

CK SERVICES

**Assessment of the revised Uruguayan PEFC
Certification System against PEFC Sustainability
Benchmark Standards**

FINAL REPORT, 13th April 2022

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1 Introduction

This document is the final report on the assessment of the revised Uruguayan PEFC Certification System against PEFC International's Sustainability Benchmark Standards, which was carried out by CK Services in December 2021 and January 2022.

The assessment was conducted as a desk study following PEFC International's procedures for the assessment of revised forest certification systems, which are defined in PEFC GD 1007:2017, *Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of Certification Systems and their Revision*.

The structure of this report is based on PEFC GD 1007, Appendix 2, *The assessment report*.

1.1 Assessment Scope

The scope of the assessment covers the evaluation of system documentation and reference documentation as submitted by PEFC Uruguay against the PEFC International Sustainability Benchmark Standards specified as being applicable for this assessment by PEFC International in a *tender dossier*. In addition, responses to an international stakeholder consultation and a stakeholder involvement survey were taken into consideration.

The system documentation submitted by PEFC Uruguay comprises the documents listed in Table 1.

Table 1, System documentation, PEFC Uruguay

Number	Version	Date	Document name
DG 01	09	04/2020	List of Current Documents
DG 02	03	04/2020	Procedure for the development and control of documents
DG 03	06	04/2020	Forest Certification Bodies
DG 04	04	04/2020	Auditor Qualification Criteria
DG 05	03	04/2020	Use of PEFC Trademarks in Uruguay
DG 06	01	08/2009	Dispute Resolution
DG 07	06	04/2020	Group Certification - Requirements
DG 08	02	03/2014	<i>Guidelines for the notification of certifying bodies (Replaced by DG 03.04 and successive versions)</i>
DG 09	02	04/2020	Procedure for justifying an exception to the use of WHO group 1A and 1B pesticides
DG 10	04	10/2017	Guide to the operation of the Specialized Committee on Sustainable Forest Management – UNIT 2014
DG 11	01	05/2018	Forest Management Standard - Amendments
DG 12	02	04/2020	Guide to Beekeeping Production in the PEFC Chain of Custody
DG 13	01	06/2019	Procedure for the Development and Revision of standards of PEFC Uruguay
GFS:2020	01	09/2019	PEFC Uruguay SFM Standard:2020
PEFC ST 2001:2020	-	01/2020	PEFC Trademarks Rules

PEFC ST 2002:2020	-	01/2020	Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements
PEFC ST 2003:2020		01/2020	Requirements for Certification Bodies Conducting PEFC Chain of Custody Certification

In addition, the following documents were submitted supporting the assessment:

- 1. Application LETTER
 - o PEFC Uruguay - Application Letter 2021
- 2. Development REPORT
 - o Forestry Sector in Uruguay - Uruguay XXI
 - o PEFC URUGUAY - Development REPORT
 - o UNIT 1152_2020
- 3. PEFC Council Minimum Requirements CHECKLISTs
 - o Uruguay - Checklist Certification and Accreditation
 - o Uruguay - Checklist Group Certification PEFC ST 1002-2018
 - o Uruguay - Checklist Scheme Administration
 - o Uruguay - Checklist SFM ST - PEFC ST 1003-2018
 - o Uruguay - Checklist Standard Setting Procedures & Process 2017

The following documentation was provided by PEFC Uruguay to provide evidence on the standard review and revision process:

- 1. Stakeholders Mapping
- 2. List of contacted invited stakeholders
 - o CPittamiglio - Comité Técnico Revisión Sistema PEFC Uruguay
 - o OUA - Comité Técnico Revisión Sistema PEFC Uruguay
- 3. Translation of invitation letter
- 3.1 MINUTE PEFC UY BOARD MEETING July 8th
- 3.2 MINUTE PEFC UY BOARD August 6th
- 3.a PEFC_Uruguay_-_8_de_agosto_2019_-_Comite_Tecnico_de_MFS
- 4. Minute of 1st TC Meeting 8_de_agosto_-_MINUTA
- 5. MINUTES
 - o 1. 8 de agosto 2019- MINUTA
 - o 1.1 PEFC Uruguay - 8 de agosto 2019 - Comité Técnico de MFS
 - o 2. 22 de agosto 2019 – MINUTA
 - o 3. 5 de setiembre 2019 – MINUTA
 - o 4. 26 de setiembre- MINUTA
 - o 5. 10 de octubre 2019 – MINUTA
 - o 6. 24 de octubre- MINUTA
 - o 7. 21 de noviembre 2019 – MINUTA
 - o 8. 12 de marzo 2020 – MINUTA
 - o 8. 16 de abril. Board meeting
 - o 8.1 Publicación Consulta Pública
 - o 8.2 GFS PEFC Uruguay 202X- CAMBIOS
 - o 9. 13 agosto 2020 – MINUTA
 - o 9.1 Estándar GFS PEFC - UNIT_formComentarios copy
 - o 9.1 Estándar GFS PEFC - UNIT_formComentarios
- 6. Revision section of website
- 6.1 Public consultation

- PC 1. Diario El País. PC announcement
- PC 2. RF page 56
- PC 3. GFS PEFC Uruguay 202X- CAMBIOS
- PC 4. DRAFT Estándar GFS PEFC Uy - 202X
- PC 5. UNIT announcement SN 021_20
- PC 6. DRAFT PU 1152_2020
- PC 7. May 7 List of emails sent for PC
- PC 8. COMMENTS RECEIVED
 - 1. Martha Tamosiunas
 - 2. Comentarios a norma 1152.2020
 - 3, Comentarios CP - Dirección forestall
 - 4. Compilation of comments
- 6. Sans -Borrador GFS ST 2020 - 23 de marzo_CS
 - 7. Scaglia -Borrador GFS ST 2020 - 23 de marzo (1)
 - 8. UNIT-Comentarios a standard PEFC (1) [MS Word]
 - 9. UNIT-Comentarios a standard PEFC (1) [MS Exel]
- 7. Analysis of feedback
- 8. Mail for request of consent of the TC on final draft
- 9. TEXT of mail requesting consent of TC members on final draft of standard
- 10. MINUTE PEFC Board -September 24th 2020
- 11. Translation MINUTE PEFC Board -September 24th 2020
- 12.Communication of approval of FM ST 2020
- 13. Communication of approval to TC -Estándar PEFC Uruguay de GFS_2020

The system documentation of PEFC Uruguay was assessed against the PEFC International Sustainability Benchmark Standards defined to be applicable for this assessment in PEFC International's *tender dossier*, which are listed in Table 2.

