

<i>Normative Document</i> Standard for sustainable forest management	PEFC BG ST 1002:
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Bulgarian PEFC forest certification scheme

Standard for sustainable forest management in Bulgaria



Council for Sustainable Forest Management and Certification in Bulgaria

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Contents

1. Aim of the PEFC Forest Management Standard for Bulgaria (BG ST SFM)	4
2. Scope of Standard	4
3. Certification individual forest holdings	5
4. Forest owner group certification	5
5. Legal basis of Standard	6
6. Normative references.....	6
7. Sustainable management in forests	7
8. Terms and definitions	7
9. Public input and accessibility of the Standard	7
10. PEFC Forest Management Standard for Bulgaria.....	8
Criterion 1: Maintenance of capacity of the forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles.....	8
Criterion 2: Maintaining the vitality, health and protective functions of forest ecosystems.....	9
Criterion 3: Maintenance and promoting productive functions of forests	11
Criterion 4: Maintenance, protection and possible improvement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems	11
Criterion 5: Applicable international, national and local legislation and forest management..	13
Criterion 6: Maintenance of socio-economic conditions and functions of forests.	13
11. Guidances.....	16

1. Aim of the PEFC Forest Management Standard for Bulgaria (BG ST SFM)

The BG ST SFM specifies the framework and requirements for the sustainability assessment of forest management and confirms the conformity of management practices with the PEFC certifications system' requirements.

Standard sets no minimum levels or limitations for forest management practices and sustainability criteria and indicators.

Following the Standard's criteria and indicators the forest owner, legal possessor or forest manager determines and confirms compliance with the Standard. The conformity assessment is done by an independent Certification Body accredited as provided by the PEFC regulations.

2. Scope of Standard

Standard is applicable in the whole territory of Bulgaria for all forest types, forest holdings and tree plantings regardless of the form of ownership and holding size, as well as for all operators in the Certified Forest Area that have measurable impact on achieving compliance.

Forest certification according to the Standard is done on a voluntary basis (only after a voluntary initiative of the forest owner, legal possessor or manager).

The sustainability criteria and indicators specified by the Standard are used as a basis for sustainable forest management certification, which is performed by an independent Certification Body, accredited following the PEFC regulations.

Standard is applicable for all lands which are counted as forestland, i. e. land comprising forest, land under forest infrastructure facilities, including gaps, overflowing clearings and bogs inside and contiguous to forest as well as the lands under forest tree nurseries and tree plantings. (All adopted with the Bulgarian forest inventory norms wooded and non-wooded - possible wood-producing and non-productive, areas.)

Forest holding /The **Managed Forest Unit (MFU)** is the basic unit for PEFC certification (hereinafter "Certification") following this Standard

The forest owner, legal possessor or forest manager may divide the holding into individual management units (relevant to the applicable Bulgarian regulations), applying Certification on a per-unit basis or certifying a part of the management units. Single cadastre units in the forest holding cannot be divided. Individual management units are explicitly shown on the maps and are identifiable out in the field. In case the forest owner, legal possessor or forest manager chooses to exclude some units from Certification and certify a part of the holding, this fact ought to be accounted for in forest resource sales in order to meet the requirements of the chain-of-custody certification (CoC).

The Standard requirements can be implemented and Certification carried out as:

- Certification of individual forest holdings
- Forest owner group certification.

3. Certification of individual Forest Management Unit (MFU)

Individual certification is more suitable in cases the owner, legal possessor or manager of large forest MFU finds it more convenient to refrain from group certification. The MFU size is not the lead indicator for choosing the certification method while individual certification maybe financially more expensive for a single forest owner.

The forest owner, legal possessor or manager submits certification application to the Certification Body. The PEFC Forest Management/Chain-of-Custody Certificate is issued directly to the forest owner, legal possessor or manager.

