual certifications.

PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 requires in general that certification bodies make publicly available a summary of a certification report and describes its content. It is up to certification bodies to decide if they publish the report or provide it on request or use other means of publication.

PEFC/FR ST 4004:2016 contains requirements for certification bodies operating certification against the PEFC International chain of custody standard. PEFC France has adopted the international PEFC standard (PEFC ST 2002:2013), thus there is no scheme-specific standard covering the requirements for certification bodies granting certificates against the chain of custody standard. The standard is available in English only and has not been translated to French.

Scheme certification and accreditation procedures comply with the PEFC requirements.

For details see Appendix 1 p. 68 to 72.

10.2 Notification of Certification Bodies

Notification procedures for organisations involved in auditing and certification of sustainable forest management are presented in PEFC/FR AD 4005: 2016 and those for chain of custody certification are described in PEFC/FR ST 4004;2016. The procedures are non-discriminatory and PEFC France notifies certification bodies free of charge.

The notification procedures comply with the PEFC requirements. For details see Appendix 1 p. 72 and 73.



11. COMPLAINTS AND DISPUTE PROCEDURES

Acceptance, resolution, and notification procedures for complaints and appeals are described in the document PEFC/FR AD 4003: 2016 on *Procedure for dealing with complaints and appeals*. Upon receiving a complaint PEFC France General Secretariat registers it and sends a written notification to the complainant. Several criteria define if a complaint qualifies as admissible:

- It shall be within the scope: shall relate to decisions/activities of PEFC France or its members or their non-compliance with one or more provisions of the French PEFC forest certification scheme.
- The PEFC France General Secretariat shall be provided with a written notification within 2 months from the decision/measure.
- It shall include the identity of the body, owner or company the complaint addresses, the date and place, and concrete info regarding the case.
- It shall be justified and shall present relevant documentary evidence.

The PEFC France Executive Committee bears the responsibility for reviewing and handling complaints within a period of two months since it is received by PEFC France, as well as providing the complainant with a written decision. If needed, an additional investigation might be conducted by the Executive Committee and then the decision is to be adopted within 6 months.

What comes to appeals, the same registration and notification procedure applies. For qualifying as an admissible an appeal shall also comply with several requirements:

- It shall be related to a complaint dealt with by the PEFC France Executive Committee.
- It shall be submitted to the PEFC France General Secretariat shall be written and shall be sent within two months since receiving a written notification related to the decision adopted in regards to the complaint.
- It shall be justified and shall present relevant documentary evidence.

The body responsible for reviewing and handling appeals is PEFC France Board; if needed it can be assisted by experts in the subject in question. The Board shall make a ruling on an appeal within 2 months since it has been received.

Scheme complaints and grievance procedures comply with the PEFC requirements.

For details see Appendix 1, p. 74.



12. STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS

12.1 International PEFC Consultation

The international public consultation was organized by the PEFC Council in June-August 2016. No comments were submitted in the International consultation.

12.2 Stakeholder Questionnaire

National questionnaire on standard revision process launched in 2015 was sent to about 70 parties. who participated or might have had an interest in the forest certification standard revision process and outcomes. The questionnaire was sent by email and contact details were mostly provided by PEFC France. Respondents were given 2 weeks to reply to the questionnaire. A total of 6 replies were received. A summary of the stakeholder comments is presented in Table 12.1.

Table 12.1 Summary of Comments of National Consultation

Replying interest groups	Commented issues
Forest and timber industry Forest owners/managers Trade union Member Organisation	<p>The views on participation were in general positive with an impression of free access to participate. However, two organisations that were listed in the mapped 80 stakeholders claimed that they were not invited to participate.</p> <p>Social issues are important because there are numerous violations of workers' rights in forest work. A trade union claiming to be among the most important private sector union was not invited although it was listed in among the 80 stakeholders.</p> <p>The chamber 1 representing forest owners was dominant, the chamber 2 representing forest industry had very low representation and the forest users chamber 3 was not operational in the beginning of the revision process. The low stakeholder participation in chamber 3 representing environmental and recreational interests other forest users resulted in limited possibilities to contribute to the standard revision. Invitations were sent to participants representing all three chambers.</p> <p>Priorities of the three chambers were different, which were difficult to combine in operational requirements.</p> <p>Social dialogue was not fully recognized due to the exclusion (lack of invitation) of major confederation of private trade unions. The complainant organisation was not even consulted during the process.</p> <p>The views presented in the Forum were not always taken into consideration in an open and transparent manner. A justification given to ignoring some comments was that many of the comments addressed issues that had been thoroughly discussed in the Forum and therefore some points were not readdressed. ENGO sector joined the process at a later stage and it could not influence on all the issues it wished at. Some of its points were not taken into consideration in the final standard.</p> <p>The revision process has raised discussion and generated misunderstanding among participating stakeholders towards the Scheme. A commentator pointed out that the participants have made a due effort to understand the different views although they could not always find a common agreement on them.</p> <p>This standard was specifically revised by the regions concerned by this sector. In future, collaboration with professionals from the cork sector would be interesting.</p> <p>Overall the Forum worked well in view of the majority of the participants.</p>



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Replying interest groups	Commented issues
	<p>Some international documents are not translated and can be difficult to understand by some participants.</p> <p>For the next revision, it would be interesting to involve experts from the research sectors that could bring the up-to-date information to the discussion.</p> <p>French Guiana has not physically participated in the revisions. Revision of their standard was made only in Guiana. Little visibility on the revision in the context of Guiana.</p>

Overall the standard setting in Metropolitan France had a participatory approach that was respected by the involved parties. The participation of different interest groups was not fully balanced but the groups were invited.



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Appendix 1

Indufor Assessment of the Revised French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme against the PEFC Council Requirements

Indufor Assessment of the Revised French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme against the PEFC Council Requirements

PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist (PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012) for the PEFC Council Re-endorsement in 2016

Appendix 1 to the Final Report

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Purpose

- The assessment presented in this Appendix 1 reviews the compliance of the French PEFC System with all PEFC Council requirements for endorsed forest certification schemes.

Explanations

- The conclusion on conformity with the PEFC requirements is presented in the column YES/NO. YES is indication for a full conformity and NO indicates that the evidence provided by the applicant is not adequate and results in a conclusion on non-conformity.
- Justification for assessor's conclusion and references to application documents of other sources are provided under the last column "Comments". Direct extracts from a scheme or other referred document are presented (*in italic*) and assessor's explanations in standard font.
- Conclusions may include statement of non-conformity or a comment that raise an observation assessor wants to share. Comments are often issues that the Scheme could improve or explanations that help reader to understand the assessor's conclusion.

Part I: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for standard setting (PEFC ST 1001:2010)

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
Standardising Body			
4.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:			
a) its status and structure, including a body responsible for consensus building (see 4.4) and for formal adoption of the standard (see 5.11),	Procedures	YES	<p><i>Procédure révision standards français</i> (2 Sept 2015) guided the standard setting français 02.09.2016.</p> <p>In current scheme documentation, the standard setting procedures are described in PEFC/FR AD 4001: 2016 PEFC French sustainable forest management standards revision procedure – issued June 21,2016</p> <p>4.2.1 Board with the support of the PEFC France General Secretariat is responsible for launching the periodic standard revision</p> <p>4.4 Forum called upon for each revision is responsible for standard formulation and consensus building (4.4.3)</p> <p>4.1 General meeting of PEFC France is responsible for formal adoption</p>
b) the record-keeping procedures,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC/FR AD 4001: 2016 5.2.1 The PEFC France General Secretariat keeps updated paper and electronic versions for at least five years of a set of documents called <i>Launch of the French sustainable forest management standards revision procedure</i>:</p> <p>6 The following (documents) are made public as part of the revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This procedure. - The revision process start date. Forum meeting minutes are available on request.
c) the procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC/FR AD 4001: 2016 4.4.2 => composition of the Forum. The Forum must ensure that the different interest groups are equally represented.</p> <p>The representatives are appointed by the PEFC France Board and their appointment is officially confirmed in writing by the PEFC France General Secretariat</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	YES	5 Different stages and responsibilities in standard revision 4.4.1=> missions of the Forum. Forum is in place throughout the revision process and disbanded once the final draft has been adopted. 4.4.2 =>organisation of the Forum – appointment of members, three chambers to improve balanced decision making, 4.4.3 => decision making procedures in the Forum, 4.4 => standards construction stage Chapter 5 => description of the different stages of the standards setting process
e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	YES	4.4.3 => decision making procedures in the Forum
f) Revision of standards/normative documents.	Procedures	YES	PEFC FR AD 4001: the whole document. 5-year revision cycle required in chapter 1 (Scope)
4.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available and shall regularly review its standard-setting procedures including consideration of comments from stakeholders.	Procedures	YES	PEFC FR AD 4001: 1 The scope of the PEFC FR AD 4001 is to provide procedures for standard revision 6 The following (documents) are made public as part of the revision: - This procedure. 5.3.2 Public announcement. the public announcement contains information about the standards revision process, the work schedule and information about how interested parties can contribute to the process, the list of public documents (notably the revision procedure), reference to the preparatory documents approved by the Board (see 5.2.1) and an invitation to comment on the scope and standard-setting process.
	Process	YES	Development report – review of standards for period 2017-2022: B.1. Phase Launch: Board approved the standard setting procedures on 02.09.2015 (available in French), materially identical to PEFC FR AD 4001:2016: Internet publication on the launch of the revision process and its start date and publication methods (website Sept. 18, 2015, <i>Annonce publique du lancement travaux de revision</i>). Invitation to comment standard setting procedures Sept. 18-23, 2015

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
<p>4.3 The standardising body shall keep records relating to the standard-setting process providing evidence of compliance with the requirements of this document and the standardising body's own procedures. The records shall be kept for a minimum of five years and shall be available to interested parties upon request.</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC FR AD 4001:</p> <p>5.2.1 The PEFC France General Secretariat keeps updated paper and electronic versions for at least five years of a set of documents called <i>Launch of the French sustainable forest management standards revision procedure</i></p> <p>5.6.1 The General Secretariat drafts a development report to demonstrate that the revision process complies with this procedure so that the Final Document can be approved. The development report must contain the following as a minimum requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The revision schedule. - Information about how the revision process start date was announced and the invitation sent to the interested parties (list of invited parties). - Forum meeting minutes. - Information about the public consultation and a summary of the comments and opinions and information about whether they were incorporated. - Proof of consensus, including a summary of any objections and how they were resolved. <p>6. Transparency and Publication</p> <p>The PEFC France General Secretariat keeps a file of Publicly Available Documents up to date and available to the public on request for at least five years in both paper and electronic format. The file contains the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The French sustainable forest management standards revision procedure. - The PEFC France press release about the revision process' start date. - Forum meeting minutes (on request). - The version of the revised standards put forward by the Forum and adopted by the PEFC France Board or by the PEFC France Executive Committee if authorized by delegation. - Public consultation form. - Comments received within the scope of the public consultation and a summary of them. - The version of the standards amended by the Forum following the public consultation. - The final version of the revised standards adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any complaints and appeals and their outcome. - The list of all the aforementioned documents in force along with their date of approval, location, date and circulation arrangements, and the list of recipients. <p>In line with the French version of the PEFC FR AD 4001 also the Development Report shall be made publicly available.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report – review of standards for period 2017-2022 approved by the Board of Directors on 21/06/2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for content see above - Chapter 10: lists all documents produced in the different stages of the revision process <p>Website Sept. 18, 2015, <i>Annonce publique du lancement travaux de revision</i></p> <p>A computer register containing all documents is available for each stage of the standard setting process.</p>
4.4 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group/committee responsible for standard-setting activities.	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC FR AD 4001:</p> <p>4.2.1 => the Board of Directors is responsible for the establishment and the dissolution of the Forum</p> <p>5.4.4 ...forest management standards are set for French Guiana (or other French Overseas Territories) by a special working group which reports back to the Forum tasked with revising the French sustainable forest management standards. This working group adheres to the same rules on group makeup, governance and voting procedures as the Forum.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Metropolitan France: Development report – review of standards for period 2017-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annex 1 – identified stakeholders invited to Forum (80) - Annex 2 – Forum composition (21+12+5 members in three chambers) <p>PEFC Guiana has four members representing different sectors of forestry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chamber 1 Forest producers: l'Office national des forêts de Guyane (ONF) – the only “forest owner” of permanent forest estate,

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
			<p>- Chamber 2 Forest Industry : Interprobois Guyane and Fédération nationale du bois (FNB)</p> <p>- Chamber 3 Forest users : Guyane Nature Environnement (GNE) that is a federation representing at least three local ENGOS.</p> <p>Comment: The Scheme documentation should include description of the establishment of working group in the French Guiana. Currently information is needs to be collected from different sources.</p>
4.4 The working group/committee shall:			
a) be accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC FR AD 4001:</p> <p>4.4.2 ... Relevant stakeholder means any organisation with a clear link to forests and the forest-timber industry in France</p> <p>The Forum has three chambers: Forest owners and managers, Wood processing and forestry companies, Environmentalists, scientists and forest users.</p> <p>5.3.3.1 The General Secretariat sends public invitations to take part in the Forum to the identified stakeholders</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report – review of standards for period 2017-2022:</p> <p>Annex 1: 80 organizations invited to participate (see Forum invitation list approved by the Board of Directors of 02/09/2015)</p> <p><i>Note: To give the broadest information on starting of the revision process and thus enable all stakeholders who wish to integrate the work, a folder on the launch of the revision process has been posted on the PEFC France website. This file contained an explanation of the review process and its challenges as well as interviews of the President of PEFC France and President of the Forum. Thus, all stakeholders were informed of the possibility of participating in the Forum.</i></p>
	Procedures	YES	PEFC FR AD 4001:

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
<p>b) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard where single concerned interests shall not dominate nor be dominated in the process, and</p>			<p>4.4.2 ... Relevant stakeholder means any organisation with a clear link to forests and the forest-timber industry in France (see PEFCC 4.4 a)</p> <p>4.4.3 The secretary will ensure that the different viewpoints expressed by participants are properly recorded in the minutes</p> <p>a proposal is the result of a consensus (if)...majority agreement in two of the three colleges and a simple majority has been attained in the third college.</p> <p>See 5.4.4 in PEFCC requirement 4.4</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development report – review of standards for period 2017-2022:</p> <p>Annex 1: 80 organizations invited to participate (see Forum invitation list approved by the Board of Directors of 02/09/2015)</p> <p>38 candidatures received; all candidatures were accepted (see composition of the Forum approved by the Board of Directors of 02/09/2015) and were divided into three chambers: 1 (forest owners): 21 participants, 2 (companies): 12, 3 3 (ENGOs, other forest users): 5</p> <p><i>Note: It should be noted that although the third chamber has smaller number of members, the Forum's procedures do not allow any chamber to be predominant in terms of voting power.</i></p> <p>French Guiana has on working group under the organisation of PEFC Guiana. The four organisations in the working group represent the different interests in forestry See PEFC question 4.4 p. 7).</p>
<p>c) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that are materially affected by the standard, and those that can influence the implementation of the standard. The materially affected stakeholders shall represent a meaningful segment of the participants.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC FR AD 4001:</p> <p>4.4.2 ... Relevant stakeholder means any organisation with a clear link to forests and the forest-timber industry in France (see PEFCC 4.4 a)</p> <p>Stakeholder mapping focus on organisations that are involved in forest management and forest industry and thus have expertise on the subject matter. Their share is very likely to be meaningful due to the applied stakeholder identification process.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
	Process	YES	Development report – review of standards for period 2017-2022: Annex 2. composition of the Forum approved by the Board of Directors of 02.09.2016. Materially affected stakeholders and those that can influence the implementation are mainly represented in chamber 1 and 2 (subcontractors and loggers).
4.5 The standardising body shall establish procedures for dealing with any substantive and procedural complaints relating to the standardising activities which are accessible to stakeholders.	Procedures	YES	PEFC FR AD 4001: 7. Managing Complaints and appeals: - to be submitted in writing to PEFC France - fill the criteria for admission; be about the revision process or about the decision to adopt of the revised standard. - PEFC France Board or an authorized Executive Committee decides on the resolution. PEFC/FR AD 4003: 2016: Procedure for dealing with complaints and appeals.
	Process	NA	No complaints were raised during the revision process.
4.5 Upon receipt of the complaint, the standard-setting body shall:			
a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint to the complainant,	Procedures	YES	PEFC/FR AD 4003: 2016: Procedure for dealing with complaints <i>3.2.1 PEFC France General Secretariat registers the complaint and notifies the complainant in writing about the following:</i> - <i>It acknowledges receipt of the complaint.</i> - <i>The General Secretariat also explains the review and handling phases in line with the following procedure</i> Corresponding requirements are described in chapter 7 in PEFC FR AD 4001
	Process	NA	No complaints were received
	Procedures	YES	<i>PEFC/FR AD 4003: 2016: Procedure for dealing with complaints</i>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint, impartially and objectively evaluate the subject matter of the complaint, and decide upon the complaint, and			<p>3.2.3.2 <i>Reviewing and handling complaints requiring additional investigation</i></p> <p>3.2.3.2.1 <i>If the Executive Committee deems it necessary, it may conduct additional investigations prior to ruling on a complaint:</i></p> <p><i>The Executive Committee may request additional information or documentary evidence.</i></p> <p><i>It may conduct an additional on-site investigation, using the methods it deems appropriate.</i></p> <p>Corresponding requirements are described in chapter 7 in PEFC FR AD 4001</p>
	Process	NA	No complaints were received
c) Formally communicate the decision on the complaint and of the complaint handling process to the complainant.	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC/FR AD 4003: 2016: Procedure for dealing with complaints</i></p> <p><i>3.2.1 The General Secretariat also explains the review and handling phases in line with the following procedure</i></p> <p><i>3.2.3.1.2 and 3.2.3.2.3 The Executive Committee sends a substantiated written response to the complainant, if relevant detailing the corrective and preventive measures to be implemented to eradicate the causes of the complaint.</i></p> <p>Corresponding requirements are described in chapter 7 in PEFC FR AD 4001</p>
	Process	NA	No complaints were received
4.6 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries and complaints relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be made easily available.	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC/FR AD 4003: 2016: Procedure for dealing with complaints</i></p> <p><i>3..1 General principles</i></p> <p><i>3.1.4 Any correspondence about a complaint or appeal, whether regarding the submission, management and resolution procedure or progress made, should be sent to the PEFC France General Secretariat: 8 avenue de la république - 75011 PARIS – FRANCE</i></p> <p>The contact point is also referred to in chapter 7 in PEFC FR AD 4001. In French Guiana, the PEFC French Guiana is the contact point.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
Standard-setting process			
5.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting work.	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 5.3.1 Identify the stakeholders</i></p> <p><i>The PEFC France Board undertakes a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify stakeholders with an interest in sustainable forest management and developing the PEFC French sustainable forest management standards.</i></p>
	Process	YES	<p>PEFC FR AD 4001 Annex 1</p> <p>80 organizations invited to participate (see Forum invitation list approved by the Board of Directors of 02/09/2015)</p> <p>Note: PEFC France keeps an on-going register of stakeholders as a part of its distribution list and all those stakeholders are considered as relevant to the standard setting work. The PEFC France identified 80 organizations as key to be directly invited to the Forum.</p> <p>Except the direct invitation and communication there were no other actions deemed necessary to seek their participation. However, to give the broadest information on starting of the revision process and thus enable all stakeholders who wish to integrate the work, a folder on the launch of the revision process has been posted on the PEFC France website. This file contained an explanation of the review process and its challenges</p> <p>Comment: PEFC Guiana does not represent a list on stakeholder mapping. The stakeholders participating in the revision of the PEFC standard for Guiana are relevant to the process (See PEFC question 4.4. p. 7).</p>
5.2 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged and key stakeholders. The standardising body shall address the constraints of their participation and proactively seek their participation and contribution in the standard-setting activities.	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC FR AD 4001: 5.3.1 Identify the stakeholders</p> <p>As part of the stakeholder identification process, the PEFC France Board must identify the key and disadvantaged stakeholders (who might be financially or otherwise disadvantaged in participating in the standard-setting work).</p>
	Process	YES	<p>PEFC FR AD 4001 Annex 1: 80 organizations invited to participate (see Forum invitation list approved by the Board of Directors of 02/09/2015)</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
			<p>Note: The CA identified 80 organizations as key to be directly invited to the Forum (none of those organizations was considered as disadvantaged). ...Thus, all stakeholders were informed of the possibility of participating in the Forum.</p> <p>PEFC France considered the availability of resources for active participation as the potential criteria to identify disadvantaged stakeholders. In French Guiana, all relevant organisations (4) participated in the local working group.</p>
<p>5.3 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation for participation in a timely manner on its website and in suitable media as appropriate to afford stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC FR AD 4001 5.3.2 Public Announcement</p> <p><i>The public announcement of the start of the sustainable forest management standards revision is made on the PEFC France website and via another appropriate outside media channel (for example, a PEFC France and/or PEFC Council newsletter, a press announcement),... particularly key and disadvantaged stakeholders, should be directly informed by email or letter.</i></p> <p>5.3.3 Setting up the Forum</p> <p>5.3.3.1 The General Secretariat sends public invitations to take part in the Forum to the identified stakeholders. N.B.: Public invitations are normally included in the public announcement mentioned in 5.3.2.</p>
	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022. Approved by Board of Directors of 21/06/2016:</p> <p>B.1. September 2, 2015 Launch of standard revision (revision documentation approved by Board, identification of key parties by General Assembly)</p> <p>B.2. September 4, 2015: sending an invitation letter to attend the Forum to the 80 stakeholders identified by the Board of Directors of 02/09/2015.</p> <p>B.3. September 8, 2015: publication on the PEFC France website of the announcement of the launch of the revision process.</p> <p>B.4. September 28, 2015 Election of President and Secretary to the Forum</p> <p>September 30, 2015 Distribution of a press release to the general and professional press announcing the launch of the revision process.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
5.3 The announcement and invitation shall include:			
a) information about the objectives, scope and the steps of the standard-setting process and its timetable,	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 5.3.2 Public announcement</i></p> <p><i>As a minimum requirement, the public announcement contains information about the standards revision process, the work schedule and information about how interested parties can contribute to the process, the list of public documents (notably the revision procedure), reference to the preparatory documents approved by the Board (see 5.2.1) and an invitation to comment on the scope and standard-setting process.</i></p>
	Process	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Announcement of the launch of the revision process on the PEFC France website (<i>ANNONCE PUBLIQUE LANCEMENT TRAVAUX DE REVISION</i>) applies to the standard revisions of Metropolitan France and French Guiana. - Press release to the general and professional press announcing the launch of the revision process. - Invitation letter to attend the Forum, - Links to standard setting procedures covering scope, objectives and steps were given. The invitation also included a request to comment the procedures. The time table was presented in the invitation <p>Comment: The invitation did not take any reference to the parallel standard revision process launched in the French Guiana. However, the general invitation also applies in the French Guiana. The announcement and invitation should be more explicit on the two processes giving clear information on their special characteristics and level of integration e.g. in the final standard approval.</p>
b) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 5.3.2 Public announcement</i></p> <p><i>... the work schedule and information about how interested parties can contribute to the process...</i></p>
	Process	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Announcement of the launch of the revision process on the PEFC France website - Press release to the general and professional press announcing the launch of the revision process. - Invitation letter to attend the Forum 4 September 2015.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
			<p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>The public announcement (<i>ANNONCE PUBLIQUE LANCEMENT TRAVAUX DE REVISION</i>) or invitation letter to Forum did not provide information how the stakeholders in the French Guiana could participate in the standard revision process run by the PEFC Guiana. The stakeholder groups (4) were most likely well informed on the process, but the invitation should allow an option also to other parties to participate.</p>
<p>(c) an invitation to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) to the working group/committee. The invitation to disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format, that is understandable,</p>	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 5.3.3 Setting up the Forum</i></p> <p><i>5.3.3.1 The General Secretariat sends public invitations to take part in the Forum to the identified stakeholders. The invitation must contain the following information:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Scope of the revision.</i> <i>b) The Forum's role in the revision process.</i> <i>c) The list of public documents (notably the revision procedure).</i> <i>d) Invited bodies having the opportunity to make comments to the PEFC General Secretariat about the scope and the revision process.</i> <i>e) The PEFC France Board being able to review the revision procedures based on the comments received.</i> <p><i>5.3.3.2 The public announcement must be made to key and disadvantaged stakeholders by direct communication (email or letter) to ensure that the information reaches the intended recipients and is fully understood by them.</i></p> <p><i>5.3.3.3 The PEFC France Board must consider and review all the applications to take part in the Forum.</i></p>
	Process	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Press release to the general and professional press announcing the launch of the revision process (- Invitation letter to attend the Forum - Press release 1 October, 2016 on information on standard revision <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Invitation letter to Forum did not provide information how the stakeholders in the French Guiana could participate in the standard revision process run by the PEFC Guiana.</p>
	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 5.3.2 Public announcement</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
d) an invitation to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process, and			<i>... and an invitation to comment on the scope and standard-setting process.</i>
	Process	YES	- The public announcement (<i>ANNONCE PUBLIQUE LANCEMENT TRAVAUX DE REVISION</i>) published at the PEFC France website invited to comment the standard setting procedures between 18-23 September, 2015.
e) reference to publicly available standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	YES	<i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 5.3.2 Public announcement</i> <i>...the list of public documents (notably the revision procedure), reference to the preparatory documents approved by the Board (see 5.2.1)...</i>
	Process	YES	- Announcement of the launch of the revision process on the PEFC France website (<i>ANNONCE PUBLIQUE LANCEMENT TRAVAUX DE REVISION</i> September 18, 2015) has a link to the standard setting procedures approved in September 2, 2015. - Press release to the general and professional press announcing the launch of the revision process. - Invitation letter to attend the Forum
5.4 The standardising body shall review the standard-setting process based on comments received from the public announcement and establish a working group/committee or adjust the composition of an already existing working group/committee based on received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group/committee and resources available for the standard-setting.	Procedures	YES	<i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 4.2.1 Board</i> <i>the PEFC France Board's responsibilities are ...</i> - <i>Accepting applications.</i> - <i>Setting up and disbanding the Forum tasked with setting the French sustainable forest management standards.</i> <i>Dealing with complaints, requests for arbitration and appeals relating to the sustainable forest management revision process.</i> <i>5.3.2 Public announcement</i> <i>If the PEFC France Board deems it necessary, it may review and amend the French forest management standards revision procedure based on comments received from the public announcement.</i>
	Process	NA	No comments were received No refusal of nomination by the Board of directors