Table 2, PEFC International Sustainability Benchmark Standards

Document title	Document name
PEFC ST 1001:2017	<i>Standard Setting – Requirements</i>
PEFC ST 1002:2018	<i>Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements</i>
PEFC ST 1003:2018	<i>Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements</i>
Annex 6, PEFC TD	<i>Certification and Accreditation Procedures Forest Management</i>
PEFC ST 2002:2020	<i>Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements</i>
PEFC ST 2003:2020	<i>Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard</i>

A detailed evaluation of the system's trademark use rules were not requested to be covered by the scope of this assessment, due to the adoption of the PEFC International Benchmark Standard for trademark use by the Uruguayan PEFC Certification System. Procedures for scheme administration, such as for complaint resolution, are also not covered by this assessment in detail and are expected to be evaluated by PEFC International internally.

1.2 Methodology

The assessment was carried out as a desk study. A field visit was not part of this assessment, as this is not required by PEFC GD 1007 for previously PEFC endorsed systems, nor had a field visit been explicitly requested by PEFC International or PEFC Uruguay.

1.2.1 Assessment of the standard setting procedures and process

The assessment of the Uruguayan PEFC Certification System's standard setting procedures and of the standard review and revision process was carried out against PEFC ST 1001:2017. The system documentation assessed consisted of DG 13.01 Procedure for the Development and Revision of *standards of PEFC Uruguay*. Also considered were PEFC Uruguay's development report, the provided reference documentation and responses from the international stakeholder consultation and the stakeholder involvement survey.

The "PEFC Checklist - Standard Setting Procedures and Process (PEFC ST 1001:2017)" as provided by PEFC International was used for this assessment. The completed checklist is found in Annex A of this report. Details on responses to international stakeholder consultation and stakeholder survey can be found in Annex B and Annex C respectively.

1.2.2 Assessment of the forest management standard

The assessment of the Uruguayan PEFC Certification System's forest management standard was carried out against PEFC ST 1003:2018. The system documentation assessed consisted mainly of the *PEFC Uruguay SFM Standard:2020*.

The "PEFC Checklist - Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018)" as provided by PEFC International was used for this assessment. The completed checklist is found in Annex A of this report.

1.2.3 Assessment of the group certification model

The assessment of the Uruguayan PEFC Certification System's group certification model was carried out against PEFC ST 1002:2018. The system documentation assessed consisted of DG 07.06, *Group Certification - Requirements*.

The "PEFC Checklist - Group Forest Management Certification (PEFC ST 1002:2018)" as provided by PEFC International was used for this assessment. The completed checklist is found in Annex A of this report.

1.2.4 Assessment of the certification and accreditation procedures

The assessment of the Uruguayan PEFC Certification System's certification and accreditation procedures for forest management certification was carried out against Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document. The system documentation assessed consisted of DG 03.06, *Forest Certification Bodies*.

The "PEFC Checklist - Certification and Accreditation Procedures (Annex 6, PEFC TD)" as provided by PEFC International was used for this assessment. The completed checklist is found in Annex A of this report.

The Uruguayan PEFC Certification System's certification and accreditation procedures for chain of custody certification had not to be assessed in detail, as the system has adopted PEFC ST 2003 as part of its own technical documentation without any changes to title or content.

1.2.5 Assessment of the chain of custody standard

The Uruguayan PEFC Certification System's chain of custody had not to be assessed in detail, as the system has adopted PEFC ST 2002:2020, *Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements* as part of its own technical documentation without any changes to title or content.

Additional chain of custody requirements of the Uruguayan PEFC Certification System for the production of honey are defined in DG 12, *Guide to Beekeeping Production in the PEFC Chain of Custody*. DG 12 was evaluated on whether it conforms with PEFC ST 2002 requirements without the use of a formal checklist.

1.2.6 Assessment decisions

Based on PEFC GD 1007, 6.2.2, three types of decisions were made with regard to the conformity of the Uruguayan PEFC Certification System with the relevant PEFC Benchmark requirements:

- a) **Conformity:** The system documentation fully meets a particular PEFC Benchmark requirement.
- b) **Minor nonconformity:** A nonconformity against a specific PEFC Benchmark requirement that has a low impact on achieving the intended outcome of the PEFC International Benchmark Standard. According to PEFC GD 1007, 6.2.3 a minor nonconformity should be corrected within 6 months of a potential endorsement by PEFC. The assessor may recommend a longer period where justified by particular circumstances. Multiple minor nonconformities can result in a recommendation that minor nonconformities shall be corrected before the endorsement of the applicant system.
- c) **Major nonconformity:** A nonconformity against a specific PEFC Benchmark requirement that has a high impact on achieving the intended outcome of the PEFC International Benchmark Standard. According to PEFC GD 1007, 6.2.3 a major nonconformity does not allow the PEFC endorsement of a system and needs to be corrected before an endorsement can take place.