4. Forest owner group certification

The forest owners, legal possessors or managers can jointly apply for certification as a group. In group certification all members of the group decide to achieve and ensure conformity with the Standard. There ought to be an undisputable group leader and clearly defined responsibilities between the group leader and all the group members in ensuring the certification requirements. Group leader is responsible for:

- maintaining conformity to the Standard of all group members and their forest management practices;
- keeping up to date the list of group members and the certified forest holdings /MFU;
- ensuring group certification and Standard requirement observance in certified forest holdings of all group members.

In group certification there shall be approved procedure for admitting new members and informing the group of the same, including the procedures for internal audit, maintaining certification requirements according to the Standard and implementing relevant corrective and preventive actions.

The PEFC Forest Management/Chain-of-Custody Certificate is issued to the group entity through the group leader. Group leader issues attestations of participation (with reference to the group certificate) to each group member. Participants in group certification shall receive either a copy of the group certificate including the appendix (when applicable) listing all participating forest owners/managers; or an individual attestation issued by the certification body or the applicant, which refers to the group certificate (a certified copy of the group certificate).

Certification is carried out following an agreement concluded in writing between the forest owner or Group entity (in case of group certification) and the Certification Body. The effective period of the agreement is between one to five years.

Requirements and procedures for group certification are detailed in PEFC BG ST 1003: "Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements".

5. Legal basis of Standard

This Standard is developed and approved by the Association "Council for sustainable Forest Management and Certification in Bulgaria" (CSFMCB /PEFC Bulgaria). CSFMCB, supported by the majority (following the forest area) of Bulgarian forest owners, legal possessors or forest managers, is a national steering body recognized by the PEFC Council.

Standard has been developed following the PEFC International requirements and procedures. The PEFC International requirements and procedures are adapted to the Bulgarian conditions.

Standard has been developed in accordance with:

- legislation referring to international conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Kyoto Protocol and Carbon Sinks, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora [CITES], Biosafety Protocol, Core ILO conventions [International Labour Organisation]),
- the relevant national and state legislation (as far as applicable), incl. National Forest Strategy'2011, and all relevant contractual obligations of the forest owners as signatory (e.g. agreements on tariffs).

6. Normative references

Provisions of the following documents and standards referred to in the text of this document are component parts of the document. In the time of publishing this document the mentioned documents were in force. All documents and standards are subject to revisions and participants on agreements based on this document shall use the latest edition of the following standards:

- PEFC BG 0001: – Sistem Description for the Bulgarian Forest Certification Scheme
- PEFC BG ST 1002: - Standard for SFM in Bulgaria
- PEFC BG ST 1002-1: - Bulgarian Criteria & Indicators for SFM
- PEFC BG ST 1003: - Group forest management certification – Requirements
- PEFC BG ST 1004: – Certification and Accreditation procedures for SFM
- PEFC BG ST 1007: – Dispute settlement procedures
- PEFC ST 2003: – Requirements for certification bodies operating PEFC ST CoC

7. Sustainable management in forests

Sustainable forest management (SFM) in Bulgaria takes place in a way, that biological diversity, productivity, regeneration capability, vitality and the ability to meet in the present and in the future important ecological, economic and social functions on local and national basis, is secured and no other ecosystems are harmed (Definition of the second ministerial conference on the protection of forests in Europe).

Sustainable forestry is orientated to the criteria, which were established at the European Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests held in Helsinki in June 1993 (Resolution H1):

1. Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles.
2. Maintenance of forest ecosystems health and vitality.
3. Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood).
4. Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems.
5. Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water).
6. Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions.

Sustainable forest management conduces to climate protection.

Forest owners, who direct their forest management to this common goal of a comprehensive sustainability, can participate in a PEFC certification. The present standards specify the requirements for operational forest management derived from the Helsinki criteria at the operational level.

8. Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this Standard, the terms and definitions are given in PEFC BG 0001: Annex 1.

9. Public input and accessibility of the Standard

Standard is a public document and may be freely distributed among all interested parties, provided that no amendments are made in it. The official version of the Standard is publicly available for download and/or printout on www.pefc.bg.