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
			All candidatures were accepted
5.5 The work of the working group/committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:			
a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group/committee,	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i></p> <p><i>5.3.3 Setting up the Forum</i></p> <p><i>4.4.3 How the Forum works</i></p> <p><i>...(The PEFC France) General Secretariat ensures that the different versions of all meeting minutes, working documents and all the successive versions of the draft standards are made available to the members of the Forum.</i></p> <p><i>5.4.3 The Forum's work</i></p> <p><i>The Forum members receive the following documents in good time before each meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>A written notification to attend, including the meeting agenda.</i> - <i>The necessary preparatory documents (notably the latest version of the draft standards which is under revision).</i> - <i>Minutes of the previous meeting.</i>
	Process	YES	<p><i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022. Approved by Board of Directors of 21/06/2016:</i></p> <p><i>C.3. List of documents produced in the three Forum meetings and three working group meetings</i></p> <p><i>B.5. Documents produced in the launching of the review process.</i></p> <p><i>Working papers and the different drafts of the standard have been sent by email before and after each working group and Forum.</i></p>
b) all members of the working group shall be provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i></p> <p><i>4.4.3 How the Forum works. The Forum's decisions must be taken consensually. The opinions of all the participants must be considered in an open and transparent manner</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts, and			<p><i>The content of the debates in the Forum will be reported by the secretary in the meeting minutes. The secretary will ensure that the different viewpoints expressed by participants are properly recorded in the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>The Forum must be able to prove that the standards were approved by consensus.</i></p> <p>Difficult issues are further discussed in the Forum or a separate working group is established to develop a solution for the issue.</p> <p><i>5.4.3 The Forum's work.</i></p> <p>- draft documents are circulated well before the meetings</p> <p><i>The Forum members should be able to express their opinions and comments without any restrictions. The Forum must transparently consider their opinions and comments.</i></p> <p><i>Meeting minutes, reporting the main discussion items and outcomes, are produced and circulated following each meeting.</i></p>
	Process	YES	<p><i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022. Approved by Board of Directors of 21/06/2016:</i></p> <p><i>E.3. Forum decisions were ultimately taken in consensus following the voting rules for the three chambers.</i></p> <p>The views of all participants were taken into consideration. Evidence on the process is requested to ensure objectivity and transparency.</p> <p>Reports on C.2 Forum and C.1. Work group meetings (4 and 3 meetings respectively) demonstrate that participating stakeholders had meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development</p> <p>Minutes of the consideration of different views in the Forum meeting (CR GT Processus).</p> <p>Regarding the standard for the French Guiana the Forum members, through their local branches in Guyana (ONF, France nature Environnement) allowed to liaise between the Forum and the Guyanese Working Group.</p> <p>Comment: Information on internal working procedures of the standard revision working group of PEFC France was not available.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
c) comments and views submitted by any member of the working group/committee shall be considered in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes shall be recorded.	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i></p> <p><i>4.4.3 How the Forum works. The content of the debates in the Forum will be reported by the secretary in the meeting minutes. The secretary will ensure that the different viewpoints expressed by participants are properly recorded in the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>5.4.3 The Forum's work</i></p> <p><i>The Forum members should be able to express their opinions and comments without any restrictions. The Forum must transparently consider their opinions and comments.</i></p> <p><i>Meeting minutes, reporting the main discussion items and outcomes, are produced and circulated following each meeting.</i></p>
	Process	YES	<p>See reports of working groups and Forums in which are reported debates, different opinions and contributions from participants.</p> <p>The meeting reports and the various versions of documents drafted in meetings were sent to participants after each meeting with two weeks allowed the participants to make their comments. Each report was approved at the following meeting.</p> <p>Examples on discussion of comments within the Forum were presented (CR GT Processus – documents).</p> <p>Comment: Information on internal working procedures of the standard revision working group of PEFC France was not available</p>
5.6 The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			
a) the start and the end of the public consultation is announced in a timely manner in suitable media,	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i></p> <p><i>5.5 Consultation phases. PEFC France publicly announces the start and end dates of the consultation before the public consultation begins on its website and via another appropriate outside media channel (for example, a PEFC France and/or PEFC Council newsletter, and a press announcement). PEFC France also informs the Forum members in writing about the consultation.</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
	Process	YES	<p><i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022. Approved by Board of Directors of 21/06/2016: D) Step 4:60 -day public consultation (March 2 to May1, 2016)</i></p> <p><i>D.1 Launch of public consultation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 2, 2016: publication on the PEFC France website of home page of the announcement of the launch of the public consultation + publication of all the necessary documents (standard draft approved by the Board on February 29, 2016 and consultation form). A press release on consultation was also published. - March 2, 2016: Sending e-mail to members of PEFC France and to potential applicants of a (group) certificate (Certification gateway entities (CGE) also called as Entity of Access to Certification (EAC). Relevant information related to public consultation. - March 10, 2016: Publication of PEFC France newsletter that informed in detail about the consultation. <p>PEFC France Mini-Newsletter March 10, 2016, press release, web information and emails to group entities (CGEs) and members gave adequate information on public consultation.</p>
b) the invitation of disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made by means that ensure that the information reaches its recipient and is understandable,	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i></p> <p><i>5.5 Consultation phases. The Forum's enquiry draft is published on the PEFC France websites. It is also sent out by email to a mailing list put together by the General Secretariat; this list must include the key and disadvantaged stakeholders (see 5.3.1).</i></p>
	Process	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 2, 2016: publication on the PEFC France website of home page of the announcement of the launch of the public consultation + publication of all the necessary documents (standard draft and consultation form) - March 2, 2016: Sending e-mail to members of PEFC France and to Entity of Access to Certification (EAC) of all elements concerning the launch of the public consultation. - March 10, 2016: Distribution to members of PEFC France, to EAC and to all partners and contacts PEFC France of a newsletter on the launch of the public consultation

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
			<p>The invitation for consultation also covered the standard of the PEFC Guiana. In addition, the working group in French Guiana asked directly comments during the process from stakeholders to the standard and Chart on Low Impact Logging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PEFC FR Standard 1003-2 sets the overall requirements for forest management. The Charter specifies the requirements in a form of detailed instructions for low impact logging. The standard and charter establish the requirements for certified forest management. - The charter on low impact logging (EF11 of February 2016) developed based on standard PEFC Guyana and PCI was sent to all timber buyers (10 companies) by e-mail on 12/11/2015. The response time was one month: until January 15, 2016. Several comments were given. - A consultation meeting was held on January 28 with all these companies; - The charter was sent to the association Cho Dambwa (representing hunters) by email and a meeting was arranged. Regional Authority of Guyana without particular comment either; - Guiane Nature Environnement representing three local ENGOs was asked to comment the draft.
c) the enquiry draft is publicly available and accessible,	Procedures	YES	<i>5.5 Consultation phases. The Forum's enquiry draft is published on the PEFC France websites. It is also sent out by email to a mailing list put together by the General Secretariat</i>
	Process	YES	<p>March 2, 2016: publication on the PEFC France website of home page of the announcement of the launch of the public consultation + publication of all the necessary documents (standard draft and consultation form).</p> <p>In French Guiana, the draft standard was submitted to public consultation together with the standard for the Metropolitan France. In addition, the information on consultation was made in several professional journals. In addition, the Chart for low impact logging specifying the requirements was submitted for consultation among all relevant parties in timber production, processing and forest use.</p>
d) the public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	YES	<i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 5.5 Consultation phases. The public consultation lasts for 60 days.</i>
	Process	YES	<i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022. Approved by Board of Directors of 21/06/2016: D) Step 4:60 -day public consultation (March 2 to May1, 2016)</i>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
			- Opening on March 2, 2016 and closing on May 1, 2016, 61 days in total
e) all comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner,	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i></p> <p><i>5.5 Consultation phases. The comments and opinions received must be examined openly and transparently by the Forum to create the Final Document.</i></p> <p><i>The General Secretariat collects all the contributions received from the public consultation process and produces a report listing the contributors and a compilation and/or summary of the received contributions. The report is submitted to the Forum and is made available to the public on the PEFC France website.</i></p> <p><i>All comments received are considered by the Forum</i></p>
	Process	YES	<p><i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022D. 2. Conclusion of public consultation</i></p> <p>The General Secretariat has prepared a compilation of contributions received under the public consultation and sent it to the Forum before the meeting of May, 9th.</p> <p>The Forum of May, 9th reviewed all contributions received and notified directly in the compilation document how it has taken them into account.</p> <p><i>D.3. Consideration by the Forum of the findings from the public consultation.</i></p> <p>Forum did not discuss the issues that had been under discussion earlier and on which the Forum had made its decision. Discussion focused on new issues.</p> <p>The Forum made a compilation document on consideration of each comment in the final standards. No comments were issued on the standard and Charte on low impact logging for the French Guiana.</p>
(f) a synopsis of received comments compiled from material issues, including the results of their consideration, is publicly available, for example on a website.	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i></p> <p><i>5.5 Consultation phases. Amendments made because of the public consultation once the Forum has examined the contributions must be published within a reasonable timeframe on the PEFC France website or made available on request.</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
	Process	YES	<p><i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022. Approved by Board of Directors of 21/06/2016: D. 2. Conclusion of public consultation</i></p> <p>The General Secretariat (GS) received 62 contributions. GS prepared a compilation report "Conclusions of public consultation" and sent it to the Forum before the meeting of May, 9th.</p> <p>The report is available from GS on a request</p> <p><i>D.3. Consideration by the Forum of the findings from the public consultation.</i></p> <p>The Forum of May, 9th reviewed all contributions received and notified directly in the compilation document how it has taken them into account.</p> <p>Both documents are available to the public upon request to the General Secretariat of PEFC France. They are recorded in computer file named "Documents available to the public"</p>
5.7 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of the new standards and the results of the pilot testing shall be considered by the working group/committee.	Procedures	NA	PEFC ST 1001:2010 / 5.7 / Note: « <i>Pilot testing is not required in case of revision of a standard where experience from its usage can substitute for pilot testing.</i> »
	Process	NA	No pilot testing was conducted
5.8 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken based on a consensus.	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i></p> <p><i>4.4.3 How the Forum works.</i></p> <p><i>i) The Forum's decisions must be taken consensually.</i></p> <p><i>ii) The following processes are used to build a consensus in the event of strong opposition on major issues from any key stakeholder:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Additional discussion and negotiation in the Forum.</i> <i>b) Discussion and negotiation between the relevant parties or in a specially formed working group</i> <p><i>iii)consensus being achieved when there is a majority agreement in two of the three colleges and a simple majority has been attained in the third college. Votes cast by members in attendance / represented at the meeting are counted</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
	Process	YES	<i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022. Approved by Board of Directors of 21/06/2016: E.1.2 Approval by the Forum May 9, 2016</i> See report of the Forum of May, 9th, 2016: The final draft of the standard was approved unanimously (one abstention and one vote against)
5.8 To reach a consensus the working group/committee can utilise the following alternative processes to establish whether there is opposition:			
a) a face-to face meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote, show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair where there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal balloting process, etc.,	Procedures	YES	<i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i> <i>4.4.3 How the Forum works. The Forum can use the following alternative procedures to ensure that there is no opposition in its quest to reach a consensus: a <u>face-to-face meeting with a verbal yes/no vote</u>, a <u>show of hands (yes/no vote)</u>, a <u>declaration made by the chairperson that no objections were raised</u>, a <u>formal voting process</u>, a <u>teleconference with a verbal yes/no vote</u>, <u>an email consultation of members using a ballot paper or voting server (proxy) enabling members to express their agreement or objections</u>, enabling members to provide a written response, or a combination of these two procedures etc.</i>
	Process	YES	<i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022. Approved by Board of Directors of 21/06/2016: E.1.2 Approval by the Forum May 9, 2016</i> The PEFC French Guiana approved the local standards in February 22, 2016 and submitted them to the Forum for final approval. Forum of 09/05/2016: the final version of the standards (Final Draft) were approved almost unanimously (with one abstention and one vote against) => no alternative processes were required for adoption the final draft. In metropolitan France, all the Forum's meetings were face-to-face. In French Guiana, the WG meetings were held face-to-face and by conferences call.
b) a telephone conference meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	YES	See PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 question 5.8. a)
	Process	NA	See PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 question 5.8. a)

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
c) an e-mail meeting where a request for agreement or objection is provided to members with the members providing a written response (a proxy for a vote), or	Procedures	YES	See PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 question 5.8. a)
	Process	NA	See PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 question 5.8. a)
d) combinations thereof.	Procedures	YES	See PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 question 5.8. a)
	Process	NA	See PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 question 5.8. a)
5.9 In the case of a negative vote which represents sustained opposition to any important part of the concerned interests surrounding a substantive issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following mechanism(s):			
a) discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group/committee to find a compromise,	Procedures	YES	<i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i> <i>4.4.3 How the Forum works. The following processes are used to build a consensus in the event of strong opposition on major issues from any key stakeholder:</i> <i>b) Discussion and negotiation between the relevant parties or in a specially formed working group</i>
	Process	NA	<i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022. Approved by Board of Directors of 21/06/2016: C.1</i> Forum work group prepared standard proposals for the Forum meeting. The work group had three meetings. The work was not related to conflict resolution.
b) direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) submitting the objection and stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue to find a compromise,	Procedures	YES	See PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012 question 5.9. a) above
	Process	YES	<i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022. Approved by Board of Directors of 21/06/2016: C.2.2</i> <i>C2.2. Forum meeting results: Meeting of 29th February 2016: ... a thorough debate was held about maintaining clear-cutting and management of wood residue... a small work group (including the ENGO FNE) was formed in the margins of the meeting with the task of making consensual proposals to the Forum on problematic issues. The proposals put</i>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
			<i>forward by the small group were approved unanimously by the Forum (minus one opposition and one abstention).</i>
c) dispute resolution process.	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 4.4.3 How the Forum works: The following processes are used to build a consensus in the event of strong opposition on major issues from any key stakeholder:</i></p> <p><i>a) Additional discussion and negotiation in the Forum</i></p> <p><i>b) Discussion and negotiation between the relevant parties or in a specially formed working group</i></p> <p><i>If a unanimous decision is not reached on an issue following the implementation of the aforementioned alternative procedures, PEFC France will deem that a proposal is the result of a consensus being achieved when there is a majority agreement in two of the three colleges and a simple majority has been attained in the third college. Votes cast by members in attendance / represented at the meeting are counted.</i></p> <p><i>Each Forum member organisation is entitled to one vote.</i></p>
	Process	NA	The Forum did not need to use this process
5.10 Documentation on the implementation of the standard-setting process shall be made publicly available.	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 6 Transparency and publication</i></p> <p><i>The following are made public as part of the revision:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- This procedure.</i> <i>- The revision process start date.</i> <i>- Forum meeting minutes (available on request).</i> <i>- The version of the revised standards put forward by the Forum and adopted by the PEFC France Board or by the PEFC France Executive Committee if authorized by delegation.</i> <i>- Public consultation form.</i> <i>- Comments received within the scope of the public consultation.</i> <i>- The version of the standards amended by the Forum following the public consultation.</i> <i>- The final version of the revised standards adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly.</i> <i>- Any complaints and appeals and their outcome</i>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
			<p><i>The following documents are available on request or published in Internet:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The French sustainable forest management standards revision procedure.</i> - <i>The PEFC France press release about the revision process' start date.</i> - <i>Forum meeting minutes.</i> - <i>The version of the revised standards put forward by the Forum and adopted by the PEFC France Board or by the PEFC France Executive Committee if authorized by delegation.</i> - <i>Public consultation form.</i> - <i>Comments received within the scope of the public consultation and a summary of them.</i> - <i>The version of the standards amended by the Forum following the public consultation.</i> - <i>The final version of the revised standards adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly.</i> - <i>Any complaints and appeals and their outcome.</i> - <i>The list of all the aforementioned documents in force along with their date of approval, location, date and circulation arrangements, and the list of recipients.</i>
	Process	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 6 Transparency and publication.</i> The General Secretariat keeps up to date in electronic format and paper format a record named "documents available to the public" containing all the documents listed in point 5, including the revision procedure.</p> <p><i>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022: a summary of the revision process has also been made public on PEFC France website.</i></p>
5.11 The standardising body shall formally approve the standards/normative documents based on evidence of consensus reached by the working group/committee.	Procedures	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i></p> <p><i>4.1 PEFC France Extraordinary General Assembly. The PEFC France Extraordinary General Assembly is responsible for formally adopting the French sustainable forest management standards.</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1 Board. Board's responsibilities are... Formally approving the final version of the sustainable forest management standards before they are submitted to the Extraordinary General Assembly. (see also 5.6.2 and 5.6.3)</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
			<p>4.4.3 How the Forum works. The Forum's decisions must be taken consensually. Forum approves the standard draft and submits to the Board for further approval.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Development Report Review of French PEFC Forest Certification Standards for 2017-2022: E.1.2 Approval by the Forum May 9, 2016 The draft standard was approved unanimously by the Forum (minus one abstention and on vote against) E 1.2 Approval by the Board... The Board approved the final Forum standard document on May 19, 2016 E 1.3 Formal approval by the Extraordinary General Assembly GA approved the unanimously (with two abstentions) the standard as it was approved by the Board.</p>
5.12 The formally approved standards/normative documents shall be published in a timely manner and made publicly available.	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC FR AD 4001: 5.7. Publication phases. The PEFC France General Secretariat publishes the PEFC French sustainable forest management standards for Metropolitan France and Guiana (or other Overseas Territories) on its website within four weeks of the standards being officially endorsed by the PEFC Council. 6 Transparency and publication The following are made public as part of the revision: The final version of the revised standards adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Publication of the final versions of the standards approved by the general assembly on the PEFC France website on July 4th 2016.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Comment
Revisions of standards/normative documents			
6.1 The standards/normative documents shall be reviewed and revised at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The procedures for the revision of the standards/normative documents shall follow those set out in chapter 5.	Process	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001:</i></p> <p><i>4.2.1 BOARD. Within the context of the French sustainable forest management standards revision process, the PEFC France Board's responsibilities are as follows: ...</i></p> <p><i>Revising the procedure for setting and revising the French sustainable forest management standards every five years.</i></p> <p>Whole revision process Review that took place from 02.09.2015 (launch by the Board of Directors) to 21/06/2016 (General assembly which approved the standards before endorsement by the PEFC Council).</p>
6.2 The revision shall define the application date and transition date of the revised standards/normative documents.	Process	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 9 Entry into force ...The revised French sustainable forest management standards come into force on the date of endorsement by the PEFC Council.</i></p> <p>Not applicable at this stage because this will depend on the date of endorsement by PEFC Council</p> <p><i>Note: application date and transition date is defined in PEFC FR AD 1003-1, -2 and -3 (second page of each document).</i></p>
6.3 The application date shall not exceed a period of one year from the publication of the standard. This is needed for the endorsement of the revised standards/normative documents, introducing the changes, information dissemination and training.	Process	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 5.7. Publication phases. The PEFC France General Secretariat publishes the PEFC French sustainable forest management standards for Metropolitan France and Guiana (or other Overseas Territories) on its website within four weeks of the standards being officially endorsed by the PEFC Council.</i></p> <p><i>9 Entry into force... PEFC system participants are entitled to a one-year transition period starting from the date of endorsement by the PEFC Council to apply the new standards</i></p>
6.4 The transition date shall not exceed a period of one year except in justified exceptional circumstances where the implementation of the revised standards/normative documents requires a longer period.	Process	YES	<p><i>PEFC FR AD 4001: 9 Entry into force... PEFC system participants are entitled to a one-year transition period starting from the date of endorsement by the PEFC Council to apply the new standards 8 => application date of entry</i></p> <p><i>Note: application date and transition date is defined in PEFC FR AD 1003-1, -2 and -3 (second page of each document).</i></p>