Where a benchmark requirement was deemed not to be applicable, the requirement was marked with “N/A” and a justification for the non-applicability was provided.

1.3 Assessment Process

1.3.1 Assessment schedule

The assessment process followed a schedule based on PEFC GD 1007. The dates for the individual steps of the assessment had been agreed between PEFC Uruguay, PEFC International and CK Services prior to the start of the assessment as shown in Table 3.

Table 3, Assessment schedule

Assessment event	Date	By
Int. stakeholder consultation	30 th August – 21 st October 2021	PEFC International
Assessment start	29 th November 2021	CK Services
Stakeholder survey	13 th – 19 th December 2021	CK Services
Draft assessment report	By 20 th December 2021	CK Services
Commenting period	By 17 th January 2022	PEFC Uruguay
Final draft assessment report	By 7 th February 2022	CK Services
Internal Review	By 21 st February 2022	PEFC International
Final report	By 28 th February 2022	CK Services

1.3.2 Assessment steps

The assessment consisted of the following steps:

a) Public consultation

An international public stakeholder consultation organized by PEFC International was held from 30th August until 21st October 2021. PEFC informed CK Services on 17th November 2021 that no comments had been received during this consultation (see Annex C).

A stakeholder involvement survey on national level was organized by CK Services. On 13th December 2021 invitations to respond to an online questionnaire were sent to 33 stakeholders by email. The survey was announced to stakeholders as being open until 19th December 2021, with more time being available to respond to it on request. Two stakeholders responded to the survey and their feedback was taken into account for the preparation of the draft and final draft reports (see Annex B).

b) Desk study and preparation of draft assessment report

The initial desk study took place during the period 29th November to 27th December 2021. It comprised an evaluation of the submitted system documentation against the relevant PEFC International Benchmark Standards covered by the scope of the assessment, as well as a consideration of PEFC Uruguay's development report, the provided reference documentation, and the responses to international stakeholder consultation and stakeholder involvement survey.

On 27th December 2021 a draft report identifying 28 minor and 4 major nonconformities was sent to PEFC Uruguay and PEFC International, with a preliminary recommendation to PEFC International not to maintain the endorsement of the system unless the identified major nonconformities are sufficiently resolved and the number of identified minor nonconformities is significantly reduced.

c) Commenting period

The commenting period during which PEFC Uruguay could respond to the findings of the draft report was between 27th December 2021 and 17th January 2022, with the option for PEFC Uruguay to extend the commenting period by another week due to the delayed delivery of the draft report.

d) Preparation of final draft assessment report

The amended technical documentation and additional information and evidence provided by PEFC Uruguay during the commenting period were considered during the preparation of a final draft assessment report. The final draft assessment report was sent to PEFC International for review on 8th February 2022. However, due to technical issues the final draft report was not received by the PEFC International before 10th March 2022.

e) PEFC International internal review

The final draft report was reviewed by PEFC International during the period 10th March to 7th April 2022.

f) Preparation of the final assessment report.

The internal review comments provided by PEFC International were considered and addressed by CK Services in this final assessment report. The final report was submitted to PEFC International on 13th April 2022.

1.4 Assessment Personnel

The assessment was carried out by Mr. Christian Kämmer at CK Services. Contact person at PEFC International was Mr. Hubert Inhaizer. Contact person at PEFC Uruguay was Mrs. Gabriela Malvarez.

2 Recommendation

Based on the findings of the final assessment report, CK Services recommends to PEFC International to maintain the endorsement of the Uruguayan PEFC Certification System, on the condition that within six months as of communication of endorsement maintenance PEFC Uruguay addresses the minor nonconformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.4.3 in the standard setting process by developing an action plan on target setting for key stakeholder representation in standard setting/revision and proactive outreach towards them in the next standard development/revision process of PEFC Uruguay.

3 Summary of findings

3.1 Overall

The assessment of the revised Uruguayan PEFC Certification System against the PEFC International Benchmark Standards covered under the scope of this assessment by CK Services determined that the system almost fully meets PEFC International's requirements. Only one minor nonconformity in the standard setting process has been identified.

3.2 Structure of the System

The structure and elements of the system are defined through the system's various technical documents and PEFC Uruguay's statutes.

No aspects of the system's structure that would inhibit its functioning as a PEFC endorsed forest certification system have been identified in the assessment.

3.3 Standard Setting Procedures

The standard setting procedures of the revised Uruguayan PEFC Certification System defined in DG 13, *Procedure for the development and revision of standards of the PEFC Uruguay system*.

DG 13 fully meets the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017.

3.4 Standard Setting Process

The standard setting process was almost fully in conformity with the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017.

Only one minor nonconformity in the standard setting process was identified with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.4.3. PEFC Uruguay has not been able to provide evidence that targets for the representation of key stakeholders on its Technical Committee were set and that proactive outreach methods were used to convince environmental NGOs to be represented on the committee.

The standard revision process appears to have been very well organised with frequent meetings of the Technical Committee revising the forest management standard. The revision process was further characterized by consensus and unanimous decision making in the Technical Committee, but also a lack of representation of Environmental NGOs on the committee, which had a reasonably wide range of stakeholders represented otherwise.

3.5 Forest Management Standard

The forest management standard of the revised Uruguayan PEFC Certification System, *PEFC Uruguay SFM Standard:2020* is fully in conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018. As the standard defines requirements for the management of forest plantations, the guidance for interpretation of the benchmark standard's requirements in forest plantations provided in Appendix 1 of PEFC ST 1003 was considered in the assessment.

3.6 Group Certification Model

The requirements for group forest management certification of the revised Uruguayan PEFC Certification System are defined in DG 07, *Group Certification - Requirements*. DG 07 was assessed as being fully in conformity with PEFC ST 1002:2018.