Standard is subject for consultation and comments from all interested parties. The parties who have comments regarding this Standard or have suggestions for improving it are requested to send them in writing to the Council for SFM and Certification in Bulgaria, by e-mail to pefc.bg@gmail.com Based on the comments and/or suggestions from the interested parties the Council may amend the document in accordance with the Standard's review procedures.

The Standard is approved by the CSFMCB on 28 January 2019, and is subject to revision at least once in five years. Standard is endorsed by the PEFC Council on xx.xx, 2019.

10. PEFC Forest Management Standard for Bulgaria

Operational level guidelines define the objectives and general principles of forest management, which voluntarily practiced by the forest owners, legal possessors or forest managers would ensure sustainable forest management.

The operational level guidelines are included in the Standard correspond to the six criteria of Helsinki, Resolution H1 and Lisbon Resolution (L2) of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE): Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management including Annex 1: Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management and Annex 2: Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management.

Descriptive indicators provide measurable parameters and complement operational level guidelines which are necessary for an independent assessment by a third party for identifying compliance of forest management practices with the PEFC forest management certification requirements. The descriptive indicators are supposed to indicate the changes in the indicator values and dynamics of development at least for a 5-year period before Certification and expected changes for the next 5 years.

The descriptive indicators comprise also requirements for the documentation which is to be prepared for the forest owners, legal possessors or forest managers.

Criterion 1: Maintenance of capacity of the forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles.

1.1. Up-to-date Forest Inventory and Management Plan/Programme for sustainable forest management - The management of the forest territory shall be based on an up-to-date Forest Management Plan or Programme (FMPI/Pr), including on the inventory and mapping of the forest area and of the resources, prepared pursuant to the valid regulatory framework. In FMPI/Pr, the objective criteria for forest management in the medium term (10 year at most) and the management objectives (social, economic and environmental). The Regional Forests Development Plan (RFDP) and the public interests have been taken into

consideration in the planning process. The control aspects shall be taken into consideration when monitoring the standard.

There shall be an up-to-date inventory and forest management plan / program and mapping material prepared and approved in accordance with the requirements of the applicable legal basis for the scale and intensity of the activities.

For FMPI an impact / compatibility assessment of the planned activities should be carried out in accordance with the regulatory requirements.

1.2. Forest territory area - All forest territories shall be classified and efficiently used. Their management shall ensure the maintenance of their present area, or their gradual increase, through afforestation of non-forest territories, co-ordinated with Bulgarian and European legislation.

The wooded forest area is retained (maintained) and/or gradually increased.

1.3. Timber volume - Forestry management shall ensure the preservation of the quantity and quality of forest resources in the medium and in the long term, through maintenance of balance between their use and growth. As a whole, they work to optimise the volume and age structure (as representation in all age groups/classes).

Forestry management ensures the maintenance of optimal and sustainable timber volume and structures of forests.

1.4. Regeneration of forest resources - Silvicultural (forestry) activities corresponding to the scale of the enterprise and its activity are performed to increase the forest resources. The sites envisaged for regeneration (in a natural or artificial way) are executed, and no transformation is allowed from wooded into unwooded area.

Forest management ensures increase of forest territory.

1.5. Carbon supply - The storage of carbon in the forest itself (tree biomass) and in the forest soils shall be periodically established, measured and documented. As a whole, the management of forest areas makes it possible to maintain and increase the associated carbon stock in forest resources and forest soil.

To reporting the total storage of carbon, data or information about all aspects of its conservation in forests are necessary (including additional studies when conducted).

Criterion 2: Maintaining the vitality, health and protective functions of forest ecosystems.

2.1. Deposition of air pollutants - In the Managed Forestry Unit (MFU), there shall be available up-to-date information about depositions of air pollutants classified as nitrogen, sulphur (N, S) and base cations.

MFU collects and classifies data about deposition of harmful atmospheric emissions in forest territories.