PART II: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for Group FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION (PEFC ST 1002:2010)

Compliance of PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016 Regional and group forest certification rules – Requirements with the PEFC requirements

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
General		
4.1 Does the forest certification scheme provide clear definitions for the following terms in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3 of PEFC ST 1002:2010:		
a) the group organisation,	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016</p> <p><i>Ch. 3 Definitions: CGE (Certification Gateway Entities): Group of participants in the certification of PEFC sustainable forest management with legal entity status:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>in possession of a PEFC sustainable forest management certificate (to the exclusion of any other) which may be shared by the different forest operators on its territory to certify the compliance of their activities with the PEFC sustainable forest management standard and</i> <p><i>There are two types of CGE:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The Regional Certification Gateway Entity (RCGE): Group of participants in the certification of PEFC sustainable forest management with the status of legal entities established based on the PEFC France model whose territorial competence is defined at regional or inter-regional level.</i> - <i>The Group Certification Gateway Entity (GCGE): Legal entity grouping together participants in PEFC certification for sustainable forest management. The participants must have direct or indirect control of this management in the forest plots concerned and the ability to implement the PEFC standards.</i>
b) the group entity,	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016</p> <p><i>Ch 3 definition of a “CGE (Certification Gateway Entities)”:</i> “Group of participants in the certification of PEFC sustainable forest management with legal entity status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>in possession of a PEFC sustainable forest management certificate (to the exclusion of any other) which may be shared by the different forest operators on its territory to certify the compliance of their activities with the PEFC sustainable forest management standard and</i> - <i>responsible for promoting the PEFC trademark with the players concerned to guarantee the development of the number of participants in the certification of PEFC sustainable forest management and sustainably managed areas according to the PEFC requirements”.</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>Two types of CGEs are acknowledged – regional and group CGEs (RCGEs and GCGEs).</p> <p><i>Ch 4 General requirements: 4.3 The CGE must have overall responsibility for the implementation of the requirements of this document and the compliance of the participants with the sustainable forest management rules defined in the PEFC/FR ST 1003- 1 / -2 / -3: 2016.</i></p> <p>5.1.2.2 The RCGE must be established based on the composition of PEFC France in three colleges (college of producers, college of processors, college of forest users). Its articles of association shall comply with the general provisions of the articles of association of PEFC France notably about the principle of seeking a consensus and consider the specific features of the region or regions concerned.</p> <p>5.1.3.1 The GCGE must be made up at least of a group of individually identified owners (physical or legal entities) with whom a defined sustainable contractual relationship exists relating to the implementation of all management activities for their forest holding. Forest owners may be members of a member organisation of the GCGE.</p>
c) the participant,	YES	<p><i>PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016</i></p> <p><i>3 Definitions: Participant: Physical or legal entity (forest owner, forest operator or FC) involved in the implementation of local requirements for sustainable forest management (PEFC/FR ST 1003: 2016) which has received confirmation of commitment from the CGE.</i></p> <p>5.2 Participants in the certification of sustainable forest management</p> <p>5.2.1 Participants in the certification may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) public and private forest owners (physical or legal entities) ; b) groups of owners; c) forest operators (operator purchases and harvest standing trees); d) forestry companies. <p>5.2.7 As far as national forests are concerned, the ONF must make a commitment on behalf of the owner, the state.</p>
d) the certified area,	YES	<p><i>PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016</i></p> <p><i>3 Definitions: Certified forest area: forest area belonging to a forest owner holding a confirmation of commitment.</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		6.1.11 c) Group manager maintains a register on committed forest owners and their forest area, which form the certified forest area under a group certificate.
e) the group forest certificate, and	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016</p> <p>3 Definitions. <i>Group certificate: Certificate delivered by an independent certification body attesting the conformity of the ECG with the requirements of this document (i.e. Rules for group certification)</i></p> <p>4 General requirements. 4.3 <i>The CGE must have overall responsibility for the implementation of the requirements of this document and the compliance of the participants with the sustainable forest management rules defined in the PEFC/FR ST 1003- 1 / -2 / -3: 2016.</i></p> <p>4.4 <i>The CGE must, on behalf of its participants, make a public commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management rules (PEFC/FR ST 1003 - 1 / -2 / -3: 2016) and the regional and group forest certification rules (PEFC/FR ST 1002: 2016, this document).</i></p> <p>PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 8.1.e) <i>certificate document shall include reference to standards on group certification rules (PEFC/FR ST 1002) and sustainable forest management (PEFC/FR ST 1003)</i></p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>The Scheme should consider to include formally also a full compliance to the forest management standard (i.e., PEFC FR ST 1003-1 or 1003-2) to the scope of an issued certificate. PEFC is in the first place a framework for sustainable forest management (See also PEFC ST 4.2.1 i)</p>
f) the document confirming participation in group forest certification.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016:</p> <p>3 Definitions. <i>Confirmation of commitment: "Document drawn up by the CGE confirming the commitment of the participant to the certification of sustainable forest management"</i></p> <p>4 General requirements: 4.8 <i>The commitment of the participants shall be based on a written agreement between the CGE and the participant, formalised by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>a commitment certificate signed by the participant issued by the CGE featuring in Appendices 1 and 2 of this document for forest owners and forestry companies and in appendix 2 of PEFC/FR AD 4004: 2016 for forest operators;</i> <p><i>and by a confirmation of commitment issued by the CGE (draft in Appendix 3 of this document</i></p>
4.1.2 In cases where a forest certification scheme allows an individual forest owner to be covered by additional group or individual forest management certifications, the scheme shall ensure	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 6.1.5.3.7 and 6.1.5.3.8 state that <i>"The CGE must provide the other CGE with information on <u>the non-conformities resulting in the suspension or exclusion of participants</u>" and "if the</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
that non-conformity by the forest owner identified under one forest management certification is addressed in any other forest management certification that covers the forest owner.		<p><i>forest is also registered in another regional or group CGE, the CGE must consider the non-conformities identified by the other regional or group CGE</i>'.</p> <p>PEFC FR ST 1002 requires the CGE to resolve all identified non-conformities. Those that are not resolved, result in the suspension or termination of the participation. Thus, non-conformities are always resolved by the respective group/region.</p> <p>Comment: The Scheme requires information sharing on suspension and withdrawal of certificates but not on non-conformities as required by the PEFC standard. However, the Scheme obliges group managers to ensure that all identified non-conformities are corrected in forests with valid SFM certificates. It is concluded that the outcome is in line with the PEFC requirement, although the Scheme procedure do not fully comply with PEFC specifications.</p>
4.1.3 The forest certification scheme shall define requirements for group forest certification which ensure that participants' conformity with the sustainable forest management standard is centrally administered and is subject to central review and that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring programme.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016,4.3: the CGE bears the responsibility for ensuring that all its participants comply with the SFM standard and its requirements and serves as a manager and certificate holder in group certification.</p> <p>CGE's responsibilities are listed in section 6.1. The CGE is obliged to carry out an internal audit of its own operations under section 6.1.8 and its participants as required by an inspection procedure under section 6.1.5.</p> <p>Note: Sections 4.3 and 6.1 describe the administrative structure</p>
4.1.4 The forest certification scheme shall define requirements for an annual internal monitoring programme that provides sufficient confidence in the conformity of the whole group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 6.1.5.1 determines the general requirements for the inspection of participants the aim of which is to <i>"determine whether participants in the certification fulfil the requirements of sustainable forest management"</i> .
Functions and responsibilities of the group entity		
4.2.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the function and responsibility of the group entity:		
a) To represent the group organisation in the certification process, including in communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body;	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 5.1.2</p> <p>CGE's responsibility for communicating with the certification body and applying for certification is incorporated into section 4.6 of PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
b) To provide a commitment on behalf of the whole group organisation to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 4.4 CGE is responsible for making a commitment on behalf of the whole group to comply with the SFM and other standards
c) To establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 6.1.10. CGE shall have documented written procedures
<p>d) To keep records of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the group entity and participants' conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme, - all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s), - the certified area, - the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken; 	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 6.1.11 registrations that a CGE shall keep, includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>The participants' support programme;</i> b) <i>The annual appraisal of fulfilment of the participants' support programme</i> c) <i>The list of participating forest owners with a file for each one containing the following information: name and address, surface area of forest, commitment certificate, confirmation of commitment...</i> m) <i>The results of investigations on participants and the status of non-conformities identified;</i> <p><i>The results of external and internal audits and the list of corrective and preventive action;</i></p>
e) To establish connections with all participants based on a written agreement which shall include the participants' commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard. The group entity shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of non-conformity with the sustainable forest management standard;	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 5.2.2 and 6.2.1 require that participants of the group and regional certification sign a "commitment certificate". Appendix 1 presents a draft commitment certificate for forest holding participants and Appendix 2 - for forestry companies. Both commitment certificates require that a participant complies with the SFM standard and its requirements. In addition, they allow implementation of corrective measures and exclusion from participation in case of non-compliance.</p> <p>Note: The written agreement is represented by (i) bulletin d'engagement signed by the participant and (ii) confirmation signed by EAC. Therefore, See Appendices 1, 2 and 3.</p>
f) To provide participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016 Appendix 3 presents a template for confirmation of commitment to PEFC certification for participants and the text of section 5.2.6 contains a provision that such confirmation should be issued to a participant.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
g) To provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 6.1.3 information and guidance is available to participants by means of a support program organized by CGEs. In addition, CGEs are obliged to provide participants with information and support related to various requirements of certification standards as stated in section 6.1.7.
h) To operate an annual internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants' conformity with the certification requirements, and;	YES	Inspection of participants aimed at determining whether they fulfil certification requirements and internal audit are established by Ch 6.1.5 and 6.1.8 of PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016 respectively. Ch 6.1.5.2 requires that an investigation program is implemented every year.
i) To operate a review of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance; corrective and preventive measures if required; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 6.1.9: CGEs organize a management review, during which they assess implementation of certification standards. 6.1.5.3 CGEs are responsible for examining results of investigations and adopting preventive/corrective actions. Comment: The Scheme should consider to include formally also a full compliance to the forest management standard (i.e., PEFC FR ST 1003-1 or 1003-2) to the scope of an issued certificate. PEFC is in the first place a framework for sustainable forest management.
Function and responsibilities of participants		
4.3.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the participants:		
a) To provide the group entity with a written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 6.2.1: Signing a commitment on conformity with the SFM standard is one of the responsibilities of a participant in regional or group certification. Appendix 1 presents a draft commitment certificate for forest holding participants and Appendix 2 - for forestry companies
b) To comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 6.2.1: Fulfilment of requirement of the SFM standard and regional/group certification are also on the list of participants' responsibilities presented
c) To provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the group entity or certification body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 6.2.1 c) and d) set an obligation of a participant of a regional/group certification to respond to any request of CGEs and certifying organizations, as well as to allow an access to forest and other facilities.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
access to the forest and other facilities, whether about formal audits or reviews or otherwise;		
d) To implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016, 6.2.1: Participants also oblige to implement necessary corrective and preventive actions set by CGEs. Ch. 6.2 and Annexes 1 and 2

PART III: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (PEFC ST 1003:2010)

Compliance of PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016 standard on Sustainable Forest Management Rules – Requirements for Metropolitan France with the PEFC requirements

Note: In the document below, all references to scheme documentation are in the PEFC/FR ST 1003-1: 2016, Chapter 3, unless otherwise stated.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
General requirements for SFM standards		
4.1 The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall		
a) include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the forest management unit level, or at another level as appropriate, to ensure that the intent of all requirements is achieved at the forest management unit level.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003:2016 – <i>Scope</i> document specifies the requirements applicable in Metropolitan France and overseas territories apart from the French Guiana. It is applicable for owners, operators and other forestry workers, based on their respective <i>activities</i>.</p> <p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-2 : 2016 <i>Règles de la gestion forestière durable – Exigences pour la Guiana française</i> and <i>Charte de l'exploitation forestière à faible impact en Guiana</i> set the requirements for SFM in the French Guiana</p> <p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-3: 2016 <i>Sustainable forest management rules – Requirements for the harvesting of cork</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The technical guidelines on cork harvesting was submitted along with the scheme documentation for the conformity assessment. PEFC does not have reference standard for sustainable cork production, therefore it cannot include the cork harvesting standard into the endorsed Scheme documentation although the standard is part of the Scheme.
b) be clear, objective-based and auditable.	YES	Principles describe relevant issues in SFM, criteria are more specific and all indicators are measurable and auditable.
c) apply to activities of all operators in the defined forest area who have a measurable impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1, -2: 2016 <i>This document specifies the requirements applicable in Metropolitan France for owners, operators and other forestry workers, based on their respective activities.</i></p> <p>Table with requirements is divided to two parts relevant to forest management (forest owners) and forest practices (applicable to contractors, exploitants and forest owners performing the tasks themselves).</p> <p>Section 5</p> <p><i>PEFC/FR ST 1003-2:2016: 1 Scope</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>1.1 This document specifies the requirements applicable in French Guiana for owners (National Forestry Commission / Office National des Forêts – ONF) and other stakeholders involved in sustainable forest management in French Guiana.</p> <p>1.2 The requirements of this document may be implemented throughout the French Guianese forest; however, strictly speaking, PEFC sustainable forest management certification is only applicable to the permanent forest estate (PFE), excluding the area flooded by the Petit-Saut dam.</p> <p>1.3 Managers are responsible for keeping sustainable forest management records and ensuring compliance with the requirements of this document.</p>
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016. 2.3 Retain all forest management documentation to facilitate tracking and supervision of documentary evidence covering operations implemented and decisions taken in relation to this standard
Specific requirements for SFM standards		
Criterion 1: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle		
5.1.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain or increase forests and other wooded areas and enhance the quality of the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water. This shall be done by making full use of related services and tools that support land-use planning and nature conservation.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.1 Forest owners with over 10 hectares in the same plot must have a sustainable management guarantee or equivalent, apart from specific documented cases, approved by the certification gateway entity (EAC in French)¹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management planning document; - Simple management plan; - Standard management rules; - Code of Good Forestry Practice with felling and works programme <p>2.2 For areas below 10 hectares in the same plot, adhere to forestry guidelines outlined in regional plans for private forests (SRGS), communal forests (SRA), and state forests (DRA). These documents are publicly available.</p> <p>2.6 Ensure that the quantity and quality of forest resources is maintained in the medium and long term by using techniques that minimise direct and indirect damage to forestry, pedological, biological or hydrological resources (excluding damage caused by game).</p>

¹ Article L.124-2 of the French Forestry Code

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		The standard requires a forest management plan (>10 ha plots) and compliance with forestry guidelines for all plots. Damages should be minimized.
<p>5.1.2 Forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management operations. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement to minimise or avoid negative impacts.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>By Forest code private and public forest owners must adhere to the following planning requirements on regional plans:</p> <p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 1 Definitions:</p> <p><i>SRGS - Regional Silvicultural Management Scheme: (Schéma Régional de Gestion Sylvicole, regulatory plan that steers private forest management in a region, sets also technical precriptions,</i></p> <p><i>SRA, Regional planning scheme (Schéma régional d'aménagement): Regulatory plan specifying practical procedures for the implementation of regional forestry guidelines intended for the multi-functional management of public communal forests</i></p> <p><i>DRA Regional planning guidelines (Directive régionale d'aménagement): Regulatory document providing an analysis of specific forest features, along with technical decisions taken by the government in relation to state-owned forests.</i></p> <p>2.2 Forest owners <10 ha (2.2) must respect:</p> <p><i>Regional plans specifically for private forests: Article D122-8 to D122-12 of the Forest Code:</i></p> <p><i>Regional plans specifically for public forests: Article D122-2 to D122-5 of the forestry code (state forests), Article D122-6 to D122-7 of the forestry code (communal forests).</i></p> <p>All regional plans include (i) environmental, social and economic assessments, (ii) synthese of those assessments resulting in the management objectives and (iii) specific actions relating to forest management (including environmental and social). The plans also outline the forest resources and inventory methods applied in FMU level planning.</p> <p>Reference to the legislation stipulating on the plans is well represented (in French). Regional plans are publicly available in Internet.</p>
<p>5.1.3 Inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the topics described in this document.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>In France, Inventory and mapping of forest resources are established by IGN/IFN (National Inventory of forests): http://inventaire-forestier.ign.fr/spip/</p> <p>However, plans for private forests (PSG) and for public forests contain always a mapping of the forests.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<p>5.1.4 Management plans or their equivalents, appropriate to the size and use of the forest area, shall be elaborated and periodically updated. They shall be based on legislation as well as existing land-use plans, and adequately cover the forest resources.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>By Forest Code law forest owners (private) shall adhere to the following planning requirements: PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.1; Definitions /</p> <p>Simple Management Plan (Plan simple de gestion – PSG) <i>Submitted by the owner, sets out a code of conduct for management of forest for a 10-20-year period. It is mandatory for any private forest of 25 hectares or more and is a voluntary plan for forests of between 10 and 25 hectares. It consists of three parts:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>An analysis of stands within their economic, environmental and social context, a definition of management goals, a felling and works programme.</i> <p>Standard Management Rules (Règlement Type de Gestion – RTG): Document produced by a forestry expert, cooperative forest management body or the French National Forestry Commission for an entire population of similar stands. Owners with less than 25 ha may sign up to adopt a sustainable management document.</p> <p>This describes harvesting, replacement and management procedures, by major stand type. It also offers guidance on how to take major environmental challenges into account, along with recommendations on managing big game populations. It must comply with the Regional Forest Management Scheme and is by approved by the Regional Forest Property Centre. Validity period of 10 to 25 years.</p> <p>Information about the harvesting, type of harvesting/regeneration types, description of necessary management work (actions), description of rotation period and minimum harvest age / diameter. The maximum allowable cut is determined by the rotation period and minimum harvest age/diameter</p> <p>Code of Good Forestry Practice (Code des Bonnes Pratiques Sylvicoles – CBPS)</p> <p>Sustainable management document produced by the Regional Forest Property Centre in compliance with the Regional Forest Management Scheme, approved by the regional prefect and intended for forest owners with fewer than 25 hectares. The owner signs a 10-year commitment to abide by the code</p> <p>CBPS is developed for natural region or group of natural areas but its prescriptions are described for major forest types and thus they are applicable at the FMU level.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>Aménagement forestier (plan for public forests) prepared by National Forest Office (ONF):</p> <p>Analysis of natural, cultural, economic, social and environmental situation as well as forest use and use rights, respecting the applicable policies and plans, technical guidelines for inventories and planning and economic and financial analysis of the planned operations.</p> <p>PSG, RTG and Aménagement forestier have a validity period of 10 to 25 years. No references on the law.</p>
<p>5.1.5 Management plans or their equivalents shall include at least a description of the current condition of the forest management unit, long-term objectives; and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification and, where relevant, the annually allowable exploitation of non-timber forest products.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Regional plans for private, state and communal forests include a description of forest management in the region and long term objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PEFC /FR ST 1003-1 2.2.1 sets the planning obligation to forest owners with > 10 ha. <p>Small forest owners that are not required to have FMU level plans (PSG) shall respect the principles outlined in the regional plan SRGS. All regional plans include assessment of forest resources (environmental, social and economical), objectives and actions.</p> <p>See also PEFCC question 5.1.4 above.</p>
<p>5.1.6 A summary of the forest management plan or its equivalent appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, which contains information about the forest management measures to be applied, is publicly available. The summary may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by national legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Regional plans are publicly available. FMU level plans or summaries of them are not required to be publicly available.</p> <p>SRGS for private forests, SRA for public communal forests, DRA for public state forests</p>
<p>5.1.7 Monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>National forest inventory updates information on forest resources at an annual basis.</p> <p>The plans are revised every 10 to 25 years.</p> <p>Forest management planning at the FMU level shall comply with those plans PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 2.2.1, 2.2.2 (see above)</p>
<p>5.1.8 Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016 Chapter 2 specifies the which requirements are relevant for “forest owners” or “forest manager/operator or worker. The basic approach the all requirements are applicable at the FMU level.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		The PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016 defines responsibility of the CGE (group certification manager) and participants
5.1.9 Forest management practices shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.6 Ensure that the quantity and quality of forest resources is maintained in the medium and long term by using techniques that minimise direct and indirect damage to forestry, pedological (soil), biological or hydrological resources (excluding damage caused by game) Normative requirements for regional planning and forest management unit level planning provide the tools to safeguard forest resources and to avoid damages. (See PEFC questions 5.1.2 and 5.1.4).
5.1.10 Appropriate silvicultural measures shall be taken to maintain or reach a level of the growing stock that is economically, ecologically and socially desirable.	YES	The sustainability of “production” and thus “ensuring appropriate growing stock” considering environmental and social aspects is one of primary objectives of the statutory referenced regional plans. The “level of growing stock” is ensured by an appropriate silvicultural and regeneration method and harvesting limitations (rotation period, minimum harvest age/diameter). The plans also outline the silvicultural works appropriate in the different types of forests in the region. PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.6 (see PEFC question 5.1.9) By law item 10, PSG (plan) shall include management objectives, periodicity of planned harvests, regeneration works and other silvicultural works. For regional planning of public forests and private forests, the Forest Code requires that regional plan that shall include, among other, plan for harvesting and silvicultural works:
5.1.11 Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion: a) follows national and regional policy and legislation relevant for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with materially and directly interested persons and organisations; and b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems, culturally	YES	The standard PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 does not address forest conversion. Any conversion is regulated by laws and regulations. Any primary forests are in protection areas in France. The conversions of forest to others types of land use are not authorized by the Forest Code. Any conversion needs to go through a rigid procedure of <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Impact study and public inquiry- Public information- Authorization request- Informative display on the ground Art. L-130-1 of the Urbanism Code: This article states that the land classified as forested areas in urban plans cannot change assignment.”