3.7 Chain of Custody Standard and Trademark Use

The revised Uruguayan PEFC Certification System has adopted PEFC International's chain of custody standard, PEFC ST 2002:2020, and trademark rules, PEFC ST 2001:2020, as normative elements of its system documentation.

In addition, the system has developed chain of custody guidance for honey from PEFC certified forests through DG 12, *Guide for Honeybee production in the CoC PEFC*.

This guide regulates that the production of honey from bees inside PEFC certified forests is covered by both, forest management certification, where it has to be integrated in the certified forest manager's forest management plan, and chain of custody certification of the beekeepers for the physical separation method. Apiaries used for certified honey production are required to be officially registered and mapped, and the honey production has to follow the complete set of requirements outlined in PEFC ST 2002:2020.

One question of chain of custody certified bee honey production covered which is not addressed by the guidance is that of the bees' flight and pollen and nectar collection radius. This question would seem relevant in terms of how it can be justified that bees have collected pollen and nectar only from within PEFC certified forests. It is however understood by the assessor that this question is addressed by two factors, namely by a seasonal limiting of certified production to periods of tree flowering and by the large geographical scale of PEFC certified forest plantations in Uruguay, which are usually surrounded by non-forested land rather than other, non-certified forests.

In conclusion, the assessor has determined, that the additional guidance provided for bee honey production under the PEFC Uruguay system as outlined in DG 12 is in line with PEFC ST 2002:2020 requirements.

The system therefore fully meets PEFC International's requirements for chain of custody standards and PEFC trademark rules.

3.8 Certification and Accreditation Procedures

PEFC Uruguay has adopted PEFC ST 2003:2020 as part of its own system. The system therefore meets PEFC International's requirements on certification and accreditation procedures for chain of custody certification.

The Uruguayan PEFC Certification System's requirements for certification bodies conducting forest management are defined in DG 03, *Forest Certification Bodies*. No nonconformities were identified in the assessment of DG 03 and the system's certification and accreditation procedures for forest management are therefore deemed as fully meeting the requirements of Annex 6, PEFC TD.

3.9 Other Aspects

No comments were submitted in the 60-day public international stakeholder consultation organised by PEFC International.

Feedback received from 2 out of 34 stakeholders in Uruguay invited by CK Services to participate in a stakeholder involvement survey confirmed the information provided by PEFC Uruguay on the standard review and revision process.

4 Structure of the System

The Uruguayan PEFC Certification System's system documentation does not include an official document describing its structure and the roles of organisations involved as actors in the system. Instead, its organisational structure and framework of actors and their functions is defined through separate technical documents, namely the PEFC Uruguay Statutes, standard development procedures, certification and accreditation procedures, group certification requirements and forest management and chain of custody certification standards.

4.1 Organisational structure

Table 4 provides an overview about entities and their main functions in the Uruguayan PEFC Certification System.

Table 4, Entities and their functions in the Uruguayan PEFC Certification System

Body	Main Functions	Reference document
General Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- sovereign body of the institution- constituted by all the associates with the right to participate- adopts all decisions of social interest according to the statutory, legal, and regulatory norms if applicable, as well as the norms of the institution- can approve internal regulations for the functioning, organization, and other aspects of the institution	PEFC Uruguay Statutes
Directory Commission (Board of Directors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- determines policies and strategies to be developed by the Association- approves the "Annual Memory" and Balance before submitting it for the approval to the General Assembly- determines and approves the annual budget before submitting it for the approval to the General Assembly- determines contributions of the associates	PEFC Uruguay Statutes
Fiscal Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- inspects accounting registers- verifies the annual balance- advises the directory commission when it is required	PEFC Uruguay Statutes
Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- administrative department of the system- led by a Secretary General, whose appointment and responsibilities are allocated in the statutes of PEFC Uruguay	PEFC Uruguay Statutes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - receives and registers Forest Management and Chain of Custody certifications from accredited and authorized certification entities - receives and registers information on recognized training entities and persons having passed the theoretical training required of forest auditors - distributes official internal and external regulations, texts, and Communications - responsible for drafting the minutes of sessions held in the General Assembly, Directory and Fiscal Commission 	
Commission for Settlement of Disagreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - handles disagreements that are not resolved within FM or COC procedures - members of the commission of Settlement of Disagreements should be independent and impartial and are appointed ad hoc by PEFC Uruguay 	PEFC Uruguay Statutes
Accreditation bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bodies meeting the system's accreditation requirements - accredit certification bodies 	DG 03, PEFC ST 2003
Certification bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - independent, accredited bodies meeting the system's certification body requirements, notified by PEFC Uruguay - assess the conformity of entities with the system's certification requirements - provide PEFC Uruguay with certifications related information 	DG 03, PEFC ST 2003
Groups (in forest management certification)	Association of forest owners and managers and associations of these, implementing the system's forest management requirements. Currently none active, according to PEFC Information Register (https://pefc.org/find-certified)	DG 07
Individual forest owners/managers	Forest owners/managers certified against and implementing the system's forest management standard individually.	PEFC Uruguay SFM Standard:2020
Standardizing Body	Responsible for the development and revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System. This is PEFC Uruguay.	DG 13
Technical Commission	Temporary body established by PEFC Uruguay and composed of its system's stakeholders, responsible for the process of developing and/or reviewing its standards.	DG 13

The role of entities in chain of custody certification is not further highlighted, as the system has adopted PEFC ST 2002:2020 and PEFC ST 2003:2020.

4.2 Structure of technical documentation

The system's technical documentation is defined in DG 01, *List of current documents*. DG 01 defines the system's technical documentation as consisting of those documents submitted for assessment, as listed in Table 1, System documentation, PEFC Uruguay. In addition, technical documentation of PEFC International that has been identified as having any relevance for PEFC Uruguay's system is referred.