2.2. Soil fertility and quality of water resources - In MFU, there shall be available documented information with respect to soil quality (chemical/physical properties: pH, CEC, C/N, organic C, saturation point, that are related to soil acidity and eutrophication). MFU shall

perform its activity in a way that is to ensure the maximum observance of the requirements with respect to the qualities of soil and water, stipulated in the relevant documents.

MFU strictly sees to the minimisation of the negative impact of technologies on the environment (soil and water). If such is detected MFU shall promptly take action to eliminate.

2.3. Soil improvers - MFU shall control the use of soil improvers (fertilizers, lime, etc.) in connection with their use to accelerate the wood production, by applying other alternative biological methods for the purpose.

The use of fertilizers and liming are applied by MFU solely for the purpose of improvement of the health of tree species.

2.4. Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of their protective functions - Forest inventories and forest management plans/programs create prerequisites, and Forest Management of the MFU implements, activities to maintain and improve the protective functions of forests that meet public interests and needs. MFU must have documented information on defensive forests and be able to prove that it manages them under a special regime, if any.

Enhanced attention has been ensured and public interests are protected during management of protective forests, in a way corresponding to their special functions.

2.5. Forest Health - MFU shall keep documented information about planned and undertaken activities for prevention and control of emergence of diseases and pests, as well as of abiotic factors that threaten forest health. In case of affected forest territories and in such possibility, they are rehabilitated by the adopted methods and means.

MFU performs efficient prevention to minimize the risk of appearance of biotic and abiotic factors that threaten forest health.

2.6. Chemicals - MFU shall use chemical substances pursuant to the regulatory framework existing in Bulgaria and EU, and shall submit documented information about this. The use of chemical substances is only allowed in exceptional cases, with permission by the authorised bodies. The use of class 1A and 1B pesticides, as developed by the World Health Organization, and of chlorinated hydrocarbons, is not allowed.

The use of forbidden chemical substances, pesticides and hydrocarbons during activities in forests is not allowed.

In case of affected forest territories and in such possibility, they are rehabilitated by silvicultural means.

2.7. Waste and rubbish - MFU shall collect and store chemicals, containers, liquid and hard inorganic waste, including fuels and lubricants, at the places stipulated for the purpose in conformity with the applicable regulatory framework.

It is not allowed to create and store in the forest waste harmful to the ecosystem, contrary to the normative base.

In the presence of contaminated forest areas, they are cleaned and rehabilitated.

2.8. Defoliation - In MFU, there should be available up-to-date information about the degree of defoliation of the main tree species in the certified and neighbouring them forest territories

MFU has registered the cases of defoliation and has classified them by degree and by tree species (where applicable).

2.9. Reduced impact of fillings - Performance of fillings in MFU shall be carried out at the time and manner without damages to the ecosystem.

There is no damage to the plants remaining after the filling and to the regeneration.

In case of damaged forest areas, they are rehabilitated by silvicultural means.

Criterion 3: Maintenance and promoting productive functions of forests

3.1. Productive capacity - FMPI/Pr must ensure sustainability of the productive capacity of the different types of forests at a constant level and MFU must provide objective evidence that by doing so, and taking into account all available market studies, ensure the protection and maintenance of forest resources and forest functions.

Main method for maintenance and increase of produce with maximum possible quality is through diversification of product range, protection and improvement of reproductive and other useful functions of the forest.

3.2. Round timber - MFU shall perform its activity in a way that shall ensure the production of raw wood for the market with higher value. Part of the revenues from the sale of wood shall be at disposal for forest reproduction.

FMPI/Pr has ensured, and the management has realised to the maximum its produce to the highest degree, which ensures it optimum economic results, including through appearing on new markets.

3.3. Non-wood forest products, hunting and fishing - MFU ensures the production and sale of non-wood forest products and services of forest origin, in amounts that do not exceed the sustainable level of their reproduction, with this being performed at the same time in a way ensuring the preservation of their quality and quantity in the long term.