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<p>and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and</p> <p>d) contributes to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.</p>		
<p>5.1.12 Conversion of abandoned agricultural and treeless land into forest land shall be taken into consideration, whenever it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Conversion of agricultural lands into forests is not very relevant issue in France. If afforestation threatens endangered species the environmental legislation applies making a reference to protected species and areas.</p>
<p>Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality</p>		
<p>5.2.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and to rehabilitate degraded forest ecosystems, whenever this is possible by silvicultural means.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 3.1; <i>Consider, respect and encourage all aspects known and identified as of exceptional biodiversity (fauna, flora, their habitats and associated environments), in particular wetland areas/environments.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>When scheduling operations, prioritise times that will avoid damage to these species during their breeding season.</i> - <i>Inform service providers in writing of any aspects of biodiversity that must be preserved in the forest.</i> <p>3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Comply with requirements linked to any site protected by regulations known to the forest owner and/or contractor.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>In Natura 2000 sites in particular, take account of operating methods recommended in: target documents; or charters and contracts to which the owner has signed up; or contracts entered by the owner; or appendices to regional silvicultural management schemes (SRGS – “Green appendices”).</i> - <i>Set appropriate requirements for operators and indicate the relevant areas at grassroots level.</i> - <i>Comply with regulations on protected species and areas.</i> - <i>Apply environmental requirements notified by the owner or contractor</i> <p>4.1 - Identify fire risk zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Apply adequate measures in areas legally designated as fire risk zones (e.g.: brush clearing and pruning areas, water supply points, etc.)</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		Also, regional and forest management unit level planning (SRA, SRGS, PSG, RTG) address maintenance of health and vitality in forests.
5.2.2 Health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1003-1; 4.4 Monitor the health and vitality of forests, and inform the relevant agencies (Forest Health Department or corresponding field observers) of any parasite attacks, development of declared invasive species, or any other identified phytosanitary problems. In France health and vitality of forest is monitored by a governmental organisation: Article 1 of Arrêté du 24 février 2016 modifiant l'arrêté du 30 juin 2008
5.2.3 The monitoring and maintaining of health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall take into consideration the effects of naturally occurring fire, pests and other disturbances.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1003-1; 4.4 Monitor the health and vitality of forests, ...any parasite attacks, development of declared invasive species, or any other identified phytosanitary problems. Take the necessary measures to prevent them from spreading to neighbouring stands (for example annosus root rot treatments during the felling of sensitive conifer species), and/or take part in joint campaigns launched by the authorities 4.1 see PEFC question 5.2.1
5.2.4 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation of and damages to forest ecosystems. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support these activities.	YES	The objective of the regional plans is to avoid degradation of forest ecosystems. They address game management when relevant and the standard is strong on control of invasive species and fire prevention. PEFC/FR ST 1003-1; 4.1 see PEFC question 5.2.3 Regional plans identify the risks and describe means to minimise those risks; Forest management planning at the FMU level (PSG) shall comply with those plans Regional plans specifically for private forests: Article D122-8 to D122-12 of the forestry code: Regional plans specifically for public forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article D122-2 to D122-5 of the forestry code (state forests): - Environmental assessment is required, - Article D122-6 to D122-7 of the forestry code (communal forests):

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define regional program for public forests including elements of sustainable management and specifically balance of animal game population and its foreseen impacts on planned silvicultural models. This requirement also applies to private forests
<p>5.2.5 Forest management practices shall make best use of natural structures and processes and use preventive biological measures wherever and as far as economically feasible to maintain and enhance the health and vitality of forests. Adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged and/or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resistance capacity of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 2.5;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage diversity of <u>species and/or varieties</u>, including genetic diversity, stand structures (regular, irregular etc.) and of treatment types (irregular high forest, high forest managed by medium-sized forest unit (parquet), regular high forest, coppice with standards, simple coppice, deliberate non-intervention etc.). - Retain irregular areas, companion species and understoreys without compromising target species; Retain tiered forest edges, or if possible create new ones. - In areas with steep slopes (incline of 30% or over), opt for irregular treatments or management by individual tree or medium-sized forest unit <p>3.3. Consider areas of high landscape sensitivity, insofar as land divisions and the intervention area permit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect exceptional sites, elevated areas and viewpoints notified by the contractor and/or forest owner. - Preserve and respect aspects of historic, cultural, architectural and landscape heritage known to and notified by the contractor and/or forest owner. - Consider the value of the forest landscape by retaining varied forest structures and encouraging attractive trees, clusters and other features such as colour, flowers and fruits.
<p>5.2.6 Lighting of fires shall be avoided and is only permitted if it is necessary for the achievement of the management goals of the forest management unit.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 3.9 Do not incinerate tree stumps and brushwood in forests, unless administrative approval is granted.</p> <p>4.1 Apply adequate measures in areas legally designated as fire risk zones (e.g.: brush clearing and pruning areas, water supply points, etc.).</p> <p>Fire is not used in France as a management technique.</p>
<p>5.2.7 Appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016:</p> <p><u>Regeneration:</u></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<p>shall be applied. The spillage of oil during forest management operations or the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be avoided, collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner.</p>		<p><i>2.4 Ensure the regular renewal of their forest, by means of natural regeneration and/or planting programmes and/or artificial sowing to ensure the quantity and quality of forest resources. Refer to existing guides prioritising local or acclimatised species...</i></p> <p><i>Use forest materials that are compliant with regulations and recommended as adapted for local use</i></p> <p><i>2.6 ... Conduct regeneration, maintenance and harvesting operations in a manner that does not reduce the forest's production capacity</i></p> <p><u>Techniques:</u></p> <p><i>5.4 During felling and works, find out and inform service providers about soil sensitivity and its conservation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>By using appropriate equipment and techniques, in particular in areas with a high risk of erosion or compaction (such as the use of cables).</i> - <i>By limiting machinery access (in particular when installing and monitoring the use of skid trail networks).</i> - <i>By considering weather conditions when organising the worksite and conducting operations (do not begin operations or stop work in the event of adverse weather conditions).</i> - <i>By taking care over haulage methods and during haulage periods (these must be specified in the sale or works contract).</i> <p><i>By leaving the felling area in a satisfactory condition so that forestry work can continue</i></p> <p><i>5.5 Inform all forestry workers of the presence of wetland areas/environments, springs, water courses, ponds and ditches to ensure their preservation when work is carried out.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Trees must be prevented from falling into or lying in these areas and any waste should be cleared out; Original run-offs should be restored if necessary; Maintain border vegetation protecting banks, opting for species that hold the banks in place; Do not cross water courses and ponds.</i> - <i>If there is no alternative but to cross water courses, and subject to administrative formalities being required, use appropriate crossing techniques and equipment (e.g.: water crossing kit).</i> <p><i>Avoid the edges of water courses when moving machinery unless this is absolutely necessary or to undertake river bank vegetation work. Use suitable equipment to minimise the impact on these environments</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p><u>Waste:</u></p> <p>5.7. <i>Keep equipment in good working order.</i></p> <p><i>Maintenance of machinery should be undertaken away from plots of forest land, and always well away from water courses, stretches of water, ditches and wetland areas.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Always have an oil spill kit available. Use biodegradable oils wherever possible</i> - <i>5.8 Recover oil (engine and hydraulic) and non-timber waste generated by forest harvesting operations.</i> - <i>Dispose of this waste without creating further damage in compliance with regulations, using the appropriate channels for recyclable waste.</i> - <i>Take steps to ensure the disposal and recovery of other waste.</i> - <i>Retain written records of these actions where these are available (e.g. receipt or deposit slip, register, waste tracking slip etc.).</i>
<p>5.2.8 The use of pesticides shall be minimised and appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures preferred.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016:</p> <p>3.7 ... <i>Prohibit the use of all plant protection products (herbicides, insecticides etc.):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>at less than 6 m from water courses and permanent stretches of water, unless more restrictive local regulations apply;</i> - <i>in the immediate vicinity and close to drinking water abstraction points;</i> - <i>or where it is likely to damage a habitat identified as exceptional</i> - <i>Prohibit the use of plant protection products on forest logs, except in cases of proven necessity</i> <p>3.8 <i>Opt for mechanical or manual clearing rather than chemical clearing.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Prioritise selective localised clearing rather than non-selective whole site clearing</i> <p>Mechanical clearance is preferred and restrictions on the use of herbicides and moderate insecticides apply</p>
<p>5.2.9 The WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016:</p> <p>3.7 ...<i>Only products approved for forest use are listed on the website of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES- Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation)</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>Conclusion: The allowed chemicals include Bromadiolone (1A) that is a rodenticide used against voles, mice and rats. Any use of the Bromadiolone in forest environment requires an order from authorities that is issued only on exceptional situation. Regulation <i>Arrêté du 14 mai 2014 relatif au contrôle des populations de campagnols nuisibles aux cultures ainsi qu'aux conditions d'emploi des produits phytopharmaceutiques contenant de la bromadiolone</i></p> <p>outline the conditions for the use of the pesticide. Forest owner/manager may not decide on the use of the pesticide in a forest environment.</p>
5.2.10 Pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivate remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.	YES	3.7 See PEFCC question 5.2.9 All chlorinated hydrocarbons are prohibited in France.
5.2.11 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment and training.	YES	3.7 The uses shall ... Hold an individual certificate for use of plant protection products (certificat individuel de produits phytopharmaceutiques – CIPP, decision-maker category) or use the services of an accredited company for the application of plant protection products, which must comply with the manufacturer's instructions for the product (in particular regarding untreated areas).
5.2.12 Where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment.	YES	3.6; Do not use fertilizers except in cases when they are known to be required, and under no circumstances near watercourses, river bank vegetation, protected areas and habitats known and identified as exceptional. Wherever possible, use effective alternatives to synthetic fertilisers Specific limits on the application of fertilization in maritime pine, poplar and walnut stands.
Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		
5.3.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016 2.6; Ensure that the quantity and quality of forest resources is maintained in the medium and long term by using techniques that minimise direct and indirect damage... Also, regional and forest management unit level planning (SRA, SRGS, PSG, RTG) address production capacity of forests.
5.3.2 Forest management planning shall aim to achieve sound economic performance considering any available market studies	YES	By Forest Code: Regional and forest management unit level planning (SRA, SRGS, PSG, RTG) address economic performance of forest management.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
and possibilities for new markets and economic activities about all relevant goods and services of forests.		<p>Regional plans outline the objectives for commercialization of products. The plans are based on regional characteristics in forestry and timber industry and trade.</p> <p>Regional plans for all forests: Article D122-1 of the forestry code; Regional plans specifically for private forests: Article D122-8 to D122-12 of the forestry code.</p> <p>The plan for private forestry (RTG) outlines sustainable production adapted to the prospects of regional economy in timber trade.</p> <p>These plans are basis for the development of FMU specific plans and this fact is referenced in PEFC/FR ST 1003-1</p> <p>FMU level plan PSG defines the management objectives at a FMU level.</p> <p>Regional plans specifically for public forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article D122-2 to D122-5 of the forestry code (state forests), Article D122-6 to D122-7 of the forestry code (communal forests)
5.3.3 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall consider the different uses or functions of the managed forest area. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support the production of commercial and non-commercial forest goods and services_	YES	<p>The different functions of forests are included in regional plans; Forest management planning at the FMU level shall comply with those plans.</p> <p>FMU level plan PSG requires consideration of ecological as well as social functions of forests. See PEFC Question 5.3.2 for links to the laws defining the content of the plans.</p>
5.3.4 Forest management practices shall maintain and improve the forest resources and encourage a diversified output of goods and services over the long term.	YES	<p>Forest management plans address timber production and game management from the production point of view. Also, production of other (unspecified) non-wood products shall be monitored (PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016 2.6)</p> <p>In addition, the Scheme has rules for sustainable cork production, that are not inter-linked with the forest management standard.</p> <p>Note the PEFC/FR ST 1003-3:2016 (Cork) standard is not part of the assessment.</p>
5.3.5 Regeneration, tending and harvesting operations shall be carried out in time, and in a way, that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016 2.6 <i>Conduct regeneration, maintenance and harvesting operations in a manner that does not reduce the forest's production capacity.</i></p> <p><i>N.B.: if this proves not to be possible or if the expected results are not obtained, the owner must seek and implement alternative solutions aimed at restoring the stand's production capacities.</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
retained stands and trees as well as to the forest soil, and by using appropriate systems.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Do not undertake forestry operations that lead to a regressive treatment regime cut compared with the initial stand.</i> - <i>Limit the levels and pace of harvesting timber and non-timber products to ensure their sustainability, taking account of soil sensitivity to all forms of disturbance – physical (compaction, erosion) and chemical (extraction of mineral and organic constituents).</i> - <i>Do not undertake clear-felling without developing a replacement stand within 5 years: clear-felling does not pose a threat to sustainable management.</i> - <i>Areas for clear-felling located in zones of high landscape sensitivity may not exceed 2 to 5ha on sloping terrain (≥ 30%) and 10 to 25ha in other instances apart from specific documented cases.</i> <p>Removal of seed trees after the emergence of viable seedling stand, is not considered as clear-felling</p>
5.3.6 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 forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016 2.6 <i>Monitor and control the harvesting of non-timber forest products, where these are the responsibility of the forest owner or manager and included within forest management.</i></p> <p>Regional plans set generic harvesting plans for private and state forests. The FMU level plan (PSG) required for FMUs with >10 ha of forests also state the sustainable harvesting levels.</p> <p>The PSG is a mandatory plan and thus set the baseline for the monitoring.</p> <p>3.9 Restriction on stump removal to avoid disturbances in soil functions</p>
5.3.7 Where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the exploitation of non-timber forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.6 <i>Monitor and control the harvesting of non-timber forest products, where these are the responsibility of the forest owner or manager and included within forest management.</i></p> <p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-3:2016 (Cork) is not within the scope of this assessment.</p>
5.3.8 Adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.7 <i>Ensure that sufficient suitable access ways and storage areas are provided so that their forest land can be managed sustainably:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>considering the potential existence of a forest access plan or other such plan;</i> - <i>minimising the environmental impact of building forest access roads, in particular on exceptional species and environments;</i> - <i>ensuring that watercourses are maintained and retain their natural function and that soils are protected</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>2.8 Make good use of forest access / timber haulage routes and storage areas, adapted and provided by the contractor and, if necessary, restore them to their original state after use.</p> <p>Regional plans require analysis and classification of infrastructure in forests and outline the general principles of low impact development.</p>
Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems		
<p>5.4.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve and enhance biodiversity on ecosystem, species and genetic levels and, where appropriate, diversity at landscape level.</p>	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 3.2 <i>Comply with requirements linked to any site protected by regulations known to the forest owner and/or contractor.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>In Natura 2000 sites in particular, take account of operating methods recommended in: target documents or charters and contracts to which the owner has signed up, or contracts entered by the owner; or appendices to regional silvicultural management schemes (SRGS – “Green appendices”).</i> - <i>Set appropriate requirements for operators and indicate the relevant areas at grassroots level.</i> - <i>Comply with regulations on protected species and areas.</i> - <i>Apply environmental requirements notified by the owner or contractor.</i> <p>3.3 <i>Consider areas of high landscape sensitivity, insofar as land divisions and the intervention area permit.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Respect exceptional sites, elevated areas and viewpoints notified by the contractor and/or forest owner.</i> - <i>Preserve and respect aspects of historic, cultural, architectural and landscape heritage known to and notified by the contractor and/or forest owner.</i> - <i>Consider the value of the forest landscape by retaining varied forest structures and encouraging attractive trees, clusters and other features such as colour, flowers and fruits.</i> <p>In addition, regional and FMU level planning require environmental assessments and safeguarding of environmental values.</p>
<p>5.4.2 Forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forest resources shall identify, protect and/or conserve ecologically important forest areas containing significant concentrations of:</p>	YES	<p>The preamble of PEFC FR ST 1003-1 requires compliance with legislation, including environmental legislation.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<p>a) protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems such as riparian areas and wetland biotopes;</p> <p>b) areas containing endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;</p> <p>c) endangered or protected genetic <i>in situ</i> resources;</p> <p>and considering</p> <p>d) globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.</p>		<p>The protected areas based on the Environment Code define the geographical areas and set up and require restrictions in forest management to maintain or enhance the protected values. Those are then compulsorily imposed on forest owners.</p> <p>Environment Code:</p> <p>Art. L-411-1 and L-411-2 of the Environment Code: Prohibitions to ensure the preservation of natural heritage, the conservation of sites of geological interest, natural habitats, non-domestic or non-crop plant species and their habitats</p> <p>Art. L-414-4 of the Environment Code: Application in the particular case of the conservation of Natura 2000 sites</p> <p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 3.2 (see PEFC question 5.4.1 address normative protection areas) and 3.1 requires consideration of all aspects identified with exceptional biodiversity (fauna, flora, habitats and associated environments)</p> <p><i>3.4 Introduce and/or maintain pockets of diversity, species, treatments and stand structures.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Develop pockets of ageing and/or dying trees.</i> <p><i>4.2 Do not remove peatland (ericaceous) soil, peat and leaf mould from forest soil for commercial purposes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Do not destroy known peaty areas</i> <p>Comment: The PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 relies in many requirements on legislation and regulations, e.g. on regional planning and environmental protection. The Scheme should clearly list the relevant laws and regulations that set the provisions that are relevant for the Scheme</p>
<p>5.4.3 Protected and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p><i>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 3.2 Comply with requirements linked to any site protected by regulations known to the forest owner and/or contractor;</i></p> <p><i>3.1. Consider, respect and encourage all aspects known and identified as of exceptional biodiversity ...</i></p> <p><i>When scheduling operations, prioritise times that will avoid damage to these species during their breeding season</i></p> <p><i>Inform service providers in writing of any aspects of biodiversity that must be preserved in forests.</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		Environment Code <i>“Art. L-411-1 of the Environment Code: Provisions to ensure non-exploitation and non-commercialization of endangered species</i> The lists of protected plant species by regions and animal species are available in internet https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/ under relevant Decrees.
5.4.4 Forest management shall ensure successful regeneration through natural regeneration or, where not appropriate, planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.4 Ensure the regular renewal of their forest, by means of natural regeneration and/or planting programmes and/or artificial sowing to ensure the quantity and quality of forest resources 2.6 Conduct regeneration, maintenance and harvesting operations in a manner that does not reduce the forest’s production capacity
5.4.5 For reforestation and afforestation, origins of native species and local provenances that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred, where appropriate. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.4 Refer to existing catalogues and guides, prioritising local or acclimatised species, suited to the forest site, and taking account of current knowledge about climate change. - Other species may be introduced providing they are listed in regional documents (SRGS, SRA/DRA) governing forest management, which are evaluated from an environmental perspective. <i>N.B.: Within the context of adapting to climate change, it is however possible to introduce and progressively pilot non-listed new species/varieties that are known or expected to be resilient to climate change, on unit areas below 5ha. These experimental introductions must be undertaken in collaboration with a competent body.</i> <u>Planting and seedling clarifications:</u> - Use forest materials that are compliant with regulations and recommended as adapted for local use. - Request and retain the certificate of origin of plants and seeds which must be provided for forest reproductive materials. <i>N.B.: The decision to renew by planting may be made not only at the level of the individual plot of land, but based on the forest area and/or forest region (See IGN classification). Forest planting must meet the geo-climatic conditions of the site in question, which influence the choice of species and its provenance.</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
5.4.6 Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.6 Do not undertake forestry operations that lead to a regressive treatment regime cut compared with the initial stand;</p> <p>Do not undertake clear-felling without developing a replacement stand within 5 years: clear-felling does not pose a threat to sustainable management</p> <p>Areas for clear-felling located in zones of high landscape sensitivity may not exceed 2 to 5ha on sloping terrain ($\geq 30\%$) and 10 to 25ha in other instances apart from specific documented cases.</p> <p>3.2. Comply with requirements linked to any site protected by regulations...</p> <p>- Appendices to regional silvicultural management schemes (Green appendices)</p> <p>3.3 Consider the value of the forest landscape by retaining varied forest structures and encouraging attractive trees, clusters and other features such as colour, flowers and fruits</p> <p>3.4 Introduce and/or maintain pockets of diversity, species, treatments and stand structures</p> <p>Environment Code set provisions of maintenance of green corridors and shelter belts (Trame verte)</p> <p>The standard promotes connectivity through established protection areas e.g., nature reserves, Natura 2000 or other restrictions imposed by regional plans and the Environment Code.</p>
5.4.7 Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 4.3 Do not use GMOs in forests
5.4.8 Forest management practices shall, where appropriate, promote a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures such as uneven-aged stands and the diversity of species such as mixed stands. Where appropriate, the practices shall also aim to maintain and restore landscape diversity.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016:</p> <p>2.5. Encourage diversity of species and/or varieties, including genetic diversity, stand structures (regular, irregular etc.) and of treatment types (irregular high forest, high forest managed by medium-sized forest unit (parquet), regular high forest, coppice with standards, simple coppice, deliberate non-intervention etc.).</p> <p>- Retain irregular areas, companion species and under-storeys without compromising target species.</p> <p>- Retain tiered forest edges, or if possible create new ones.</p> <p>- In areas with steep slopes (incline of 30% or over), opt for irregular treatments or management by individual tree or medium-sized forest unit</p> <p>3.1 Consider, respect and encourage all aspects known and identified as of exceptional biodiversity (fauna, flora, their habitats and associated environments), in particular wetland areas/environments.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>When scheduling operations, prioritise times that will avoid damage to these species during their breeding season.</i> - <i>Inform service providers in writing of any aspects of biodiversity that must be preserved in the forest.</i> <p><i>3.3 Consider the value of the forest landscape by retaining varied forest structures</i></p> <p><i>3.4 Introduce and/or maintain pockets of diversity, species, treatments and stand structures.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Develop pockets of ageing and/or dying trees</i>
<p>5.4.9 Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, on appropriate sites shall be supported, when economically feasible.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>There are no specific traditional management systems. All those are then incorporated into the management and silvicultural systems and methods (e.g. coppice). The appropriate silvicultural systems are then described in the referenced regional plans.</p>
<p>5.4.10 <u>Tending and harvesting operations</u> shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to improve or maintain biological diversity.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.6 <i>Do not undertake forestry operations that lead to a regressive treatment regime cut compared with the initial stand;</i></p> <p><i>5.4 During felling and works, find out and inform service providers about soil sensitivity and its conservation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>By using appropriate equipment and techniques, in particular in areas with a high risk of erosion or compaction (such as the use of cables).</i> - <i>By limiting machinery access (in particular when installing and monitoring the use of skid trail networks).</i> - <i>By considering weather conditions when organising the worksite and conducting operations (do not begin operations or stop work in the event of adverse weather conditions).</i> - <i>By taking care over haulage methods and during haulage periods (these must be specified in the sale or works contract).</i> - <i>By leaving the felling area in a satisfactory condition so that forestry work can continue</i> <p><i>5.5 Inform all forestry workers of the presence of wetland areas/environments, springs, water courses, ponds and ditches to ensure their preservation when work is carried out.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Trees must be prevented from falling into or lying in these areas and any waste should be cleared out.</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Original run-offs should be restored if necessary.</i> - <i>Maintain border vegetation protecting banks, opting for species that hold the banks in place.</i> - <i>Do not cross water courses and ponds.</i> - <i>If there is no alternative but to cross water courses, and subject to administrative formalities being required, use appropriate crossing techniques and equipment (e.g.: water crossing kit).</i> - <i>Avoid the edges of water courses when moving machinery unless this is absolutely necessary or to undertake river bank vegetation work. Use suitable equipment to minimise the impact on these environments.</i>
<p>5.4.11 Infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016:2.7; <i>suitable access ways and storage areas are provided so that their forest land can be managed sustainably</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>minimising the environmental impact of building forest access roads, in particular on exceptional species and environments;</i> - <i>ensuring that watercourses are maintained and retain their natural function and that soils are protected</i> <p>3.1 <i>Consider, respect and encourage all aspects known and identified as of exceptional biodiversity (fauna, flora, their habitats and associated environments), in particular wetland areas/environments.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>When scheduling operations, prioritise times that will avoid damage to these species during their breeding season.</i>
<p>5.4.12 With due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to balance the pressure of animal populations and grazing on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Regional plans address game management and hunting plans</p> <p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 4.7; <i>If the forest owner exercises their hunting rights:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Take steps to ensure a balance between forest and game, which is an essential prerequisite of sustainable forest management.</i> - <i>Report damage caused by game to the departmental prefect and/or a representative body and ensure the report is properly followed up.</i> - <i>If a forest-game imbalance persists, contact the representative bodies to find out about existing legal mechanisms to claim damage compensation and ensure an effective balance between forest and game</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		4.8 If forest owner is unable to exercise their hunting rights, report any damage that puts the sustainability of stands at risk to the departmental prefect and/or a representative body, and request an adapted hunting plan along with compensation for the reported damage
5.4.13 Standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and special rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, considering the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding ecosystems.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 3.5;</p> <p>3.4 Introduce and/or maintain pockets of diversity, species, treatments and stand structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop pockets of ageing and/or dying trees <p>By managing maintenance / staffing in accordance with the size of the property, retain old or dead trees, standing and/or fallen, ensuring compliance with forest health, safety and insurance requirements, and ensuring that safety requirements are communicated to service providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least one dead or dying tree per hectare - at least one hollow, old or very large tree per hectare; - fallen dead wood of all dimensions and all species. - <u>N.B.</u>: If they pose a risk to the safety of people or property, these may simply be felled <p>The standard setting working group and Forum concluded that two standing trees per hectare are sufficient in the context of French forest management systems.</p>
Criterion 5: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
5.5.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and enhance protective functions of forests for society, such as protection of infrastructure, protection from soil erosion, protection of water resources and from adverse impacts of water such as floods or avalanches.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016:</p> <p>5.4 During felling and works, find out and inform service providers about soil sensitivity and its conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By using appropriate equipment and techniques, in particular in areas with a high risk of erosion or compaction (such as the use of cables). - By limiting machinery access (in particular when installing and monitoring the use of skid trail networks). - By considering weather conditions when organising the worksite and conducting operations (do not begin operations or stop work in the event of adverse weather conditions).