4.3 Major changes and improvements during the revision process

Major changes made to PEFC Uruguay's system in the revision process are related to aligning the system's own documents with updated benchmark requirements of PEFC International, namely those for standard setting, sustainable forest management and group certification. In addition, experience gained from the implementation of the system as well as feedback from stakeholders in the revision process was taken into account in the revision of documentation.

A major change in terms of ownership and responsibility for revision of the forest management standard used by PEFC Uruguay's system was the incorporation of the standard in its own technical documentation. Prior to the revision the forest management used for PEFC certification in Uruguay had been under the ownership of UNIT, the Uruguayan Institute for Technical Norms (Instituto Uruguayo de Normas Técnicas), and revision of the document had to be requested by PEFC Uruguay and followed UNIT procedures under UNIT coordination.

4.4 Assessment result

PEFC International defines no specific requirements for the structure of a system against which an assessment could be carried out in detail. However, no aspects of the system's structure that would inhibit its functioning as a PEFC endorsed forest certification system have been identified in the assessment.

5 Standard setting procedures

5.1 Analysis and conclusion

The standard setting/revision procedures for the forest management standard of the PEFC Uruguay Certification System are defined in DG 13, *Procedure for Development and Revision of Standards*. The scope of DG 13 includes all "standards" of PEFC Uruguay, of which there is understood to currently exist only one, namely the system's forest management standard.

The system's standard development procedures were revised by PEFC Uruguay in 2019 in order to align it with the requirements of the latest version of PEFC International's Benchmark Standard for standard setting and revision, PEFC ST 1001:2017 and to the UNIT procedure *Rules for the Specialized Committee of Sustainable Forestry Management* - N/RGFS 001 Rev 2.0.

DG 13 was approved by PEFC Uruguay's Directory Commission in June 2019. The subsequent revision of the forest management standard followed these revised procedures.

DG 13 was assessed by CK Services against PEFC ST 1001:2017. The assessment has determined that the PEFC ST 1001's requirements for procedures are fully met.

5.2 Assessment result – Nonconformities

Not applicable

5.3 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

This section contains selected examples of how the system's standard setting procedures meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017.

For the complete checklist containing the assessment against all requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017 see Annex A of this report.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.2.1

PEFC benchmark requirement PEFC ST 1001, 6.2.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. It shall define which stakeholder groups are relevant to the subject matter and why. For each stakeholder group the standardising body shall identify the likely key issues, key stakeholders, and which means of communication would be best to reach them.
Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text) DG 13, 7.1. Identification of stakeholders PEFC Uruguay shall identify the stakeholders that are relevant to the objective and scope of the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System. Stakeholder mapping should include defining the relevant stakeholders, why these are considered, what are the issues important to them, defining key and disadvantaged stakeholders, and defining the means of communication to better reach it. 7.2. Disadvantaged stakeholders PEFC Uruguay must identify stakeholders who may be at a disadvantage to participate in the process of developing and/or reviewing PEFC Uruguay's standards. Restrictions on their participation should be identified and their participation and contribution to the process should be proactively sought.
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The benchmark is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.3

PEFC benchmark requirement PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.3 In order to achieve balanced representation, the standardising body shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.2) represented. The standardising body shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc. NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standardising body may consider alternative options.
Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text) DG 13, 6.5.1 The initial composition of the Technical Committee should be reviewed at the start of a new project, including periodic reviews of an existing one. The review should include consideration of gender balance and representation and invitation to potential new members.

If considerations of gender balance and representation are not fully met at the time of the approval of the TC composition, PEFC Uruguay shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations, etc.

PEFC Uruguay comment: The procedures of identification of stakeholders has its roots in UNIT's procedures and are now part of PEFC Uruguay procedures, and reflects the reality of the process in the country. The listing "base" stakeholders, from UNIT procedures and now in DG 13, cover ALL possible aspects of interest for the sector and have a history of participation in the process, therefore, the process of invitation begins with them.

Included in the procedure, public communications and invitation letters is the exhortation to refer the invitation to other potential stakeholders. These referrals are followed up by PEFC Uruguay.

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The benchmark is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.8

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.8 When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, the standardising body shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

DG 13, 7.11 In the event of a negative vote representing sustained opposition to any significant part of the interests involved in a substantive issue, it shall be resolved by the following mechanisms:

- a) Discussion and negotiation on a disputed issue within the Technical Committee with the aim of finding a compromise.
- b) Direct negotiation between the interested parties submitting the objection and the interested parties with different views on the disputed issue to find a compromise.
- c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. PEFC Uruguay determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.
- d) When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, PEFC Uruguay shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures (DG 06 – Dispute Resolution) for impartial and objective action.

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The benchmark is met.

6 Standard setting process

The standard revision process of the PEFC Uruguay Certification System took place in the period July 2019 to October 2020 and aimed to meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017, *Standard Setting – Requirements*. During the revision process major changes were made to the system's standard revision procedures, forest management standard and group certification standard.

Only the revision process for the system's forest management standard is covered by this assessment in detail.

6.1 Revision process overview

An overview on the major steps in the revision of the PEFC Uruguay Certification System's forest management standard is provided in Table 5.

Table 5, Major steps in the revision process

Date/period	Event
July 2019	Stakeholder mapping and invitation
July/August 2019	Establishment of a Technical Committee
August 2019	Start of revision work conducted by the Technical Committee
May-July 2020	60-day public consultation on enquiry draft standard
August 2020	Consideration of comments received and unanimous consensus by the Technical Committee on a final draft standard
September 2020	Approval of the final draft by the PEFC Uruguay Directory Commission/Board of Directors
October 2020	Publication of the revised standard

6.2 Documentation and evidence

PEFC Uruguay provided well-structured and detailed information on the standard revision process in a development report. The development report was supported by extensive evidence in the form of additional reference documents provided by PEFC Uruguay, such as emails, screenshots, notes of conversations, minutes and other documents, including stakeholder lists and draft documents.

