



Press Briefing – August 2020

PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

PEFC is dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. It is the world's leading forest certification system and the certification system of choice for small- and family forest owners.

PEFC is an independent, not-for-profit organization promoting sustainable forest management through the certification of forests and the products that come from them. This is done through two separate but linked processes:

- Sustainable forest management certification assures that forests are managed in line with challenging environmental, social, and economic requirements – balancing people, planet and profit.
- Chain of custody certification tracks wood from sustainable sources to the final product. It demonstrates that each step of the supply chain is closely monitored through independent auditing to ensure that unsustainable sources are excluded.

In addition to enabling companies to sell and label sustainably sourced, PEFC-certified wood and forest-based materials, chain of custody certification also offers an efficient mechanism for companies to demonstrate alignment with the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR).

Certification is only awarded after independent third party audits have verified compliance with PEFC's globally recognized requirements.

Facts & Figures

- 53 national members (with 47 endorsed national certification systems) and 30 international stakeholder members have joined forces under the PEFC umbrella to promote sustainable forest management.
- Around 320 million hectares of forest area (or 790 million acres) are managed in compliance with PEFC's internationally accepted Sustainability Benchmarks. That's three-quarters (75%) of all certified forests globally.
- More than 20,000 companies and organizations are covered by PEFC chain of custody certification.
- PEFC certification is a standard of choice for public timber procurement policies in e.g. Belgium, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, as well as in the European Union Green Public Procurement toolkit, as well as numerous private timber procurement policies.

How does PEFC work?

PEFC is a global association that endorses national forest certification systems developed collaboratively by all interested stakeholders and tailored to local priorities and conditions.

Each national forest certification system must demonstrate compliance with PEFC's unique Sustainability Benchmarks in independent assessments. The Benchmarks are based on broad consensus by society, expressed in globally respected international and intergovernmental processes and guidelines for the promotion of sustainable forest management.

The Benchmark criteria are regularly revised through multi-stakeholder processes involving participants drawn globally from civil society, business, governments and labour and research institutions, to take account of new scientific knowledge, societal change, evolving expectations and to incorporate the latest best practices.

What makes PEFC unique?

While all forests play a key role in providing ecosystem services, contributing to the global sustainable development objective and combating climate change, it is generally accepted that private forests provide proportionally more market commodities than their publicly-owned and managed counterparts.

Some 25% of the world's forests are estimated to be managed by families and community members, and PEFC was founded by small- and family forest owners to demonstrate excellence in sustainable forest management. Through innovative mechanisms for group and regional certification, PEFC supports small land owners to gain recognition in the market place thereby making a lasting contribution to livelihoods and rural development.

What does forest certification deliver?

Healthy Forests	Healthy Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain and increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, biodiversity• Protect ecologically important forest areas, wildlife, waterways, and soil• Prohibit forest conversions; no certification of plantations established by conversions• Avoid genetically modified trees, most hazardous chemicals• Prevent unauthorised activities such as illegal logging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote the long term health and well-being of forest communities• Respect forests' multiple functions, give due regard to the role of forestry in rural development• Involve forest communities, forest-dependent people in forest management• Recognize indigenous people's rights, incl. free, prior and informed consent• Protect sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance• Safeguard areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities
Healthy Work <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comply with all fundamental ILO conventions; safe working conditions• Consideration of new opportunities for employment	PEFC's Sustainable Forest Management Standard is available at treee.es/pefcstandards

Further information

- PEFC website: www.pefc.org
- PEFC's approach to certification: treee.es/pefcapproach

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