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>By taking care over haulage methods and during haulage periods (these must be specified in the sale or works contract).</i> - <i>By leaving the felling area in a satisfactory condition so that forestry work can continue</i> <p><i>5.5 Inform all forestry workers of the presence of wetland areas/environments, springs, water courses, ponds and ditches to ensure their preservation when work is carried out.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Trees must be prevented from falling into or lying in these areas and any waste should be cleared out.</i> - <i>Original run-offs should be restored if necessary.</i> - <i>Maintain border vegetation protecting banks, opting for species that hold the banks in place.</i> - <i>Do not cross water courses and ponds.</i> - <i>If there is no alternative but to cross water courses, and subject to administrative formalities being required, use appropriate crossing techniques and equipment (e.g.: water crossing kit).</i> - <i>Avoid the edges of water courses when moving machinery unless this is absolutely necessary or to undertake river bank vegetation work. Use suitable equipment to minimise the impact on these environments.</i> <p>3.9 Stump and branch removal and methods used shall be agreed on in a contract</p>
5.5.2 Areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be registered and mapped, and forest management plans or their equivalents shall take these areas into account.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016:</p> <p><i>5.6 Identify drinking water abstraction points on the property and comply with the statutory easements on groundwater protection zones as specified by Article L1321-2 of the French Public Health Code.</i></p> <p><i>3.2 Comply with requirements linked to any site protected by regulations known to the forest owner and/or contractor.</i></p> <p>The regional plans that define such areas (register and map them).</p>
5.5.3 Special care shall be given to silvicultural operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Inappropriate techniques such as deep soil tillage and use of	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 5.4; 5.5; 5.6</p> <p>See PEFC question 5.5.1</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
unsuitable machinery shall be avoided in such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations.		4.9 <i>If the presence of livestock disrupts the silvopastoral balance, take appropriate management measures to limit grazing pressure.</i>
5.5.4 Special care shall be given to forest management practices in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 3.2, 5.5; 5.6; 5.7</p> <p>See PEFC questions 5.5.1, 5.5.2</p> <p>5.7 <i>Keep equipment in good working order.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Maintenance of machinery should be undertaken away from plots of forest land, and always well away from water courses, stretches of water, ditches and wetland areas.</i> - <i>Always have an oil spill kit available.</i> - <i>Use biodegradable oils wherever possible.</i> - <i>Identify risks associated with workstations in the workplace risk assessment document.</i> - <i>Identify and communicate to interested parties (employees and subcontractors) specific worksite risks via the site preparation sheet (fiche de chantier).</i> <p>5.9 <i>Identify risks associated with workstations in the workplace risk assessment document.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Identify and communicate to interested parties (employees and subcontractors) specific worksite risks via the site preparation sheet (fiche de chantier).</i> - <i>Take all necessary measures to ensure that forestry work is carried out under appropriate quality, health, safety and qualification standards in compliance with current regulations.</i>
5.5.5 Construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.7 <i>Ensure that sufficient suitable access ways and storage areas are provided so that their forest land can be managed sustainably:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>minimising the environmental impact of building forest access roads, in particular on exceptional species and environments;</i> - <i>ensuring that watercourses are maintained and retain their natural function and that soils are protected.</i> <p>2.8 <i>Make good use of forest access / timber haulage routes and storage areas, adapted and provided by the contractor and, if necessary, restore them to their original state after use.</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions		
<p>5.6.1 Forest management planning shall aim to respect the multiple functions of forests to society, give due regard to the role of forestry in rural development, and especially consider new opportunities for employment about the socio-economic functions of forests.</p>	YES	<p>Regional plans take into consideration the different forms of forest use and set the baseline for more detailed management plans for state and private forests.</p> <p>Due to the fragmented ownership structure in France, the issue of multiple functions and contribution to local economy shall primarily be addressed in regional planning (see also the note to 4.1 a in PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 that allows other than FMU approach). The primary role of regional plans is to consider and balance various functions of forests. Those plans are then basis for the FMU planning. This includes both environmental and social impacts assessment.</p> <p>A generic social assessment in the region is done prior to the planning.</p> <p>Regional plans for all forests: Article D122-1 of the forestry code:</p> <p>Regional plans for private forests are based on forest information and environmental assessment. The law on FMU level plans (PSG) require consideration of especially recreational use of forests in planning. Also, game management is addressed.</p> <p>Regional plans specifically for private forests: Article D122-8 to D122-12 of the forestry code, PSG</p> <p>Regional plans specifically for public forests: The articles on communal and state forests address specifically game management.</p> <p>Article D122-2 to D122-5 of the forestry code (state forests):</p> <p>The articles on communal and state forests address specifically game management.</p> <p>Article D122-6 to D122-7 of the forestry code (communal forests):</p> <p>Comment: The provisions for multiple use are stated in regional planning.</p>
<p>5.6.2 Forest management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area.</p>	YES	<p>Conclusion: The PEFC/FR ST 1003-1 makes a strong reference to the regional planning that also considers social impacts and different functions of forests.</p> <p>The French regional and group certification approach allows stakeholders to participate in the group administration (CGE) and also requires active communication towards the local stakeholders</p> <p>In addition, forestry provides work opportunities and income to local communities.</p>
<p>5.6.3 Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant forest area.</p>	YES	<p>The property rights (ownership or any usage) is strictly regulated and defined in an official cadastre.</p> <p>Article 870 of the Tax Code: the property deeds must refer to cadastre</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.		There are no customary or traditional rights on land in France that would not be defined in the cadastre. Regional planning address the multiple use of forests.
5.6.4 Forest management activities shall be conducted in recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon 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 there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such cases forest managers, shall, 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.	NA	Not applicable in France Metropolitan. France does not have populations of indigenous peoples under the UN definition.
5.6.5 Adequate public access to forests for recreation shall be provided considering respect for ownership rights and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.	YES	<i>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.9 Take account of specific visitor usage constraints and of contractual constraints notified by the contractor and/or forest owner (in addition to specific logging clauses), and put in place appropriate signage (safety, PEFC worksite, alternative route, etc.).</i>
5.6.6 Sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.	YES	<i>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 3.3 Preserve and respect aspects of historic, cultural, architectural and landscape heritage known to and notified by the contractor and/or forest owner.</i> <i>Consider the value of the forest landscape by retaining varied forest structures and encouraging attractive trees, clusters and other features such as colour, flowers and fruits.</i> The monuments and sites with heritage value are listed and protected according to the Environment Code Art. L-341-1 & L-341-2 of the Environment Code: Provisions to ensure the protection of natural monuments and sites of conservation or preservation is necessary, from an artistic point of view, historical, scientific, legendary or picturesque.
5.6.7 Forest management operations shall consider all socio-economic functions, especially the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests by maintaining for example varied forest	YES	<i>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 2.5 Encourage diversity of species and/or varieties, including genetic diversity, stand structures (regular, irregular etc.) and of treatment types (irregular high forest, high forest</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
structures, and by encouraging attractive trees, groves and other features such as colours, flowers and fruits. This shall be done, however, in a way and to an extent that does not lead to serious negative effects on forest resources, and forest land.		<p><i>managed by medium-sized forest unit (parquet), regular high forest, coppice with standards, simple coppice, deliberate non-intervention etc.).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Retain irregular areas, companion species and understoreys without compromising target species.</i> - <i>Retain tiered forest edges, or if possible create new ones.</i> - <i>In areas with steep slopes (incline of 30% or over), opt for irregular treatments or management by individual tree or medium-sized forest unit.</i> <p>2.9, 3.3 see PEFC questions 5.6.5 and 5.6.6</p> <p>In addition, the standard requires preservation of groups of old trees (3.4, 3.5),</p>
5.6.8 Forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and encouraged to keep up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this standard.	YES	<p><i>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016: 1.2 Provide training to staff in the requirements of this standard and in the quality of forestry work (particularly regarding safety)</i></p> <p><i>5.9 Identify and communicate to interested parties (employees and subcontractors) specific worksite risks via the site preparation sheet.</i></p> <p><i>Take all necessary measures to ensure that forestry work is carried out under appropriate quality, health, safety and qualification standards in compliance with current regulations.</i></p> <p>PEFC/FR ST 1002 2016: 6.1.7 group manager is responsible to provide training on standard requirements to group members...</p>
5.6.9 Forest management practices shall make the best use of local forest-related experience and knowledge, such as those of local communities, forest owners, NGOs and local people.	YES	<p>The original local knowledge on forestry practices has been integrated into the management systems applied in France. The appropriate management systems are then described in the regional plans.</p> <p>Furthermore, the “commission régionale de la forêt et du bois” (regional commission of the forest and wood) is consulted for the redaction of regional plans as required by the Forest Code.</p> <p>PEFC/FR ST 1002 2016. 6.1.6.3. <i>The group manager (Certification Gateway Entity) must communicate and consult with the interested parties on the issue of sustainable forest management.</i></p> <p><i>PEFC FR ST 1002 2016</i></p> <p><i>5.1.2.2 The RCGE must be established based on the composition of PEFC France in three colleges (college or producers, college of processors, college of forest users). Its articles of association shall</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p><i>comply with the general provisions of the articles of association of PEFC France notably about the principle of seeking a consensus and consider the specific features of the region or regions concerned.</i></p> <p><i>5.1.2.3 At the beginning of each certification cycle the RCGE must consist at least of regional representatives who have been duly appointed by the national members of PEFC France and any other interested party co-opted by the RCGE. If a national member fails to respond or gives a negative response, the RCGE must seek to appoint a relevant local structure about the college concerned.</i></p> <p>Conclusion: The group certification standard (PEFC FR ST 1002 2016) allows access of regional interest groups to be members in CGE. Also, statutory regional stakeholder commissions comments regional forest management plans. These measures contribute to consideration of local experience and knowledge in forest management.</p>
<p>5.6.10 Forest management shall provide for effective communication and consultation with local people and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management and shall provide appropriate mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management between forest operators and local people.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1002 2016. 6.1.6.3 see PEFC question 5.6.9.</p> <p>The <u>sustainable forest guarantee</u> defined by the law integrate this obligation of consultation, communication and appropriate mechanism for resolving complaints and disputes.</p> <p>Forest management plans must comply with the regional forest Guidelines [...]. These guidelines are provided by the Regional Commissions of the forest and forest products, which include representatives of local authorities, devolved government departments, public institutions interested, professional organizations, associations for the protection of the environment, of forest users and groups that qualified individuals.</p> <p>These guidelines are translated into the regional planning guidelines [...] and regional development schemes for public forests, and regional forest management schemes [...] for private forests. These documents are the basis on which made the forest management plans.</p> <p>Art. L 122-1 & Art. L 113-2 of the Forestry Code</p>
<p>5.6.11 Forestry work shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PEFC FR ST 1003-1, Preamble requires compliance with legislation including legislation relating to the occupational health and safety.</p> <p>French forestry workers are protected by the MSA (mutualité sociale agricole: agricultural mutual). This mutual have in all regions a health and safety service in work.</p> <p>Art. L.163-18 of the forestry code provides that forest stakeholders must be qualified with requirements of hygiene, safety and training</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>In forest, as in all activities, French forestry workers are protected by the work code, which is the minimal protection. Furthermore, forestry workers of ONF (public forests) have a collective convention.</p> <p><i>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016</i></p> <p>5.9 see PEFC question 5.6.8</p> <p><i>1.2 Provide training to staff in the requirements of this standard and in the quality of forestry work (particularly regarding safety).</i></p> <p>4.1 requires identification of risk zones</p>
5.6.12 Working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations.	YES	<i>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016</i> 5.9 see PEFC question 5.6.8
5.6.13 Forest management shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.	YES	<p>Compliance with ILO conventions is guaranteed by the French legislation in Metropolitan France. The standard requires compliance with the French legislation.</p> <p>Comment: France has ratified all the ILO Conventions listed by the PEFC Council apart from the Convention of Indigenous people (ILO 169) and health and safety at work (ILO 155). Thus, the core requirements of the most Conventions are integrated into national legislation.</p> <p>The standard should however, either list the key laws that address the fundamental ILO Conventions or at least the key Conventions. Currently the standard does not communicate to forest owner/manager, the scope of requirement certified forest management shall comply with.</p>
5.6.14 Forest management shall be based inter-alia on the results of scientific research. Forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.	YES	<p><i>PEFC/FR ST 1003-1:2016</i></p> <p>4.6 Forest experiments are encouraged providing they do not compromise management goals. They must be performed under the direction of a competent body</p>
Criterion 7: Compliance with legal requirements		
5.7.1 Forest management shall comply with legislation applicable to forest management issues including forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered	YES	<p>Comment: France has legislation covering the listed issues and in earlier more specific PEFC requirements evidence on compliance is provided with appropriate legislation. The standard should however, either list the key laws that address the listed issues. Currently the standard does not</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous people; health, labour and safety issues; and the payment of royalties and taxes.		explicitly communicate to forest owner/manager, the scope of requirement certified forest management shall comply with.
5.7.2 Forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	YES	The standard does not require any special actions to prevent unauthorised activities. It relies on standard law enforcement that in general is well organised in France. The standard for French Guiana requires measures to prevent unauthorised activities.

PART IV: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for certification and accreditation procedures (Annex 6)

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Comment
Certification Bodies				
1.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification shall be carried out by impartial, independent third parties that cannot be involved in the standard setting process as governing or decision making body, or in the forest management and are independent of the certified entity?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<p><i>PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 4.1 The certifying organisation must comply with the ISO / IEC 17021-1 standard: 2015 and the IAF (International Accreditation Forum) documents relating to the application of the ISO 17021-1 standard: 2015</i></p> <p><i>Appendix 1 The certifying organisations carrying out the audit and certification of sustainable forest management based on the French PEFC forest certification scheme must possess valid accreditation...</i></p> <p>PEFC FR AD 4001 states that PEFC France is the standardisation body, so CB can be neither governing nor decision making body. CB's independence of the certified entity is required by ISO 17021-1.</p>
2.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 4.1 see PEFC question 1
3.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest certification shall have the technical competence in forest management on its economic, social and environmental impacts, and on the forest certification criteria?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 6.1 – 6.5 set detailed technical requirements for auditors and 7 requires forestry related competence from staff members that made the decision on issuance of a certificate.
4.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have a good understanding of the national PEFC system against which they carry out forest management certification?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 6.3 require knowledge on the scheme and standards PEFC/FR ST 1003 and PEFC/FR 1002.</p> <p>Standard PEFC/FR ST 2001 is also part of the audit.</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Comment
5.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies have the responsibility to use competent auditors and who have adequate technical know-how on the certification process and issues related to forest management certification?	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 6 sets comprehensive requirements for auditors
6.	Does the scheme documentation require that the auditors must fulfil the general criteria of ISO 19011 for Quality Management Systems auditors or for Environmental Management Systems auditors?	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 6.3.a) requires that auditors make appropriate use of the principles, procedures and methods defined in the ISO 19011 standard.
7.	Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management audits? [1]	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 6.1 – 6.5 require Competence in forestry sector and its ecological, social and commercial aspects Auditors have participated in training (every three years) on regional and group certification Knowledge on national Scheme and forestry sector in France Adequate academic degree and experience. Also, ISO 14001 auditor qualification is required The team must have expertise on all relevant aspects of SFM (listed)
Certification procedures				
8.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management certification?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 4.1 requires compliance with ISO 17021-1 that requires internal procedures
9.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification procedures for forest management certification shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 4– see PEFC question 8.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Comment
10.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 6.3.a) requires that auditors make appropriate use of the principles, procedures and methods defined in the ISO 19011 standard In practice the ISO 17021 defines the audit procedures. ISO 19011 being a guiding standard. PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 9 sets additional requirements for the audit process
11.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest management certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 8.2 <i>The certifying organisation must inform the customer that he is required to provide information to PEFC France and other relevant organisations. To comply with the ISO / CEI 17021-1 standard: 2015, chapter 8.4, the certifying organisation must obtain the written agreement of the customer to disclose information to PEFC France or any other relevant organisation. This information is provided in PEFC/FR AD 3005: 2016, Notification procedure for organisations involved in the auditing and certification of sustainable forest management.</i> <i>PEFC/FR ST 4005:2016</i> <i>Article 3.3 CERTIFICATION BODY'S> responsibilities in relation to its PEFC authorization</i> <i>Immediately inform PEFC FRANCE about any PEFC sustainable forest management certificates issued in France or any changes to existing certificates</i>
12.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall carry out controls of PEFC logo usage if the certified entity is a PEFC logo user?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<i>PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016</i> <i>9.2.1 The audit programme must identify the audit activities required to demonstrate the compliance of the customer's organisation with the following requirements of the French PEFC forest certification scheme</i> <i>c) The requirements for the use of the PEFC trademark (PEFC/FR ST 2001: 2008).</i>
13.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<i>PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 9.3.4 There must be a time gap of 12 months between two supervisory audits</i>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Comment
				<i>The revision cycle for the French forest certification scheme corresponds to 5 years.</i>
14.	Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for forest management certifications?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 9.3.4 <i>Renewal audits are carried out every 3 years.</i>
15.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 8.3 <i>The certifying organisation must publicise a summary of the certification report, including a summary of the conclusions on the compliance by the customer with the requirements of the French PEFC forest certification scheme.</i> It is the CB's responsibility to make the report publicly available and to choose the most appropriate means. The content of publicly available information is listed in PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 8.4
16.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 9.2.5 <i>During the audit, the certifying organisation must examine all the relevant information provided by third parties, such as governmental organisations, NGOs, etc. which it has received and use it as audit evidence for the determination of compliance with the requirements.</i>
17.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures? [*1]	Annex 6, 4	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 9 set requirements for application, standards used in the audit, assessment of group entities and participants, and also gives guidance on audit times in different size of group entities.
Accreditation procedures				
18.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest management certification shall be accredited by a national accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 4.2 and Appendix 1 <i>The certifying organisations carrying out the audit and certification of sustainable forest management based on the French PEFC forest certification scheme must possess valid accreditation issued by the COFRAC (French accreditation committee) or any other member accreditation organisation of the EA (European Accreditation) or the IAF (International Accreditation Forum) in accordance with the ISO 17011 standard: 2004.</i> PEFC/FR ST 4005:2016