6.3 Stakeholder involvement survey

A stakeholder involvement survey was conducted by CK Services amongst 34 stakeholders of the PEFC Uruguay Certification System in Uruguay in December 2021. While only two stakeholders responded to the survey, their responses confirm the information and evidence provided by PEFC Uruguay on the revision process.

Further details on the stakeholder involvement survey conducted by CK Services can be found in Annex B of this assessment report.

6.4 Analysis and conclusion

Having assessed the documentation and evidence provided by PEFC Uruguay on the standard revision process and considering the outcome of the stakeholder involvement survey, it could be determined that the revision process was almost fully in conformity with the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017. However, one minor nonconformity has been identified.

The nonconformity that could not be resolved concerns 6.4.3 of PEFC ST 1001, which is related to target setting for key stakeholder representation and proactive outreach. PEFC Uruguay has neither been able to demonstrate that it has set targets for key stakeholder representation, nor that it has used proactive outreach methods to convince environmental NGOs, which are defined as key stakeholders by PEFC Uruguay, to be represented on its Technical Committee.

Overall, the standard revision process appears to have been very well organised with frequent meetings of the Technical Committee revising the forest management standard. The revision process was further characterized by consensus and unanimous decision making in the Technical Committee, but also a lack of representation of Environmental NGOs on the committee, which had a reasonably wide range of stakeholders represented otherwise.

It is understood that PEFC Uruguay considers the absence of environmental NGOs on the Technical Committee not to have been a huge detriment to the expertise on environmental matters represented on the committee, mainly due to the participation of stakeholders from academia/environmental science in the committee.

6.5 Assessment result – Nonconformities

This section contains an overview of nonconformities with PEFC ST 1001:2017 in the standard setting process which were not resolved by PEFC Uruguay during the commenting period of this assessment.

6.5.1 Nonconformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.3

For details on the minor nonconformity with PEFC ST 1001:2017, 6.4.3 identified in the revision process, see Table 6.

Table 6, Nonconformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.3

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement</p> <p>PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.3 In order to achieve balanced representation, the standardising body shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.2) represented. The standardising body shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc.</p> <p>NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standardising body may consider alternative options.</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay comment: Due to sector characteristics, all stakeholders are defined as key stakeholders and equally seek for participation. ANONG responded to invitation saying they would forward the invitation to their environmental committee to decide whether to participate or not (please see attached copy of mail – 2. Anong-Re). No further communication was received to reminders, but they were still kept in all the communications (meetings, topics to be discuss, resolutions, public consultation).</p> <p>At the time of the approval of the composition of the TC, the response of the stakeholders was considered fair, and the absence of environmental NGOs, was considered to be balanced by the participation of Academia.</p> <p>It is worth mentioning that the members of the TC conformed, participated of ALL topics of the standard, not selectively of those of their own interest.</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>3.1 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board July 8th – Decision to begin the review/revision process</p> <p>3.2 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board - August 6th . Approval of Technical Committee constitution and beginning of process.</p> <p>In minutes, translated text is in blue</p>
<p>Assessment decision: Minor nonconformity</p>

Justification: It is not apparent from the submitted documentation and additional comments provided by PEFC Uruguay that targets for the participation of key stakeholders were set and that proactive outreach took place to seek the participation of ANONG and environmental NGOs on the Technical Committee.

6.6 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

This section contains selected examples of how the system's standard revision meets the requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017.

For the complete checklist containing the assessment against all requirements of PEFC ST 1001:2017 see Annex A of this report.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.2.1

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1001, 6.2.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. It shall define which stakeholder groups are relevant to the subject matter and why. For each stakeholder group the standardising body shall identify the likely key issues, key stakeholders, and which means of communication would be best to reach them.

Reference to process/evidence

PEFC Uruguay comment: "Due to the characteristics of the forestry sector in Uruguay, all stakeholders are identified as KEY stakeholders and invited to participate of the process as well as to indicate further potential stakeholders.

In the process of conformation of the Technical Committee, a base line of stakeholder organizations (listed in DG 13) that cover all identified aspects of the sector (government, companies, associations, academia) and that have participated in previous revision processes, are contacted, and they are also invited to suggest further participants or in some cases experts.

Once the organizations have delegated and persons have confirmed their intention to participate, the list is passed to the PEFC Board of Directors for formal approval. In reality, we do not have such a pool of stakeholders that requires selection, and all are designed as equally KEY stakeholders.

At the time of the approval by the Board, it is also discussed further potential stakeholders are suggested and invited. For example, for this process, the Association of Uruguay River Canoeing was suggested and invited (no response).

In the history of PEFC Uruguay, no refusal has taken place."

Evidence: 1. Stakeholders Mapping.xlsx

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.1

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1001, 6.4.1 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group or adjust the composition of an already existing working group based on nominations it received. Acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justified in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of

the working group, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.
<p>Reference to process/evidence</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay comment: "Invitations to participate in the revision process through the Technical Committee is sent to ALL identified parties in the sector, which are ALL KEY stakeholders. The base for the invitations includes the organizations of the sector listed in DG 13, plus any other participant on previous processes of revision. From that starting point, by reference from these stakeholders or answers to public requests, other stakeholders are included.</p> <p>Due to the characteristics of the forestry sector in Uruguay, the identification of stakeholders covers practically ALL possible stakeholders, therefore there is no process of "selection". All those that have interest in participating or have been delegated by their organizations can participate in the TC, previous formal approval by the PEFC Uruguay Board of Directors.</p> <p>Now, DG 13 – Item 6.5.1 Composition of the TC, has been modified to clarified that in case of refusal by the PEFC Board of Directors of a delegate or person in particular, this decision shall be justified, and register in the minutes of the meeting."</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>3.1 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board July 8th – Decision to begin the review/revision process</p> <p>3.2 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board - August 6th . Approval of Technical Committee constitution and beginning of process.</p> <p>In minutes, translated text is in blue</p>
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The benchmark is met.