The use of non-wood forest products and services is increased in a way that ensures compliance with other (environmental and social) requirements for management.

3.4. Infrastructure - FMPI and other documents shall provide the establishment and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure such as roadways, bridges, ditches, etc. to ensure efficient movement in forests, avoiding negative environmental impacts. Special care should be provided for by the FMPI/Pr and introduced by the MFU for the protection of biotopes (soils, water and water courses, etc.), incl. and especially those which are subject to special protection.

MFU works purposefully for optimisation of road traffic network oriented to real needs.

Criterion 4: Maintenance, protection and possible improvement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems

4.1. Species diversity – FM planning and forest management when performing its activities, shall promote the structural diversity in the stands both in horizontal and vertical respect (the species diversity and the age distribution). MFU undertakes to keep the area of the forests and their distribution by tree species and age classes, which, at the same time, shall

contribute to improving the landscape and ensuring ecological and landscape connectivity or its recovery.

It maintains and preserves species diversity in forests.

4.2. Regeneration and forestation (natural regeneration) - MFU shall ensure priority natural regeneration of forest with local species.

The conditions for natural regeneration of stands with local species are utilised to the highest degree.

4.3. Regeneration and forestation (forestation and introduction) - When performing forestation (*an artificial regeneration*), MFU shall perform it with local tree species. Non-local and introduced tree species can be only planted in the cases when it is estimated that negative impacts on genetic, species and structural diversity can be avoided or minimized.

During forestations using species that are well adapted to the local conditions and timely are carried out according to their biological characteristics and good forest practices.

4.4. Dead wood – A part of the deadwood shall be left in the forest to maintain and improve the populations of living organisms. It is an indicator of the “naturalness” of the forests, and a guarantor for biodiversity. Also, it is a part of the forest structure.

Part of the ageing trees and of dead wood remains in the forest.

4.5. Ecosystems (forest reproductive materials, Genetically modified organisms / GMO) - The sources of forest reproductive materials shall be assessed and adequately protected. The area of the forests managed with the purpose of conservation of genetic resources and the territories managed for seed production (SPFs and generative gardens) are determined and managed in conformity with the requirements laid down in the applicable regulatory framework. The use of genetically modified organisms (species) is forbidden.

Adequate protection and use of existing resources and reproductive material for quality forest regeneration, have been ensured. The facilities for reproductive materials are retained to the highest degree over time.

4.6. Ecosystems (forest biotopes) - Ecologically important forest biotopes, protected, critically endangered, threatened and vulnerable and/or representative forest ecosystems shall include into forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forest resources and are managed in conformity with the applicable regulatory framework.

The representative forests ecosystems have been identified mapped and are managed without allowing their unjustified change and degradation.

4.7. Ecosystems (protected and threatened forest species) - The protected and threatened forest species (plant and animal) existing in the MFU territory shall be classified according to annexes of LBD (by number/area). Measures are taken to protect them and / or to increase their population (where possible), and taking also care to protect their habitats (criterion 4.6).

MFU ensures the compliance of the specific requirements and parameters of the protected species, so that they can develop in favourable environment and conditions.

4.8. Conversion / Succesion - MFU shall ensure protection of the biological diversity on the whole wooded area. It may require change of the purpose of the managed forests only in those cases listed in standard.

MFU has ensured defence and protection of wooded territories against their reduction.

Criterion 5: Applicable international, national and local legislation and forest management.

5.1. MFU respect and applies the applicable legal and other requirements of the Bulgarian and transposed European legislation - MFU shall possess elaborated documented procedure for identification and application of legal and other requirements concerning its activity in conformity with the applicable Bulgarian and European legislation, as well as PEFC requirements, with a view to ensuring sustainable forest management. The roles and responsibilities within the organization are defined.

For sustainable forest management, MFU observes all national and international legal requirements corresponding to the Principles and Criteria of PEFC.