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Comment
				<p><i>Article 3.1 CERTIFICATION BODY'S> responsibilities in relation to its PEFC authorization</i></p> <p><i>Obtain and retain valid accreditation in compliance with Appendix 6 of the PEFC Council's technical documentation and immediately inform PEFC FRANCE about any changes to this accreditation. <CERTIFICATION BODY> provides proof of its valid accreditation at the start of each year and each time requested to do so by PEFC FRANCE.</i></p>
19.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, 8.1. <i>The certification document must include the following elements: g) the logo of the accreditation organisation (this logo must be used according to the rules in force within the accreditation organisation);</i>
20.	Does the scheme documentation require that the accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body which is a part of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella or a member of IAF's special recognition regional groups and which implement procedures described in ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above-mentioned organisations?	Annex 6, 5	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 appendix 1 - see PEFC question 18. PEFC/FR ST 4005:2016, Article 3.1 – see PEFC question 18.
21.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management certification as "accredited certification" based on ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65 and the relevant forest management standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?	Annex 6, 5	YES	PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016 appendix 1 - see PEFC question 18. PEFC/FR ST 4005:2016, Article 3.1 – see PEFC question 18.
22.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 4005:2016 sets the requirements for notification</p> <p>Article 3 <CERTIFICATION BODY'S> responsibilities in relation to its PEFC authorization</p> <p><i>PEFC/FR ST 1004:2016, Appendix 2. The certifying organisations conducting the audit and certification of sustainable forest management based on the French PEFC forest certification scheme must be notified by PEFC France.</i></p> <p>Article 6 Contract Term, Notification is valid for five years</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Comment
				<p>Similar procedures for chain of custody certification are stated in PEFC/FR AD 4004:2016 on <i>Chain of Custody Certification and Audit Body Authorization Procedure</i>.</p> <p>Comment: The standard PEFC/FR ST 1004 refers to notification standard number 3005 that is not part of the submitted Scheme documentation.</p>
23.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 4005:2016 The notification procedures are non-discriminatory. The accreditation and additional competence requirements are reasonable for certification bodies.</p> <p>PEFC France does not charge any fee for the notification.</p>

Part V: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for system specific Chain of custody standards – COMPLIANCE WITH PEFC ST PEFC 2002:2013 –

PEFC France has adopted the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard

Part VI: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for scheme administration requirements

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
PEFC Notification of certification bodies				
1.	<p>Are procedures for the notification of certification bodies in place, which comply with chapter 5 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme</i>?</p> <p>Quote: PEFC GD 1004:2009 PEFC notification of certification bodies 5.1 <i>The notifying body shall have written procedures for the PEFC notification which ensure that:</i></p> <p><i>a) the PEFC notified certification body is meeting the PEFC Council's and PEFC endorsed scheme's requirements for certification bodies,</i></p> <p><i>b) the scope of the PEFC notification, i.e. type of certification (forest management or chain of custody certification), certification standards and the country covered by the notification, is clearly defined,</i></p> <p><i>c) the PEFC notification may be terminated by the notifying body in the case of the certification body's non-adherence to the conditions of the PEFC notification or in the case of the cancellation of the contract between the PEFC Council and the authorized body,</i></p> <p><i>d) the PEFC notification is based on a written contract between the notifying body and the PEFC notified certification body</i></p> <p><i>,e) the PEFC notified certification body provides the notifying body with information on certified entities as required by the PEFC Registration System,</i></p>	Chapter 5	YES	<p>PEFC_FR AD 4005:2016 describes the notification procedures for certification bodies doing forest management certification. PEFC France implements the procedures.</p> <p>The procedures comply with the requirements of the PEFC and PEFC France Scheme.</p> <p>PEFC/FR AD 4004: 2016 describes Chain of Custody certification and audit body authorization procedure</p> <p>Both contracting parties have the right to terminate the contract.</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
	<p><i>f) the PEFC notification does not include any discriminatory measures, such as the certification body's country of origin, affiliation to an association, etc.</i></p> <p><i>5.2 The notifying body may charge a fee for the PEFC notification. The authorized body shall inform the PEFC Council about the level of its PEFC notification fees, when requested.</i></p>			
PEFC Logo usage licensing				
2.	<p>Are procedures for the issuance of PEFC Logo usage licenses in place, which comply with chapter 6 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PEFC Logo usage license shall be issued to an individual legal entity based on the requirements of PEFC ST 2001:2008. - ...may issue a PEFC Logo usage multi-license to a holder of a multi-site chain of custody certificate... - The licensing body shall have written procedures for the PEFC Logo licensing - The licensing body shall have a mechanism for the investigation and enforcement of the compliance with PEFC Logo usage rules (PEFC ST 2001:2008) 	Chapter 6	YES	<p>PEFC/FR ST 2001:2008 equals PEFC ST 2001:2008 Logo usage rules (amended by PEFC in 2010). PEFC France makes logo licence contracts with CGEs (group manager) (PEFC FR AD 4006 2016), companies (PEFC FR AD 4007 2016), distributors (PEFC FR AD 4008 2016) and Category D user (PEFC_FR AD 4009 2016).</p> <p>PEFC AD 4006 allows the CGE, as another organisation (see PEFC ST 2001:2008 6.1) to share the PEFC Logo license with forest owners participating in the respective group/regional certification and that are represented and controlled by the CGE.</p> <p>CGE is responsible to <i>Protect and defend the PEFC trademark and logo throughout France against any counterfeit usage or any usage which does not comply with the usage rules or generally any usage which would be detrimental and take the necessary measures in this respect, including legal recourse if required</i></p>
Complaints and dispute procedures				
3.	<p>Are complaint and dispute procedures in place, which comply with chapter 8 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme</i>?</p> <p>Quote: <i>1 The PEFC Council and the authorized bodies shall have written procedures for dealing with complaints relating to the governance and administration of the PEFC scheme. 8.2 Upon receipt of the complaint, the procedures shall provide for:</i></p>	Chapter 8	YES	<p>PEFC_FR AD 4003 2016 on procedures for dealing with complaints and appeals define the grievance procedures.</p> <p>1 Scope – the procedures is limited to deal with the complaints related PEFC France's, their members' decisions and non-compliances with the PEFC France requirements.</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
	<p><i>a) acknowledgement of the complaint to the complainant, b) gathering and verification of all necessary information, validation and impartial evaluation of the complaint, and decision making on the complaint, c) formal communication of the decision on the complaint and the complaint handling process to the complainant and concerned parties</i></p>			<p>Group certification related complaints should be addressed by certification bodies</p> <p><i>3.1.1 Complaints and appeals must be reviewed and handled, and any investigative work required to take a decision, must be conducted in an independent, neutral and impartial manner.</i> Impartiality is emphasized in all investigations on complaints.</p> <p>3.2.1 PEFC France Secretariat receives the complaints and informs the complainant</p> <p>3.2.3.1.1 – 3 PEFC France executive committee handles simple complaints not requiring additional investigation</p> <p>3.2.3.2.1 Executive Committee may request additional information or evidence. It must come to conclusion within 6 months.</p> <p>The Committee decides on the complaint.</p> <p>Appeals are also registered and reviewed by the PEFC France Board. Board may also carry out additional investigations if it deems it necessary.</p>



Indufor ...forest intelligence

Appendix 2

Indufor Assessment of the Revised Forest Management Standard for French Guiana

Indufor Assessment of the Revised French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme against the PEFC Council Requirements

PEFC Standard and System Requirement Checklist (PEFC IGD 1007-01:2012) for the PEFC Council Re-endorsement in 2016

Conformity assessment of the Sustainable Forest Management Rules – Requirements for French Guiana (PEFC/FR ST 1003-2:2016 with the PEFC ST 1003:2010)

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Purpose:

- The assessment presented in this Appendix 1 reviews the compliance of the French PEFC System with all PEFC Council requirements for endorsed forest certification schemes.

Explanations:

- The conclusion on conformity with the PEFC requirements is presented in the column YES/NO. YES is indication for a full conformity and NO indicates that the evidence provided by the applicant is not adequate to make a conclusion on a full conformity.
- Justification for the conclusion on conformity is provided under the column “Comment” in a form of an extract from a scheme document (*in italic*) and/or in an assessor's explanation.

Part I: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for standard setting (PEFC ST 1001:2010)

PEFC France has not provided any information on the standard revision process in the French Guiana. The standard was approved by the Forum and the Board and General Assembly of PEFC France along with the standard for the Metropolitan France.

Part III: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (PEFC ST 1003:2010)

Note: In the document below, all references to scheme documentation are in the PEFC/FR ST 1003-2: 2016;