7 Forest Management Standard

7.1 Analysis and conclusion

The revised forest management requirements of the PEFC Uruguay Certification System are defined in the standard *PEFC Uruguay SFM Standard:2020*.

The previous versions of the standard, which had before been documents under UNIT ownership and management, had been endorsed by the PEFC Council in 2011 and 2018 as meeting the requirements of its PEFC International Benchmark Standard for sustainable forest management.

The assessment has determined that the *PEFC Uruguay SFM Standard:2020* is fully in conformity with PEFC ST 1003:2018. As the standard defines requirements for the management of forest plantations only, the guidance for interpretation of the benchmark standard's requirements in forest plantations provided in Appendix 1 of PEFC ST 1003 was included in the assessment. Nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report were resolved by PEFC Uruguay through an amendment of its forest management standard during the commenting period of this assessment. The amended standard was formally approved by PEFC Uruguay in January 2022.

7.2 Assessment result – Nonconformities

Not applicable

7.3 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

This section contains selected examples of how the system's forest management standard meets the requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018.

For the complete checklist containing the assessment against all requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018 see Annex A of this report.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003, 4.1c

PEFC benchmark requirement PEFC ST 1003, 4.1 General The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall: (...) c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements;
Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text) 1 Scope - This standard sets out the specific planning requirements, criteria, and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Uruguay. This standard applies to forest plantations in forest management units, from both public and private organizations covering all their products and services. The requirements described in this document apply to the owners and managers of organizations as well as contractors and other operators in PEFC certified areas. Forest plantations with genetically modified trees are expressly excluded from the scope of this standard.
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The benchmark is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003, 6.3.2.2

PEFC benchmark requirement PEFC ST 1003, 6.3.2.2 The standard requires that forest practices and operations 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.
Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.

NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.

NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.

PEFC Uruguay comment: “There are no indigenous peoples in Uruguay, as defined by the ILO. There is no legislation regulating the rights of indigenous peoples regarding forestry activities. In addition, there is no legislation that considers land tenure rights or rights to use forest resources for Indigenous Peoples.

At present, ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries has not been ratified by Uruguay.

ILO Convention 169 states that a people may be considered indigenous if:

- It is descended from those who inhabited the area before its colonization.
- It has maintained its own social, economic, cultural and political institutions since the time of colonization and the establishment of the new states.
- In addition, the convention states that self-identification is crucial for indigenous peoples. This criterion has been applied for example in the agreements on land claim between the Canadian government and the Inuit of the Northwest Territories. (<http://www.iwgia.org/cultura-e-identidad/identificacion>)

Ammendment in PEFC Uruguay Document DG 11 (Forest Management Standard – Ammendments – May 2018)

The situation of original populations in Uruguay is different to those of other countries in Latin America. Uruguay is a country with a population conformed mainly of descendants of European immigrants and in a smaller proportion, descendants of Afro-American and indigenous populations. The current population is the result of a mixture of races.

The indigenous population that occupied the territory before and during the colonial period belonged mainly to the macro-etnia charrúa, that included guenoas, bohanes, yaros, guaraníes and the charrúas themselves.

The anthropologist Daniel Vidart (2001) states that: “the nomadic Indian was combated and practically exterminated in South America”. From the point of view of the indigenous communities, and differently than in other countries of Latin America, in Uruguay there are no indigenous communities since mid XIX century” ...

During the first half of the XIX century, the scarce Indians that had survived the arrival of the conqueror and posterior internal wars were eradicated in the massacre at the shores of the Arroyo Salsipuedes in the year 1831, (Vidart 2011). Currently there are no indigenous populations living in any part of the national territory.

The Uruguayan National Government has recognized the indigenous input in the identity of our country. In 2009, Law 18.589 was approved that declares April 11th the day of the Charrúa Nation and the indigenous identity (Annex 3). In article 2, it is requested that the Executive and the National Administration of Education (ANEP) promote the information and sensibilization of citizens on the participation of the

indigenous population in the national identity and the historical events related to the Charrúa Nation in Salsipuedes in 1831 (REFERENCES: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. 2014 200 resultados de la política exterior (2010 – 2014), Vidart, Daniel. 2012. Anuario de Antropología Social y Cultural en Uruguay, Vol. 10.)

In consideration to the fact that there are not indigenous communities nor communities with land right conflicts in the country the standard does not address the issue. The standard refers to plantations that have been legally and environmentally authorized on legally owned properties. Social interactions of the forest management system and the local communities (in general) in the vicinity of the plantations are considered in the standard.”

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003, 6.3.3.1

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1003, 6.3.3.1 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.

Note: In countries where the fundamental ILO conventions have been ratified, the requirements of 6.3.3.1 apply. In countries where a fundamental convention has not been ratified and its content is not covered by applicable legislation, specific requirements shall be included in the forest management standard.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.

NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.

NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.

Annex A – A-2.22– OIT (ILO) conventions

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: Annex A, A 2.22 lists the individual national laws implementing the relevant fundamental ILO conventions. The benchmark can be considered as met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003, Appendix 1, 8.1.4

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1003, Appendix 1, Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations: 8.1.4 The requirement that “forest conversion shall not occur” means that forest plantations

established by a forest conversion after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

6.2.1.2.4 Forest conversion (forest plantations established by a forest conversion after 31 December 2010, shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where the conversion:

- is in accordance with national policy and applicable legislation for land use and forest management (see also Annex A);
- represents a proportion, not more than 5%, of the type of forest managed by an organization;
- do not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas or other protected areas;
- do not destroy significantly high carbon sink areas;
- contributes to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits.