Records are made that provide evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.

5.2. Requirements to the forest manager for commitment to the criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management under the PEFC system - MFU are managed by competent persons directly involved in the implementation of a sustainable forest management model based on the Bulgarian PEFC forest standard.

All applicable documents legitimising the MFU manager as competent to comply with the requirements of the standard with criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in Bulgaria as per the requirements of the PEFC.

5.3. Illegal activities, prevention - MFU shall be in a position to prove that, in the territory of its jurisdiction, no illegal wood harvesting, construction and land use, arsons, as well as other illegal activities are performed in any form, and/or to prove that it has undertaken the necessary preventive/corrective actions in case of occurrence of the respective case.

In MFU, all legal actions have been undertaken to counteract and prevent the illegal wood harvesting, construction and land use, arson, poaching, etc.

5.4. Knowledge and experience - Forest management and realisation activities in MFU, are based on competence, knowledge, experience accumulated and skills of the managing personnel and of the specialists, as well as of the contractors and of their employees and workers.

Only qualified and competent specialists and workers, pursuant to applicable legislation, are admitted to the management and activities in the forest territories.

Criterion 6: Maintenance of socio-economic conditions and functions of forests.

6.1. Rights of ownership and use - The legal status of the ownership of forest territories has been stipulated in conformity with the provisions in the applicable regulatory framework on forests and shall be established with forest inventory. The rights of use for each

owner and the interests of the remaining interested parties have been taken into account in the Forest Management Plan/Programme.

The right of ownership and the right of use of forest resources is clearly defined, proved and documented. The rights of use and the interests of the interested parties have been taken into account in the Forest Management Plan/Programme.

6.2. Promoting rural development - Forest planning and the management of the MFU must combine the many functions of forests with local communities, to pay due attention to the role of forestry, which is one of the main factors for rural development, incl. by the opportunities it opens for employment.

The manager holds regular meetings with representatives of local communities and shares the current issues (problems and successes) from the implementation of the activities

6.3. Publicity and effective communication – The Regional Plans for Development of Forest (RPDF), are a regionally defined basis for implementation of the state forest policy at regional level.

With the immediate participation of the owners, managers and other stakeholders and communities represented at regional and national level and on the basis of the regulations in force in the Republic of Bulgaria and the EU, the RPDF has defined the framework conditions for the development of the forest territories and gives information on the potential of the productive and non-productive functions of forests; the role and location of stakeholders, etc. Forest management is based on inventory, planning and mapping of forests, forest areas and forest resources. This operational planning with FMPI/Pr prior to its validation is publicly consulted and accepted with the participation of the interested parties represented in the region. At all stages, the available information, as well as the summaries of the already produced and validated documents (RPDF, FI, FMPI/Pr), are publicly available to interested parties.

RPDF as well as FMPI/Pr and the appendices, maps and results of monitoring (for a past period) are considered and adopted after a representative public discussion of committees with wide stakeholder participation. Approved FMPI/Pr or summary information summaries thereof are publicly available.

6.4. Settlement of disputes and complaints - In case of occurrence of a dispute with respect to management of forests and forest territories, the relevant legislation is applied.

MFU and / or regional control authorities, responds as quickly as possible to the resolution of disputes and complaints concerning forest management, rights of use and proficiency, working conditions, social benefits, etc., in accordance with the procedures / mechanisms adopted and deadline.

6.5. Economic functions and importance of forests - MFU optimally realises on the market the raw materials, products and services originating from its forest territories, established with FMPI/Pr, and thereby promotes local production and employment.

The importance of the forest for the local economy and for development of rural regions increases.

6.6. Healthy and recreational functions and importance of forests - Forest constituencies with ensured free access to them, which are predominantly intended for rest and recreation, have been determined.

Conditions have been created to increase the use of forests and forest areas for relaxation and recreation.

6.7. Sites of cultural and historic importance - The sites of cultural, historic and spiritual importance have been determined, are conserved and are used in conformity with legal requirements.