“Charte de l’exploitation forestière à faible impact en Guiana (identified as “Charte”) is referred to when relevant. The Charte creates an integral part of the standard as it is included in the Normative references and compliance with it is required by PEFC/FR ST 1003-2, ch. 3.1, its content (requirements) are therefore mandatory for the purposes of PEFC forest certification.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
General requirements for SFM standards		
4.1 The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall		
a) include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the forest management unit level, or at another level as appropriate, to ensure that the intent of all requirements is achieved at the forest management unit level.	YES	The standard includes both management system and performance requirements.
b) be clear, objective-based and auditable.	YES	The standard has principles, criteria and indicators. Indicators are auditable and measurable quantitatively or qualitatively. Some criteria are descriptive and not readily auditable but with the indicators they establish auditable requirements.
c) apply to activities of all operators in the defined forest area who have a measurable impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.	YES	The standard sets requirements for forest administration, managers and operators
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.	YES	Under the scope of standard implementation: <i>1.3 Managers are responsible for keeping sustainable forest management records and ensuring compliance with the requirements of this document</i>
Specific requirements for SFM standards		
Criterion 1: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle		
5.1.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain or increase forests and other wooded areas and enhance the quality of the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water. This shall be done by making full use of related services and tools that support land-use planning and nature conservation.	YES	<i>2.2.2 Sustainable management objectives are set for each forest management unit... overall objectives of sustained output, which is compatible with the lowest possible impact on the environment</i> and 2.5), Principal 3 (in particular 3.1), Principal 5 and 6.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>5.1.2 Forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management operations. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement to minimise or avoid negative impacts.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>2.4.1. Inventories supported by detailed maps are provided along with the management plans for each forest management unit</p> <p>2.5.2. Management inventories seek to pinpoint key zones known to be important for biodiversity within production forest units...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - zones adjacent to total protection areas; - zones containing rare or endangered species of high endemic value or exceptionally rich in heritage species; - zones characterised by exceptional geological or geomorphological features that are not adequately represented in the total protection areas; - water courses and wetland areas along with corresponding buffer zones; - zones containing types of forest that are not represented in the total protection areas; - zones containing biological diversity of social, cultural or medicinal interest; - zones containing habitats frequented by migratory species <p>2.2.1. The manager has access to the forest management planning department</p> <p>2.5.1. Management plans guarantee compliance with environmental standards within operations in the field</p> <p>2.6.1. Situations requiring environmental impact assessments (impact studies) are specified</p> <p>2.6.2. There is an appropriate procedure and resources for the impact studies, with qualified staff to undertake them</p> <p>2.7.1. The requirements contained in the management planning document are known to all stakeholders.</p> <p>2.7.2. Development work is implemented after approval by the manager and local authorities</p> <p>3.6.1. A database is in place, enabling harvesting areas and volumes to be monitored, so that action plans can be updated and adjustments made to resources allocated by the state and local authorities</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
5.1.3 Inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the topics described in this document.	YES	2.4.1, 2.5.2 see PEFCC requirement 5.1.2 3.1.2. <i>The results of preliminary inventories are regularly logged within computer systems, centrally stored and made available to timber purchasers</i>
5.1.4 Management plans or their equivalents, appropriate to the size and use of the forest area, shall be elaborated and periodically updated. They shall be based on legislation as well as existing land-use plans, and adequately cover the forest resources.	YES	2.2.2, 2.7.1, 2.5.1 see PEFCC requirement 5.1.2 Charte, page 6 (five years operational planning),
5.1.5 Management plans or their equivalents shall include at least a description of the current condition of the forest management unit, long-term objectives; and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification and, where relevant, the annually allowable exploitation of non-timber forest products.	YES	2.3.1. <i>The silvicultural system chosen is intended to guarantee a sustained, economically durable output, enabling reinvestment in the present and the future while respecting the objectives of minimising the impact of operations on the environment</i> 2.4. <i>Management plans must as a minimum requirement include the components listed below:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of existing forest environments; - designation of areas for potential mining and quarrying operations; - designation of areas where felling is to be excluded; * the route of forest paths; - methods used for marking, felling and producing post-felling inventories; - silvicultural treatments 2.2.2, 2.3.4 see PEFCC requirement 5.1.2 Charte, page 17-20, inventory and estimate of exploitable timber
5.1.6 A summary of the forest management plan or its equivalent appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, which contains information about the forest management measures to be applied, is publicly available. The summary may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by national legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.	YES	2.7.1. <i>The requirements contained in the management planning document are known to all stakeholders.</i> 2.7.2. <i>Development work is implemented after approval by the manager and local authorities.</i> 3.1. <i>Harvesting is carried out in compliance with the Regional Forest Development Programme, management planning documents and the Reduced Impact Logging Specifications (Charte de l'exploitation à faible impact) for French Guiana</i> Requires compliance with regional plan that is made public.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
5.1.7 Monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.	YES	<p>4.2.1. At regional level, there is a network of mechanisms for the study of forest ecology, which is evaluated and analysed on a regular basis</p> <p>4.2.3. The compatibility of management practices with silvicultural systems is evaluated on the basis of regeneration surveys and studies into post-felling stand treatment requirements.</p> <p>Charte: regular inventory 1-2 years prior to harvesting activities, three stages planning process (page 6), DIAM (page 6). Reference to the Regional plan – PRMV (page 6)</p>
5.1.8 Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	YES	<p>1.1.4. There is a national agency capable of managing the state forest estate and supporting the management of forests under local authority, private or customary ownership in accordance with the objectives set out in the national forestry policy</p> <p>1.1.5. The national agency responsible for forests and managers of protected areas are supported by adequate human and financial resources to be able to effectively support integrated diversity conservation, involving both total protection zones and production forests</p> <p>Charte: includes specific responsibilities for specific management activities</p> <p>The PEFC/FR ST 1002:2016 defines responsibility of the CGE (group certification) and participants</p>
5.1.9 Forest management practices shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.	YES	<p>2.3.2. The size of management units in production forests is determined by the felling cycle, average volume extracted per hectare and annual timber production target</p> <p>2.3.3. The rotation time between two cuts – based on growth rates, minimum cutting diameters, data on the ecological dynamic within permanent experimental plot systems and the minimum number of stems to be harvested per hectare – is compatible with adequate and sustainable production meeting the sector's timber requirements</p> <p>3.5. The impact of harvesting operations on water, soils and terrain is minimised</p> <p>Charte: p. 13-16 describes methods for exploitable timber and inventory, the whole document describes methods for minimisation of impacts.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
5.1.10 Appropriate silvicultural measures shall be taken to maintain or reach a level of the growing stock that is economically, ecologically and socially desirable.	YES	2.3.3 See PEFC requirement 5.1.9 Charte: p 13-16 (describes inventory methods and definition of exploitable timber.
<p>5.1.11 Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation relevant for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with materially and directly interested persons and organisations; and</p> <p>b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and</p> <p>c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and</p> <p>d) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.</p>	NO	<p>1 Scope: 1.2 <i>The requirements of this document may be implemented throughout the French Guianese forest; however, strictly speaking, PEFC sustainable forest management certification is only applicable to the permanent forest estate (PFE), excluding the area flooded by the Petit-Saut dam.</i></p> <p>Permanent Forest Estate - PFE: Decree number 2008-667 published on 2 July 2008 stipulated the area of State land for forestation and forests in Guiana covered by forest regulations. This decree supplements order 2005-867 published on 28 July 2005, which implements the Forest Code in Guiana. These geographically defined areas are grouped together under the common name of Permanent Forest Estate which, from a regulatory standpoint, refers to the area being strictly forest-orientated.</p> <p>In the Permanent Forest Estate the Forest Code applies and it cannot be converted within the given timeframe. Transitional conversions can take place on time but within frameworks established by the Act (Mining Code, Environment Code and Forestry Code). All measures must be taken then to recover the state forest: rehabilitation and reforestation. In forest management all legal mining-related measures are listed in the regional plan DRA.</p> <p><i>Criteria 1.2.3 and 1.2.4 specify that land categories under PFE shall be preserved. Forest management and harvesting is allowed on some land use categories under PFE.</i></p> <p>1.2.5. <i>Land set aside for conversion to other uses (agriculture, mining etc.), is retained under forest management until the need for clearing is confirmed, as is land whose end use is uncertain</i></p> <p>2.4. <i>Management plans must as a minimum requirement include the components listed below:</i></p> <p>- <i>designation of areas for potential mining and quarrying operations;</i></p> <p>5.4.1. <i>Specifications for good mining practice have been established, including measures to ensure site restoration after mining</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Regarding the wood from deforestation in these areas, it can only be used for the needs of the mine (camp construction etc ...) and can under no circumstances be sold. We are very vigilant on this point.</p> <p>Permanent forest estates do not have permanent communities or inhabitants. The risk for social conflicts related to transfer of forest use from forestry e.g. to mining is considered low by the applicant.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>The certified status applies to permanent forest estate over the time the land areas is allocated as PFE. When regional planning allows the change of land use e.g. for mining, the transitional conversion may take place according to policies and regulations in place.</p> <p>The standard requires actions to prevent illegal mining. In summary the standard does not convince that conversion in PFEs is done only in a small scale and does not threaten the biological values.</p>
5.1.12 Conversion of abandoned agricultural and treeless land into forest land shall be taken into consideration, whenever it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value.	YES	Not relevant in French Guiana
Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality		
5.2.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and to rehabilitate degraded forest ecosystems, whenever this is possible by silvicultural means.	YES	<p>3.1.5. <i>Felling operations are part of the silvicultural system. They are properly planned and implemented and help to create conditions that foster continued growth and successful regeneration</i></p> <p>3.2. <i>Within managed forests, the main ecological functions of the forest are maintained and its heritage is preserved</i></p> <p><i>Charte: describes management silvicultural methods based on single species selection and harvesting.</i></p> <p><i>The health and vitality of forests is guaranteed within the Guianese conditions, by a single species selection methods and by minimising impacts of exploitation operations on the environment.</i></p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>The selective harvesting certainly maintains ecosystem's capacity to resist health risks. No other relevant risk, including fire risk, is deemed significant. -</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>5.2.2 Health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.</p>	YES	<p>PEFC FR ST 1003-2</p> <p>4.2. Sustainable management is based on the “dynamic” acquisition of ecological knowledge.</p> <p>4.2.1. At regional level, there is a network of mechanisms for the study of forest ecology, which is evaluated and analysed on a regular basis.</p> <p>Under the current climate, the risks of natural fires is limited.</p> <p>In addition the forests in French Guiana are subject to several monitoring projects (e.g. Guyafor) that provide information on the condition of forests to regional administration responsible for forest management in the PFEs.</p>
<p>5.2.3 The monitoring and maintaining of health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall take into consideration the effects of naturally occurring fire, pests and other disturbances.</p>	YES	<p>See PEFC requirement 5.2.2 above</p>
<p>5.2.4 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation of and damages to forest ecosystems. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support these activities.</p>	YES	<p>2.4. Management plans must as a minimum requirement include the components listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of existing forest environments; - designation of areas for potential mining and quarrying operations; - designation of areas where felling is to be excluded; * the route of forest paths; - methods used for marking, felling and producing post-felling inventories; - silvicultural treatments <p>3.1.7. The technical directory outlining low-impact harvesting methods applicable to tropical rainforests in French Guiana is updated on a regular basis</p> <p>3.2.2. There are systems in place for the identification and protection of habitats and the species they contain.</p> <p>3.2.7. Procedures have been established to prevent the introduction of potentially invasive exotic animals</p> <p>5.5. Procedures are implemented to minimise the impact of forest operations on fauna</p> <p>5.4.1. Specifications for good mining practice have been established, including measures to ensure site restoration after mining</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<i>Charte: the whole document focused on reduction of negative impacts, chapter 1: references to regional plans and instruments (DIAM, DIMA).</i>
5.2.5 Forest management practices shall make best use of natural structures and processes and use preventive biological measures wherever and as far as economically feasible to maintain and enhance the health and vitality of forests. Adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged and/or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resistance capacity of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.	YES	<p>2.3.1. <i>The silvicultural system chosen is intended to guarantee a sustained, economically durable output, enabling reinvestment in the present and the future while respecting the objectives of minimising the impact of operations on the environment</i></p> <p>3.2. <i>Within managed forests, the main ecological functions of the forest are maintained and its heritage is preserved</i></p> <p>3.3.2. <i>Within the network of managed forests, efforts are made to maintain continuity of protection series.</i></p> <p>4.2.2. <i>The dynamics and vulnerability of populations of the main species harvested are studied.</i></p> <p>4.2.3. <i>The compatibility of management practices with silvicultural systems is evaluated on the basis of regeneration surveys and studies into post-felling stand treatment requirements.</i></p> <p>Charte: management based on single selection of trees that ensures natural structure and processes of forest to continue (chapter 1 and the rest of the document)</p>
5.2.6 Lighting of fires shall be avoided and is only permitted if it is necessary for the achievement of the management goals of the forest management unit.	YES	The requirements are based on single selection of harvesting species. The method itself does not allow usage of fire within the management.
5.2.7 Appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied. The spillage of oil during forest management operations or the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be avoided, collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner.	YES	<p>3.1.6. <i>Comprehensive technical specifications are made available to forest operators and play a role in enhancing the development of the resource, stipulating in particular:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>zones in which cutting is subject to particular restrictions (flora and fauna conservation zones, soil protection areas, buffer areas, sites of cultural interest);</i> - <i>regulations to be observed for construction of timber haulage routes, water course tracks and log dumps (including drainage) and subsequent restoration of the site;</i> - <i>restrictions on timber haulage and transport operations during rainy periods;</i> - <i>authorised extraction equipment;</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - responsibilities of machine operators (controlled felling, up-to-date training, etc.); - conditions for the marking of trees for conservation or extraction <p>3.1.7. The technical directory outlining low-impact harvesting methods applicable to tropical rainforests in French Guiana is updated on a regular basis</p> <p>3.5. The impact of harvesting operations on water, soils and terrain is minimised</p> <p>3.6. Operations are carried out after cutting to evaluate any damage caused to the forest stand</p> <p>3.5.1. Haulage often involves the use of heavy machinery. Appropriate precautions are taken to reduce any potential damage (no timber haulage by bulldozers, use of low-pressure tyres for skidders, seasonal haulage work).</p> <p>5.4.4. Instructions on handling and storing chemicals and used oils specified in the French Environmental Code are respected, along with specific restrictions in zones close to water courses and other sensitive sites</p> <p>The waste has been collected in the forest on logging areas and inventories. In the past, there was no sort for sorting that had not been established but it has been done since last year. The charter has evolved on this subject also suggesting biodegradable oil for chainsaws and absorption kits in case of leakage</p>
5.2.8 The use of pesticides shall be minimised and appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures preferred.	YES	3.7. The use of pesticides and other chemicals is kept to a minimum in all silvicultural treatments and the manufacturer's instructions for the use of each product are strictly observed
5.2.9 The WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.	YES	<p>PEFC French Guiana claim that pesticides are not used in management of natural forests in PFEs.</p> <p>The French legislation on chemical use apply prohibiting the use of WHO 1A or 1B classified pesticides with the decision of forest manager. Bromadiolone (1A) may be used against voles, rats, mice only at the order of an authority (in special cases). Arrêté of the 14th May 2014.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
5.2.10 Pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.	YES	Chlorinated hydrocarbons are prohibited in France
5.2.11 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment and training.	YES	<p>5.4.4. <i>Instructions on handling and storing chemicals and used oils specified in the French Environmental Code are respected, along with specific restrictions in zones close to water courses and other sensitive sites</i></p> <p>Charte includes a chapter on the health and safety of forest workers. Health and safety is also addressed in statutory risks evaluations carried out by each company (Document unique d'évaluation des risques - DUER)..</p>
5.2.12 Where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment.	N.A.	Fertilizers are not used
Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		
5.3.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.	YES	<p>2.3.1. <i>The silvicultural system chosen is intended to guarantee a sustained, economically durable output, enabling reinvestment in the present and the future while respecting the objectives of minimising the impact of operations on the environment.</i></p> <p>2.5.2. <i>Management inventories seek to pinpoint key zones known to be important for biodiversity within production forest units: ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>zones containing biological diversity of social, cultural or medicinal interest;</i> <i>zones containing habitats frequented by migratory species</i> <p>5.1. <i>Within the managed forest, harvesting of forest products other than lumber and industrial wood (non-timber forest products) is carried out on a sustainable basis, in cooperation with the main stakeholders.</i></p>
5.3.2 Forest management planning shall aim to achieve sound economic performance taking into account any available market studies and possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.	YES	<p>3.1. <i>Harvesting is carried out in compliance with the Regional Forest Development Programme, management planning documents and the Reduced Impact Logging Specifications (Charte de l'exploitation à faible impact) for French Guiana</i></p> <p>6.8.1, 6.8.2, 6.8.7 <i>require active consideration of markets and economic viability of forest operations and their allocation to maintain the production capacity and biodiversity in forests.</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<i>Principle 4 requires consideration of research results in forestry.</i>
5.3.3 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support the production of commercial and non-commercial forest goods and services.	YES	<p>1.2.4 Requires recognition of different categories of forest lands in PFE and adaptation of planning to the biological and social context.</p> <p>2.5.2. Management inventories seek to pinpoint key zones known to be important for biodiversity within production forest units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - zones adjacent to total protection areas; - zones containing rare or endangered species of high endemic value or exceptionally rich in heritage species; - zones characterised by exceptional geological or geomorphological features that are not adequately represented in the total protection areas; - water courses and wetland areas along with corresponding buffer zones; - zones containing types of forest that are not represented in the total protection areas; - zones containing biological diversity of social, cultural or medicinal interest; - zones containing habitats frequented by migratory species
5.3.4 Forest management practices shall maintain and improve the forest resources and encourage a diversified output of goods and services over the long term.	YES	3.4.6. <i>The purchaser of a batch of timber establishes effective mechanisms for ensuring diversification of logged species</i>
5.3.5 Regeneration, tending and harvesting operations shall be carried out in time, and in a way that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to retained stands and trees as well as to the forest soil, and by using appropriate systems.	YES	<p>3.1.5. <i>Felling operations are part of the silvicultural system. They are properly planned and implemented and help to create conditions that foster continued growth and successful regeneration</i></p> <p>3.1.6. <i>Comprehensive technical specifications are made available to forest operators and play a role in enhancing the development of the resource, stipulating in particular: ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - zones in which cutting is subject to particular restrictions (flora and fauna conservation zones, soil protection areas, buffer areas, sites of cultural interest) <p>3.5. <i>The impact of harvesting operations on water, soils and terrain is minimised</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		6.8.3. <i>A share of the financial benefits accrued from extraction is allocated to maintaining the productive capacity of forest resources</i>
5.3.6 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 forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.	YES	3.1.5, 3.5 See PEFC requirement 5.3.5 5.1. <i>Within the managed forest, harvesting of forest products other than lumber and industrial wood (non-timber forest products) is carried out on a sustainable basis, in cooperation with the main stakeholders.</i>
5.3.7 Where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the exploitation of non-timber forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.	YES	5.1.1. <i>Knowledge required for the sustainable use of forest products other than lumber and industrial wood is available or is currently being acquired</i> 5.1.2. <i>The main forest products harvested other than lumber and industrial wood, and their uses, have been or are currently being identified</i> 5.1.3. <i>The commercial harvesting of forest products other than lumber and industrial wood is governed by specifications</i> 5.1.4. <i>Domestic use of forest products other than lumber and industrial wood is tolerated, provided this does not threaten the resource</i> 5.2. <i>Illegal activities incompatible with sustainable forest management are identified and monitored. Steps are taken to combat these activities wherever possible. Indicators 5.2.1 – 5.2.4 specify the measures to combat unauthorized use of non-timber forest products (mining, hunting, logging)</i>
5.3.8 Adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.	YES	3.5.3. <i>The infrastructure required for harvesting operations is optimised to suit the topography and the location of the resource</i> 3.5.2. <i>The impact of harvesting operations on the biological, physical and chemical characteristics of the soil and terrain is minimised</i>
Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems		
5.4.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve and enhance biodiversity on ecosystem, species and genetic levels and, where appropriate, diversity at landscape level.	YES	3.1. <i>Harvesting is carried out in compliance with the Regional Forest Development Programme, management planning documents and the Reduced Impact Logging Specifications (Charte de l'exploitation à faible impact) for French Guiana.</i> 3.2.1. <i>At regional level, there is a protection and preservation policy in place for forest ecosystems and sites with a particular archaeological and cultural value.</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>2.5.1. <i>Management plans guarantee compliance with environmental standards within operations in the field</i></p> <p>2.6.1. <i>Situations requiring environmental impact assessments (impact studies) are specified</i></p> <p>3.3.1. <i>Within the network of managed forests, protection series constitute an adequate surface area to cover the full range of diversity within the environments identified</i></p> <p><i>Charte: Inventory – Chapter 1, Reference to regional planning PRMV, page 21 – trees non-exploitable, protected habitats</i></p>
<p>5.4.2 Forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forest resources shall identify, protect and/or conserve ecologically important forest areas containing significant concentrations of:</p> <p>a) protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems such as riparian areas and wetland biotopes;</p> <p>b) areas containing endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;</p> <p>c) endangered or protected genetic <i>in situ</i> resources;</p> <p>and taking into account</p> <p>d) globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.</p>	YES	<p>2.5.2. <i>Management inventories seek to pinpoint key zones known to be important for biodiversity within production forest units:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>zones adjacent to total protection areas;</i> - <i>zones containing rare or endangered species of high endemic value or exceptionally rich in heritage species;</i> - <i>zones characterised by exceptional geological or geomorphological features that are not adequately represented in the total protection areas;</i> - <i>water courses and wetland areas along with corresponding buffer zones;</i> - <i>zones containing types of forest that are not represented in the total protection areas;</i> - <i>zones containing biological diversity of social, cultural or medicinal interest;</i> - <i>zones containing habitats frequented by migratory species</i> <p>3.2.2. <i>There are systems in place for the identification and protection of habitats and the species they contain</i></p> <p>3.2.4. <i>There is a comprehensive catalogue of natural features data for French Guiana (landscapes, habitats, geomorphological features etc.).</i></p> <p><i>Charte: chapter 1 inventory, page 21 trees non-exploitable, page 22 habitats,</i></p>
<p>5.4.3 Protected and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.</p>	YES	<p>3.2.5. <i>There is a documented list of fauna and flora species protected by regulations</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>2.1. <i>The management of the forest complies with all laws in force and all international treaties to which France is a signatory (note CITES)</i></p> <p><i>Charte:chapter 1 inventory, a list of exploitable species, p 21: trees non-exploitable, non-exploitable habitats p. 22 (reference to CITES).</i></p>
<p>5.4.4 Forest management shall ensure successful regeneration through natural regeneration or, where not appropriate, planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>3.1.5. <i>Felling operations are part of the silvicultural system. They are properly planned and implemented and help to create conditions that foster continued growth and successful regeneration</i></p> <p>2.3.2. <i>The size of management units in production forests is determined by the felling cycle, average volume extracted per hectare and annual timber production target</i></p> <p>2.3.3. <i>The rotation time between two cuts – based on growth rates, minimum cutting diameters, data on the ecological dynamic within permanent experimental plot systems and the minimum number of stems to be harvested per hectare – is compatible with adequate and sustainable production meeting the sector’s timber requirements</i></p> <p>3.4.3. <i>Clear, explicit rules for the protection of seed-producing trees are established and updated regularly</i></p> <p><i>Charte: management method based on a single trees selection, ensuring sufficient natural regeneration , chapter 1 - inventory</i></p>
<p>5.4.5 For reforestation and afforestation, origins of native species and local provenances that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred, where appropriate. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>3.2.6. <i>The introduction of potentially invasive exotic plants is strictly controlled</i></p> <p>3.2.7. <i>Procedures have been established to prevent the introduction of potentially invasive exotic animals</i></p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Natural regeneration is applied, therefor regulations on regulations on plantations of exotic species are not relevant.</p>
<p>5.4.6 Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>3.2. <i>Within managed forests, the main ecological functions of the forest are maintained and its heritage is preserved</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>3.2.1. <i>At regional level, there is a protection and preservation policy in place for forest ecosystems and sites with a particular archaeological and cultural value</i></p> <p>3.3.1. <i>Within the network of managed forests, protection series constitute an adequate surface area to cover the full range of diversity within the environments identified</i></p> <p>3.3.2. <i>Within the network of managed forests, efforts are made to maintain continuity of protection series.</i></p> <p>3.1.6. <i>Harvesting restrictions on zones with flora and fauna conservation zones, soil protection areas, buffer areas, sites of cultural interest</i></p>
5.4.7 Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.	N.A.	The usage of GMOs is not relevant within the single trees selection and harvesting method required by the standard and the Charte.
5.4.8 Forest management practices shall, where appropriate, promote a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures such as uneven-aged stands and the diversity of species such as mixed stands. Where appropriate, the practices shall also aim to maintain and restore landscape diversity.	YES	<p>For diversity at landscape level see PEFCC requirement 5.4.6</p> <p>Regional plans also contribute to landscape level diversity.</p> <p>Stand level diversity:</p> <p>Singel tree selective harvesting is applied. Seed trees and retention trees left over rotation periods contribute to diversification of stand structure.</p> <p>3.4.4. <i>The size of canopy gaps creating during harvesting does not exceed the maximum value specified in the specifications for low-impact harvesting operations</i></p>
5.4.9 Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, on appropriate sites shall be supported, when economically feasible.	YES	<p>3.3.1. <i>Within the network of managed forests, protection series constitute an adequate surface area to cover the full range of diversity within the environments identified</i></p> <p>Management based on single trees selection and harvesting method that is a traditional management system within the tropical forests of French Guiana.</p>
5.4.10 Tending and harvesting operations shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to improve or maintain biological diversity.	YES	<p>3.4. <i>The impact of harvesting operations both on biodiversity and on the forest stand is minimised and controlled</i></p> <p>3.5.2. <i>The impact of harvesting operations on the biological, physical and chemical characteristics of the soil and terrain is minimised</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>3.6. <i>Operations are carried out after cutting to evaluate any damage caused to the forest stand</i></p> <p>3.6.3. <i>The manager guarantees the quality of low-impact harvesting by means of a precise analysis of logging sites.</i></p>
<p>5.4.11 Infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.</p>	YES	<p>3.5.3. <i>The infrastructure required for harvesting operations is optimised to suit the topography and the location of the resource</i></p> <p>3.5.2 see PEFC requirement 5.4.10</p> <p><i>Charte: chapter 1, 2, 4, 5 minimisation of impact of infrastructure.</i></p>
<p>5.4.12 With due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to balance the pressure of animal populations and grazing on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.</p>	N.A.	<p>The pressure of grazing and animals has no relevancy within the required management system and Guianase condition that requires a single trees selection and harvesting.</p>
<p>5.4.13 Standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and special rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding ecosystems.</p>	YES	<p>3.4.2. <i>Hollow trees, dead trees still standing and decaying trees all have ecological significance for a whole range of species. Trees of this type can be protected on the basis of precise instructions</i></p>
<p>Criterion 5: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)</p>		
<p>5.5.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and enhance protective functions of forests for society, such as protection of infrastructure, protection from soil erosion, protection of water resources and from adverse impacts of water such as floods or avalanches.</p>	YES	<p>1.2.4 <i>various categories of lands that must remain under permanent forest cover will include areas with fragile soil and other valuable areas.</i></p> <p>2.5.2 <i>Management inventories seek to pinpoint key zones ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>zones characterised by exceptional geological or geomorphological features that are not adequately represented in the total protection areas;</i> - <i>water courses and wetland areas along with corresponding buffer zones;</i> <p>3.1.6. <i>Comprehensive technical specifications are made available to forest operators and play a role in enhancing the development of the resource, stipulating in particular:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>zones in which cutting is subject to particular restrictions (flora and fauna conservation zones, soil protection areas, buffer areas, sites of cultural interest);</i>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regulations to be observed for construction of timber haulage routes, water course tracks and log dumps (including drainage) and subsequent restoration of the site; - restrictions on timber haulage and transport operations during rainy periods; - authorised extraction equipment; ...
5.5.2 Areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be registered and mapped, and forest management plans or their equivalents shall take these areas into account.	YES	See 1.2.4 and 2.5.2 under the PEFC requirement 5.5.1
5.5.3 Special care shall be given to silvicultural operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Inappropriate techniques such as deep soil tillage and use of unsuitable machinery shall be avoided in such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations.	YES	<p>See 1.2.4 and 2.5.2 under the PEFC requirement 5.5.1</p> <p>3.5.1. Haulage often involves the use of heavy machinery. Appropriate precautions are taken to reduce any potential damage (no timber haulage by bulldozers, use of low-pressure tyres for skidders, seasonal haulage work).</p> <p>3.5.2. The impact of harvesting operations on the biological, physical and chemical characteristics of the soil and terrain is minimised</p> <p>3.6.1. A database is in place, enabling harvesting areas and volumes to be monitored, so that action plans can be updated and adjustments made to resources allocated by the state and local authorities</p> <p>3.6.3. The manager guarantees the quality of low-impact harvesting by means of a precise analysis of logging sites.</p>
5.5.4 Special care shall be given to forest management practices in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided.	YES	<p>See 3.6.1 and 3.5.1 under PEFC requirement 5.5.1 and 5.5.3</p> <p>Charte: chapter 1 (inventory, zones and habitats non-exploitable), chapters 2, 4, 5 (reduction of impacts on water resources).</p>
5.5.5 Construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.	YES	<p>3.5.3. The infrastructure required for harvesting operations is optimised to suit the topography and the location of the resource</p> <p>Charte: chapter 1 (inventory, non-exploitable zones and habitats, buffer zones around water sources), chapter 2, 4, 5 reduction of impacts of infrastructure building and wood transportation.</p>
Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions		

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>5.6.1 Forest management planning shall aim to respect the multiple functions of forests to society, give due regard to the role of forestry in rural development, and especially consider new opportunities for employment in connection with the socio-economic functions of forests.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>6.4.1. <i>Processing capacities at regional level are compatible with timber production capacity at local level</i></p> <p>6.4.2. <i>The forest-timber sector generates local jobs. 6.5.1 Forest tourism generates local jobs. See also 6.5.2 – 6.5.3, 6.5.5 -6.5.6 on inputs to promote tourism.</i></p> <p>6.5.4. <i>The manager has drawn up a policy for awarding leisure concessions and tourism leases</i></p> <p>6.4.3. <i>The development of forest products other than lumber and industrial wood generates wealth</i></p> <p>6.6.1. <i>Training courses are available at local level, leading to a qualification in forestry, timber professions, forest tourism and forest product development</i></p> <p>6.7.2. <i>Annual equipment and development campaigns are organised to make provision for forest recreational facilities</i></p> <p>6.7.3. <i>Communication and outreach campaigns are organised to promote the forest to a wider public.</i></p>
<p>5.6.2 Forest management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>6.1. <i>The rights of populations that traditionally derive their means of subsistence from the forest are recognised by law</i></p> <p>6.2.1. <i>The zones governed by collective usage rights granted to populations that traditionally derive their means of subsistence from the forest are sufficient to meet their requirements</i></p> <p>6.2.2. <i>Forest management is carried out in cooperation with local populations and remains compatible with their interests</i></p>
<p>5.6.3 Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant forest area. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>6.2.3. <i>The use of forests by neighbouring populations is clearly defined, recognised and respected</i></p> <p>6.1. <i>The rights of populations that traditionally derive their means of subsistence from the forest are recognised by law.</i></p> <p>Requirements 6.2.3 and 6.1 require that other than property rights shall be defined, recognised and respected. The rights of “neighbouring populations” can be considered as customary and traditional rights. Some of them are defined by legislation. This is the recognition of peoples traditionally deriving</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>their livelihood from the forest recognized in the Forestry Code but also in the General Code of Property and Public People.</p> <p>The card of use rights areas in the permanent forest estate is available on the website of the ONF Guyana.</p> <p>Art. D 172-5 of the forestry code</p> <p>https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCodeArticle.do;jsessionid=B5F4A97129483C408A76855F1E069C22.tpdila18v_2?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000025244092&idArticle=LEGIARTI000026128041&dateTexte=20161026&categorieLien=cid#LEGIARTI000026128041</p> <p>The planning document:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not include provisions relating to hunting management; 2. Takes into account the rights of collective purpose mentioned in Article L. 272-4 in areas where they practice and record the location and nature. The document is submitted for review to either traditional authorities or legal persons representing the communities whose benefit the collective use rights have been recognized under the provisions of this article. These authorities or entities shall have a period of two months from receipt of the draft to make their view
<p>5.6.4 Forest management activities shall be conducted in recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon 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 there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such cases forest managers shall, 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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>6.2. <i>Indigenous populations are involved in the sustainable management of forests, derive benefits from them and use their traditional knowledge to enhance biodiversity conservation</i></p> <p>6.2.5. <i>Felling permits awarded in zones inhabited by indigenous populations take into consideration the conditions recommended by the World Bank and ILO for work in such areas</i></p>
<p>5.6.5 Adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided taking into account respect for ownership rights and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>6.5, 6.5.2</p> <p>Access to forests is provided in special areas dedicated to recreation.</p> <p>Access to recreation in all managed forests is no relevant and appropriate for the managed permanent forests. Opening the forests with roads (necessary for recreation) make the resources more vulnerable to illegal activities.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>5.6.6 Sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.</p>	YES	<p>3.2.1. At regional level, there is a protection and preservation policy in place for forest ecosystems and sites with a particular archaeological and cultural value</p> <p>6.1. See PEFCC requirement 5.6.3</p> <p>6.2.4. <i>Locations with a particular religious or cultural significance are clearly identified in cooperation with local populations and are protected by forest managers</i></p> <p><i>Charte, chapter 1: inventory, p. 22 non-exploitable habitats</i></p>
<p>5.6.7 Forest management operations shall take into account all socio-economic functions, especially the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests by maintaining for example varied forest structures, and by encouraging attractive trees, groves and other features such as colours, flowers and fruits. This shall be done, however, in a way and to an extent that does not lead to serious negative effects on forest resources, and forest land.</p>	YES	<p>6.5.2. <i>Provision of forest tourism is guaranteed in terms of both quantity and quality</i></p> <p>6.7.2. <i>Annual equipment and development campaigns are organised to make provision for forest recreational facilities</i></p> <p><i>Charte: a single trees selection methods and protection of certain species (p.21) and habitats (p.22) ensures aesthetic values of forests.</i></p>
<p>5.6.8 Forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and encouraged to keep up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this standard.</p>	YES	<p>6.6.2. <i>Continuous professional training courses are available at local level in forestry, timber professions, forest tourism and forest product development</i></p> <p>6.7.1. <i>Staff involved in forestry work are competent and take part in training initiatives</i></p>
<p>5.6.9 Forest management practices shall make the best use of local forest-related experience and knowledge, such as those of local communities, forest owners, NGOs and local people.</p>	YES	6.2 see PEFCC requirement 5.6.4
<p>5.6.10 Forest management shall provide for effective communication and consultation with local people and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management and shall provide appropriate mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management between forest operators and local people.</p>	YES	<p>6.7.3. <i>Communication and outreach campaigns are organised to promote the forest to a wider public</i></p> <p>6.2. <i>Indigenous populations are involved in the sustainable management of forests, derive benefits from them and use their traditional knowledge to enhance biodiversity conservation</i></p> <p>6.2.2. <i>Forest management is carried out in cooperation with local populations and remains compatible with their interests</i></p> <p>6.1.6.3 of the PEFCC/FR ST 1002: 2016, <i>consultation with stakeholders as of responsibility of CGE in group certification</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		6.1.12 of the PEFC/FR ST 1002: 2016, complaint procedures applied by CGE in group certification
5.6.11 Forestry work shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.	YES	<p>6.3.3. <i>The safety of forestry workers is ensured (materials and equipment).</i></p> <p>6.3.4. <i>The risks taken by forest workers are recorded in a written document (unique risk assessment document – DUER) required by French employment regulations and accessible to all employees within the company</i></p> <p>6.3.5. <i>Base camps in isolated sites meet current health and safety standards</i></p> <p>6.3.6. <i>Employees receive medical care</i></p>
5.6.12 Working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations.	YES	See PEFC requirement 5.6.11
5.6.13 Forest management shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.	YES	<p>6.3. <i>The forest manager and companies working in managed forests implement recommended regulations on hiring, health and safety</i></p> <p>6.3.1. <i>Individuals are hired on the basis of current legislation.</i></p> <p>6.3.2. <i>Employees are fully disclosed and their salaries are equivalent to or higher than the legal minimum levels in force for their actual hours of work, in compliance with branch and/or collective agreements where applicable</i></p> <p>6.2. <i>Indigenous populations are involved in the sustainable management of forests, derive benefits from them and use their traditional knowledge to enhance biodiversity conservation</i></p> <p>6.2.5. <i>Felling permits awarded in zones inhabited by indigenous populations take into consideration the conditions recommended by the World Bank and ILO for work in such areas</i></p> <p>Compliance with the most core ILO conventions is guaranteed by the French legislation. The standard requires compliance with the French legislation.</p> <p>France has not ratified ILO Conventions 169 (indigenous peoples' rights) and 155 (health and safety at work).</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>The standard should, either list the key laws that address the fundamental ILO Conventions or at least the key Conventions. Currently the standard does not</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		communicate to forest owner/manager, the scope of requirement certified forest management shall comply with.
5.6.14 Forest management shall be based inter-alia on the results of scientific research. Forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.	YES	<p>4.4.1. <i>New scientific and technical data is circulated periodically</i></p> <p>4.4.2. <i>Research, training and awareness-raising bodies are in place at the regional level, providing scientific knowledge to forest users</i></p> <p>6.8.7. <i>Market mechanisms and economic incentives at national and international level are used to encourage campaigns intended to preserve biodiversity. Training, technical support, education and information programmes must be developed</i></p>
Criterion 7: Compliance with legal requirements		
5.7.1 Forest management shall comply with legislation applicable to forest management issues including forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous people; health, labour and safety issues; and the payment of royalties and taxes.	YES	<p>2.1. <i>The management of the forest complies with all laws in force and all international treaties to which France is a signatory</i></p> <p>6.8.4 <i>Taxation procedures are as simple as possible and clear to all parties involved. 6.8.5 National forest agencies have the authority to make revisions to taxes and duties...</i></p> <p><i>Forest management shall comply with regional plans and related directives (Art. D. 212-1.) The plan takes into account social, environmental objectives and silvicultural measures, including planned harvesting levels and financial targets.</i></p> <p><i>The standard requirements on taxation are descriptive and do not set any specific obligation to comply with the rules.</i></p>
5.7.2 Forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	YES	<p>5.2. <i>Illegal activities incompatible with sustainable forest management are identified and monitored. Steps are taken to combat these activities wherever possible</i></p> <p><i>Specific measures are required to prevent illegal mining, hunting and logging operations in 5.2.1 – 5.2.4</i></p>