MFU contributes significantly to conservation and development of sites of cultural, historic and spiritual importance among forest territories.

6.8. Health and safety - MFU shall elaborate and observe a procedure for provision of health and safety at work pursuant to the regulatory framework and by-laws in force in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and EU, and the conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), containing criteria for assessment and control measures.

In case of performing the activity in the territory of MFU, decrease of work-related accidents and occupational diseases is registered.

6.9. Conditions for hiring labour (requirement for employer) - MFU hires qualified employees, specialists and workers pursuant to the requirements of the applicable regulatory framework. When assigning activities to subcontractors (contractors), the same requirements are applied to them, too.

The activities in the forests are performed by qualified workers and employees on the basis of proved qualities and experience with educational qualification, production experience and skills.

6.10. Conditions for hiring labour (Employees' rights) - MFU recognises the right of the employees to organise and to negotiate their remuneration and working conditions, in conformity with the national legislation and the main conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The workers and employees in MFU have the right to associate and participate in negotiations with employers to negotiate the working conditions, pay, etc., pursuant to ILO Conventions 87 and 98.

6.11. Science and innovation in forestry - MFU monitors developments in science and practice related to its activities to optimize the multifaceted use of the MFU resource potential, taking into account the social, economic and environmental benefits at local, regional and national levels.

The MFU requires a scientific and innovative approach in order to increase the multilateral benefits of forests

11. Guidances

In connection with the certification of forests in Bulgaria, It can be used different guides, already issued, or to develop new ones. In both cases, PEFC Bulgaria is the initiator, creating an Key Working Group to the Forest Certification College (FCC), to adapt the existing guides or to draw up new ones. The FCC adopts these documents and the Management Board decides how to disseminate and use them.

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- (1) **Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management – PE C&I** (PEFC reference document C) adopted by the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Lisbon/Portugal in June 1998 as annex 1 of the Resolution L2 (Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (<http://www.mcpfe.org>))
 - (2) **Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management - PEOLG** (PEFC reference document B) adopted by the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Lisbon/Portugal in June 1998 as annex 2 of the Resolution L2 (Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (<http://www.mcpfe.org>))
 - (3) **The fundamental ILO Conventions** (PEFCC reference documents D) as adopted by the International Labour Organisation (www.ilo.org). (4) **Safety and Health in Forestry Work: ILO Code of Practice**. As adopted by a meeting of experts held in Geneva from 23 to 30 September (Published in 1998, ILO, Geneva, International Labour Office, ISBN 92-2-110826-0).
 - (5) **Convention on Biological Diversity** as adopted on June 5, 1992 at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (<http://www.biodiv.org/convention/articles.asp>)
 - (6) **Kyoto Protocol and Carbon Sinks** as adopted at the third session of the Conference Parties to the UNFCCC (the United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change) in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 (<http://www.unfccc.int/>)
 - (7) **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** as adopted at a meeting of 80 countries in Washington DC., United States of America, on 3 march 1973, and entered in force on 1 July 1975. (<http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.shtml>)
 - (8) **Biosafety Protocol** (Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety) as adopted at the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity as a supplementary agreement to the Convention on 29 January 2000 (<http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/protocol.asp>)
 - (9) **ATO/ITTO Principles, criteria and indicators for the sustainable forest management of African natural tropical forests** (<http://www.itto.or.jp>)
 - (10) **ITTO guidelines on the sustainable management of natural tropical forests** as adopted by International Tropical Timber Organisation in 1992 (<http://www.itto.or.jp>) Annex 3 10
 - (11) **ITTO / IUCN guidelines on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests (2009)** as adopted by International Tropical Timber Organisation and International Union for Conservation of Nature in 2009 (<http://www.itto.or.jp>)
 - (12) **ITTO guidelines for the establishment and sustainable management of planted tropical forests** as adopted by International Tropical Timber Organisation in 1993 (<http://www.itto.or.jp>)