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Appendix 3

List of Stakeholders Invited for Participation According to PEFC France



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	French organisation	English translation
ADEME	AGENCE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA MAITRISE DE L'ENERGIE	(FRENCH ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT AGENCY)
ADF	ASSEMBLEE DES DEPARTEMENTS DE France	(FRENCH DEPARTMENTS ASSEMBLY)
ANATEF	ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES TECHNICIENS FORESTIERS	(NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FORESTRY TECHNICIANS)
APCA	ASSOCIATION PERMANENTE DES CHAMBRES D'AGRICULTURE	(PERMANENT ASSOCIATION FOR CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE)
AMF	ASSOCIATION DES MAIRES DE France	(ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH MAYORS)
ARF	ASSOCIATION DES REGIONS DE France	(ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH REGIONS)
CAPEB	CONFEDERATION DE L'ARTISANAT ET DES PETITES ENTREPRISES DU BATIMENT	(CONFEDERATION OF ARTISANS AND SMALL BUILDING COMPANIES)
CFDT	CONFEDERATION FRANÇAISE DEMOCRATIQUE DU TRAVAIL	(FRENCH DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION OF LABOR)
CFE CGC	CONFEDERATION FRANÇAISE DE L'ENCADREMENT - CONFEDERATION GENERALE DES CADRES	(FRENCH CONFEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND MANGERIAL STAFF – GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND MANAGERIAL STAFF)
CFTC	CONFEDERATION FRANÇAISE DES TRAVAILLEURS CHRETIENS	(FRENCH CHRISTIAN WORKERS' CONFEDERATION)
CGPME	CONFEDERATION GENERALE DU PATRONAT DES PETITES ET MOYENNES ENTREPRISES	(GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES)
CGT	CONFEDERATION GENERALE DU TRAVAIL	(GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR)
CLCV	ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DE DEFENSE DES CONSOMMATEURS ET USAGERS	(NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF CONSUMERS AND USERS)
CNDB	CENTRE NATIONAL POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DU BOIS	(NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WOOD DEVELOPMENT)
CNIEFEB	COMPAGNIE NATIONALE DES INGENIEURS ET EXPERTS FORESTIERS ET DES EXPERTS BOIS	(NATIONAL COMPANY OF ENGINEERS FORESTRY AND WOOD EXPERTS)
CNPF	CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA PROPRIETE FORESTIERE	(NATIONAL CENTRE OF FOREST OWNERS)
	COMITE 21	(COMMITTEE 21)
	COMITE FRANCAIS DE L'UICN	(FRENCH IUCN COMMITTEE)
	CONSEIL NATIONAL DU PEUPLIER	(NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR POPLAR)
	CONSERVATOIRE DU LITTORAL	(COASTAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY)
COPACEL	UNION FRANÇAISE DES INDUSTRIES DES CARTONS, PAPIERS ET CELLULOSE	(FRENCH CONFEDERATION OF THE PAPER, CARDBOARD AND CELLULOSE INDUSTRIES)
FNEDT	FEDERATION NATIONALE ENTREPRENEURS DES TERRITOIRES	(NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TERRITORIAL ENTREPRENEURS)
	FAMILLES DE France	(ASSOCIATION FAMILIES OF FRANCE)
	FAMILLES RURALES	(RURAL FAMILIES MOVEMENT)
FBF	FRANCE BOIS FORET	(FRANCE WOOD FOREST)
FBIE	FRANCE BOIS INDUSTRIE ENTREPRISES	(FRANCE WOOD INDUSTRY ENTREPRISES)



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	French organisation	English translation
FBR	FRANCE BOIS REGIONS	(FRANCE WOOD REGIONS)
FCBA	INSTITUT TECHNOLOGIQUE FORET CELLULOSE BOIS-CONSTRUCTION AMEUBLEMENT	(TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE FOREST CELLULOSE WOOD-CONSTRUCTION AND FURNISHINGS)
	FEDERATION DES CONSERVATOIRES NATIONAUX D'ESPACES NATURELS	(FEDERATION OF NATIONAL NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATORIES)
	FEDERATION NATIONALE DES PARCS REGIONAUX NATURELS	(NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REGIONAL NATURAL PARKS)
FNSAF	FEDERATION NATIONALE DES SOCIETES DES AMIS DES FORETS	(NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FRIENDS OF THE FOREST SOCIETIES)
FFRP	FEDERATION FRANCAISE DE LA RANDONNEE PEDESTRE	(FRENCH HIKING FEDERATION)
	FEDERATION NATIONALE DES CHASSEURS (FRENCH NATIONAL HUNTERS' FEDERATION)	
FFB	FEDERATION FRANCAISE DU BATIMENT	(FRENCH CONSTRUCTION FEDERATION)
FIBA	FEDERATION DES INDUSTRIES DU BOIS D'AQUITAINE	(AQUITAINE FEDERATION OF WOOD INDUSTRIES)
FNB	FEDERATION NATIONALE DU BOIS	(NATIONAL WOOD FEDERATION)
FNCOFOR	FEDERATION NATIONALES DES COMMUNES FORESTIERES	(NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FOREST DISTRICTS)
FNE	FRANCE NATURE ENVIRONNEMENT	(FRANCE NATURE ENVIRONMENT)
FO	FORCE OUVRIERE	(WORKERS' FORCE)
FPF	FORESTIERS PRIVES DE FRANCE	(PRIVATE FOREST OF FRANCE)
GIP ECOFOR	GROUPEMENT D'INTERET PUBLIC ECOSYSTEMES FORESTIERS	(PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP FOREST ECOSYSTEMS)
INRA	INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE	(FRENCH NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)
IRSTEA	INSTITUT NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE EN SCIENCES ET TECHNOLOGIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET L'AGRICULTURE	(FRENCH NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE)
LCB	LE COMMERCE DU BOIS	(TIMBER TRADE)
	LES AMIS DE LA TERRE	(FRIENDS OF THE EARTH)
MEDEF	MOUVEMENT DES ENTREPRISES DE FRANCE	(MOVEMENT OF FRENCH ENTREPRISES)
	MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE L'AGROALIMENTAIRE ET DE LA FORET	(MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, AGRIFOOD INDUSTRY AND FORESTS)
	MINISTERE DE L'ECOLOGIE, DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE ET L'ENERGIE	(MINISTRY FOR ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY)
	MUSEUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE	(NATIONAL NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM)
ONF	OFFICE NATIONAL DES FORETS	(NATIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSION)



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	French organisation	English translation
	RESEAU DES GRANDS SITES DE France	(GRAND SITES IN FRANCE NETWORK)
	RESERVES NATURELLES DE FRANCE	(FRENCH NATURE RESERVES)
SFCDC	SOCIETE FORESTIERE DE LA CAISSE DES DEPOTS ET CONSIGNATIONS	(FORESTRY SOCIETY OF THE CAISSE DE DEPOTS ET CONSIGNATIONS)
SNPF	SYNDICAT NATIONAL DES PEPINIERISTES FORESTIERS	(NATIONAL UNION OF FOREST NURSERIES)
SIEL	SYNDICAT DES EMBALLAGES LEGERES EN BOIS	(UNION OF LIGHT WOOD PACKAGING)
SYSSO	SYNDICAT DES SYLVICULTEURS DU SUD OUEST	(UNION OF SOUTH-WEST FORESTERS)
UCFF	UNION DE LA COOPERATION FORESTIERE FRANÇAISE	(FRENCH FORESTRY COOPERATION UNION)
UNAF	UNION NATIONALE DE L'APICULTURE FRANÇAISE	(NATIONAL UNION FOR FRENCH BEEKEEPERS)
UNIFA	UNION NATIONALE DES INDUSTRIES FRANÇAISES DE L'AMEUBLEMENT	(NATIONAL UNION FOR FRENCH FURNISHING INDUSTRIES)
UNIIC	UNION NATIONALE DES INDUSTRIES DE L'IMPRESSION ET DE LA COMMUNICATION	(NATIONAL UNION FOR PRINTING AND COMMUNICATION INDUSTRIES)
UIB	UNION DES INDUSTRIES DU BOIS	(UNION OF WOOD INDUSTRIES)
UFC	UNION FEDERALE DES CONSOMMATEURS	(FEDERAL UNION OF CONSUMERS)
WWF		WORLD WILD FUND FOR NATURE



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Appendix 4

Consideration of the Comments of the Panel of Experts

Indufor note: The table below includes substantial comments. Editorial comments are corrected directly to the report.

Assessment Report - Assessment of the Revised French PEFC Forest Certification Scheme against the PEFC Council Requirements / Indufor
Panel of Experts Comments

General Statement on report quality

A thorough and well-presented report.

The report lists the non-conformities and comments in a rather confusing manner; they need to be organised and referenced in a better way that the reader can get a clear and full picture. The report structure is clear but lacks some necessary formatting, e.g. headings / numbering of tables.

Specific findings

Report chapter/ page	Consultant's report statement	PoE member finding	Consultant's response
1.1/1	The Scheme has options for individual, group and regional certification.	As far as I can see there are no possibilities for a forest owner and operator to have an individual SFM certificate. What kind of groups can be certified except regional groups?	The scheme has an option for individual certification.
p42 & p23 6.1	2.. sustainable cork production...this assessment cannot make a conclusion on the performance level of the proposed standard."	This is true in relation to the harvesting of cork but, as stated on p23 6.1, third paragraph, "The Scheme can claim that cork is produced in PEFC certified forests". It would seem appropriate to also make this statement on p4 under the major non-conformity.	The sentence is added to the Summary of findings Section 3.1 p. 6.
p42 Minor non-conformity	"The invitation on launching of standard revision process and invitation of stakeholders was done properly.."	Yet in Appendix 1 p12 5.2 there is a note that "the CA identified 80 organizations as key to be directly invited to the Forum (none of those organisations was considered as disadvantaged)...". As PEFC requires (Standard 5.2) that "the standardising body shall identify disadvantaged and key stakeholders" the absence of invitation to disadvantaged stakeholders should probably be regarded as a non-conformity to be at least rectified in the French Procedures. Alternatively, the French PEFC may be able to explain the absence of such disadvantaged stakeholders in	Conclusion: PEFC France considered the availability of resources for active participation as the potential criteria to identify disadvantaged stakeholders. It also deemed that all key stakeholders (80) had the resources to participate and thus were not disadvantaged. The fact that disadvantaged stakeholders were not part of the process is noted in the report, but PEFC France had made a thorough identification of key

Report chapter/page	Consultant's report statement	PoE member finding	Consultant's response
		their consultation process.	stakeholders at national level which is satisfactory in view of the conformity to the PEFC requirement. No change is made to conclusions.
p4 Minor-non-conformity 2 second para	"The standard should, however clearly specify that timber from such conversion area should not be sold as originating from certified forests"	This is true and such an insertion should probably be made. However, in Appendix 2 p5 5.1.11, PEFC France does state that "Regarding the wood from deforestation in these areas. It can only be used for the needs of the mine (camp, construction etc...) and under no circumstances sold."	
p4 2 1 Standard revision 2nd para	"...did not provide information on how the stakeholders in French Guiana could participate in the standard revision process".	I agree that this is a minor-nonconformity and that and the procedure should be amended accordingly for the future.	
3.2/6 and 2/4 and App 1 Part VI, 1/72	The notification requirement for bodies doing chain of custody certification is not described, which is raised as a non-conformity.	In 2. RECOMMENDATIONS in this non-conformity not listed. But in App 1 Part VI, 1/72 in reference to PEFC/FR AD 4004: 2016 Chain of Custody certification and audit body authorization procedure it seems that there is no NC.	Action: Procedures for chain of custody certification are stated in PEFC/FR AD 4004:2016 on <i>Chain of Custody Certification and Audit Body Authorization Procedure</i> . Reference to the standard was added to the Appendix 1.
3.2 / 6	The notification requirement for bodies doing chain of custody certification is not described, which is raised as a non-conformity.	This non-conformity is neither stated in any other chapter of the Final Draft Report nor in the respective chapter of the appendix. Chapter 3.7 and 10.2. as well as the respective chapters in the Appendix 1 state "conformity". Please clarify and correct.	Action: Changed <i>Notification requirements are also set for chain of custody certification</i> . See PEFC/FR AD 4004:2016
p7 3.3 fourth para	"...chamber 3 on forest users was not operational from the start of the revision process, thus it could not influence on the early discussions.."	Has PEFC France explained why this happened? Is there any undertaking that it will not occur again?	Comment: PEFC France has not given any specific reason why the chamber 3 could not convene in the beginning of the standard development.
3.3 / 7	In addition to on non-conformity, four comments were raised to be considered in the future Scheme revision. (including the table on p. 8)	It is very hard to make reference to the non-conformities and comments listed in chapter 2 (Recommendation). The report statement is part of the chapter "Standard setting procedures and processes" which cannot be	Action: After the table 3.1 added the explanatory sentence <i>Appendix 1 Part I describes the justifications for the comments</i> .

Report chapter/ page	Consultant's report statement	PoE member finding	Consultant's response
		<p>found in Chapter 2. I could only identify two comments in chapter 2 (under the headline "Standard revision") out of the four given in the table.</p> <p>Please clearly indicate the reference to the non-conformities / comments in chapter 2.</p>	<p>Third comment was added to Ch 2. Information on decision making procedures within the standard setting working group should be disclosed to increase the transparency of the process. The comment was already in Appendix 1 Part I 5.5b.</p> <p>Comment: In chapter 2 the comment 1 on standard revision addresses the gaps in communication in French Guiana and is relevant to the PEFC ST 1001 requirements 4.4 and 5.3a.</p>
3.3 / 8	Table	<p>The table lacks a heading and a numbering – please add, otherwise hard to find the connections to other chapters. Same with tables on pages 9, 10, 11.</p>	<p>Action: Captions and references added</p>
3.3 / 8	Table	<p>This table lists in total 2 non-conformities (5.3 a and b) and 5 comments (as 5.5 b and c can be counted as 2). It should be discussed classify them all as "non-conformity" (instead of comments) as they refer to the process of participation and transparency in French Guiana.</p> <p>Justification: (i) to avoid a similar weakness in the process, the procedures shall be adapted with special reference to French Guiana. (ii) these weaknesses are to some extent sustained by the results of the stakeholder analysis.</p>	<p>Comment: Although the formal invitation announcement on standard revision in the PEFC France web page did not clearly indicate the similar process is run in the French Guiana, the revision process was communicated to stakeholders within the territory. The comments aim at pointing out that regional revision processes should be truly integrated to the national ones without compromising the mandate of regional stakeholders to decide on standard requirements.</p> <p>Due to the fact that the regional process was participatory, although it could have been better informed and include a broader range of stakeholders, a non-conformity is not raised. PEFC France should duly take into consideration the comments to avoid repeating the weaknesses in standard revision in the following rounds.</p>
3.5 / 11	Table: 4.1.1e)	<p>In Appendix 1 there is no comment given under requirement 4.1.e) – (the requirement referenced is 4.1</p>	<p>Action:</p>

Report chapter/ page	Consultant's report statement	PoE member finding	Consultant's response
		e)	The comment added to Appendix 1 4.1.1 .e on group certificate. The Scheme should consider to include formally also a full compliance to the forest management standard (i.e., PEFC FR ST 1003-1 or 1003-2) to the scope of an issued certificate. PEFC is in the first place a framework for sustainable forest management (See also PEFC ST 4.2.1 i)
3.6 / 11	..., but the Scheme does not specify if the reports should freely accessible or available at request.	Do the procedures comply with respect to this fact? Please indicate.	Comment: PEFC requires that summaries of certification reports are published but does not specify the required level of availability. The procedure is complied.
5.3 / 21	Table 5.1	This table presents in general the same results as the table on page 8 just in a different format, with slightly different wording and lacking the comment 5.5 b, c. This is confusing. Are both tables necessary? Please organise.	Action: Table 5.1. replaced with a reference to the Table 3.1 on page 8.
6.2.1 / 24	<i>Missing statement</i>	There is no final comment about compliance with the standard in this chapter (as it is with the following chapters) – this should be added.	Action: Added The standard requirements on enhancement of forest resources are compatible with the PEFC requirements.
p25 6.2.3 second para	"Non-wood forest products are not addressed by the standard".	To some extent this is addressed, e.g. In App. 1 p51 5.3.4 it is stated "production of other (unspecified) non-wood products shall be monitored (PEFC/Fr ST 1003-1:2016 2.6) Again in 5.3.5 "limit the levels of harvesting of timber and non-timber products to ensure their sustainability". And 5.3.6 "monitor and control the harvesting of non-timber products where these are the responsibility of the forest owner or manager and included within the forest management."	Action: Changed to the standard sets general requirement on sustainable harvesting and monitoring of the availability of non-wood forest products without specifying any product or management regime. The separate standard for cork production (PEFC FR ST 1003-3) give detailed harvesting instructions.
6.2.6 / 26	<i>Missing statement</i>	There is no final comment about compliance with the standard in this chapter (as it is with the following chapters) – this should be added.	Action: Added the Statement The standard requirements on maintenance of socio-economic functions and conditions in forestry,

Report chapter/ page	Consultant's report statement	PoE member finding	Consultant's response
			comply with the PEFC requirements. .
P26 6.2.6 Criterion 6	Under "Maintenance of Socio-economic Functions" the report states the "standard is very generic in its requirements concerning labour rights and conditions for safe work. The standard does not directly address the issues regulated by the relevant ILO Conventions", particularly, it is suggested, in French Guiana.	This is probably so but in App. 2 pp20-22 under sections 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.6.3, and 5.6.4 there is specific reference regarding French Guiana to social functions including local jobs, tourism, recreation, non-timber products, training, consulting, respecting traditional rights and usages, cooperation, property rights, use of traditional knowledge etc. Perhaps most, or even all, of the aspects are covered?	Comment The report section 6.3.6 discusses the compliance of the standard of the French Guiana. The standard sets requirements for a range of socially relevant issues, but it does not specifically indicate the relevant legislation through which the ratified ILO Conventions are enforced.
p29 6.3.7	The PEFC France should provide evidence that the enforcement system applies as well in large native forest areas in French Guiana."	In App. 2 p24 5.7.1 para 2.1 there is the quote "The management of the forest complies with all laws in force and all international treaties to which France is a signatory". Is this sufficient to show that they are bound by the law?	Comment: The forest management standards for Metropolitan France and French Guiana require compliance with law. However, conditions and feasible means to protect forests from unauthorized activities are likely to be somewhat different in largely small forest holdings in Metropolitan France and larger concession areas in French Guiana. The notion emphasizes the need to take regional characteristics into consideration as appropriate.
7 / 30	<i>Missing statement</i>	There is no final comment about compliance with the standard in the chapters 7 - 11 (apart from 10.2.) – this should be added.	Action: Final statements added to 7, 9,
7/30	The Scheme distinguishes between two types of CGEs – regional or inter-regional and group CGEs.	There is no definition of and requirements on inter-regional groups. I suggest to delete "and".	Action: Changed to - regional and group CGEs
10.1/32	- May perform if requested regional group or individual certifications.	What kind of individual certifications? (Compare 1.1/1 above.)	The Scheme has an option for individual forest owners to apply for a certificate.
App 1 / 20	5.6 b) Process: The invitation for consultation also covered the standard of the PEFC Guiana. In	It is mentioned that the information was sent to timber buyers, hunters and authorities – was it also sent to other stakeholders, e.g. ENGOs, unions etc.?	Comment: The stakeholder consultation process was limited in French Guiana. Draft standard and Charte on low

Report chapter/ page	Consultant's report statement	PoE member finding	Consultant's response
	addition, the working group in French Guiana asked ...		impact logging was sent to forest companies, authority, hunters' organisation and to Guiane Nature Environnement representing local ENGOs in the process.
App 1; Part IV;13/ 70	There must be a time gap of 12 months between two supervisory audits ...	Annex 6.4 require; The maximum period for surveillance audits is one year and ... The time gap should not exceed 12 month.	Comment: The standard PEFC/FR ST 1004 states that the surveillance audit is done every 12 months, which is a complying requirement.
App 2 / 11	5.2.7 Comment: The references to the text on waste management were not appropriate in the checklist of PEFC French Guiana.	This comment is not stated in the Final Draft Report – neither in the summary nor in the respective chapter(s) e.g. 6.3.	Comment: PEFC France has provided updated information on the current waste management regulations. The earlier references to outdated regulations are not valid. Action: the comment is removed



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