Note: The requirement that “forest conversion shall not occur” means that forest plantations established by a forest conversion after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.

PEFC Uruguay comment: “Forest conversion is prohibited in Uruguay by the national legislation: Ley Nº 15.939 del 28/12/1987. Ley Forestal. Artículo 36. Prohibiciones en el manejo de bosques y terrenos forestales pertenecientes al Patrimonio Forestal del Estado.

<https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987>. This law is prior to the cut-off date of December 31st, 2010

Cut-off date does not reinforce the prohibition. In the same line, adding the cut-off date does not change the finality of the prohibition.

Forest conversion is prohibited in Uruguay by National legislation:

Ley No 15.939 del 28/12/1987). <https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987>:

“TITLE IV - PROTECTION OF FORESTS CHAPTER I - PROTECTION OF PRIVATE FORESTS

Artículo 22

Protection of private forests.

- The destruction of protective forests is prohibited.

Any operation not in compliance with the plan referred to in Article 49 and intentionally or not in violation of the plan, against the development or permanence of the forest shall be considered as destruction of forests.

Its (forests) elimination only may be carried out with prior authorization and with the precautions to be laid down by the Forestry Directorate (Dirección Forestal) in each case.

Anyone who has destroyed a forest in violation of the provisions of the subparagraphs, will be obliged to reforestation according to the rules of Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15, and will not enjoy, for that purpose the financing benefits conferred by law.

Article 23

The Executive Power, after obtaining advice from the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries and the competent departmental governments, delimit the areas in which cutting and destruction shall of the protective forests implanted in the urban properties and suburban be prohibited

The Departmental Governments may authorize in a well-founded manner the partial or total cut of the forests referred to, with the precautions they deem relevant to each case and require the reforestation of the property as soon as appropriate.

Article 24

The cut and any operation that threatens the survival of the indigenous forest is prohibited, with the exception of the following cases:

A) When the proceeds of the holding are intended for domestic use and Fences of the rural establishment to which it belongs;

B) When there is authorization from the Forestry Directorate based on a technical report detailing both the causes that justify the cut as the exploitation plans to be carried out in each case.””

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The benchmark is met.

Comment: PEFC Uruguay is of the view that Uruguayan legislation prohibits any conversion of forests to plantations and that it therefore would not have been necessary to address this PEFC International benchmark requirement on forest conversion in 6.2.1.2.4 of its forest management standard.

Having evaluated the translation of the legislation quoted by PEFC Uruguay, the assessor has concluded that the legislation itself cannot with certainty be understood as fully meeting the requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.1.4. Therefore, the assessor considers addressing the PEFC benchmark on forest conversions in 6.2.1.2.4 of PEFC Uruguay’s forest management standard as necessary to meet the PEFC International benchmark with certainty.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1003, Appendix 1, 8.1.5

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1003, Appendix 1, Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations: 8.1.5 The requirement for the “reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important nonforest ecosystems” means that ecologically important non-forest ecosystems reforested or afforested after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

6.2.1.2.5 Reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems (after December 31st 2010) shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where conversion:

- in accordance with the national policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management (see also Annex A).

- do not have negative impacts on threatened non-forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare, or endangered ecosystems), culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas;
- represent a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organization;
- do not destroy significantly high carbon sink areas;
- contribute to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits.

NOTE: “Reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non forest ecosystems” means that ecologically important non-forest ecosystems reforested or afforested after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.

PEFC Uruguay comment: “Annex A. A.2 Land tenure and management rights. Legal rights to make the use of the land.

Decree No. 1355/016 establishes guidelines for proper environmental management and minimum requirements for environmental monitoring of forest plantations subject to the Protected Areas regime. Law is prior to cut of date of December 31st, 2010.

Cut-off date does not reinforce the prohibition. In the same line, adding the cut-off date does not change the finality of the prohibition.

Further clarification:

Legislation – Appendix 1 of FMS PEFC Uruguay:2020

A.1.3.2 Forest plantations larger than 100 ha

For forest plantations of more than 100 ha, a Prior Environmental Authorization (issued by DINAMA) of a mandatory nature by decree 349/005 and registration against DGF regulated by decree 452/988 is mandatory.

Decree No. 349/005 establishes that for those plantations of more than 100 hectares, the application for a Prior Environmental Authorization (AAP) is mandatory for all those forestry projects after 2005.

This application must be submitted to the National Directorate of the Environment (DINAMA) and it is a requirement to obtain the AAP in order to plant. Obtaining the AAP implies that whoever proposes the project (in this case forestry companies or individuals) declares what the planned planting design will be together with the activities of the project in the different stages of the project (pre and post-planting / harvest / abandonment). Likewise, the receiving environment to be affected (physical, biotic and social environment) must be characterized. From the evaluation that arises from the interaction between the activities of the project with the receiving environment, the possible impacts of the project will be identified, and prevention and mitigation measures must be considered to prevent or mitigate the significant negative impacts if any. Some of these measures can be: maintaining buffer strips to watercourses, to ecosystems of natural interest; leave conservation areas of representative natural ecosystems; implement management measures; perform quality monitoring of the environmental factors of the site affected by the plantation. On the other hand, being part of the compliance with national regulations (Law 18.308), compliance must be given with the provisions of the territorial planning instruments in force and applicable to the place of the planned forestry project.

<p>Explanation</p> <p>Any changes made to the management plans submitted must be notified by means of a declaration to DGF, which has the ability to approve it.</p> <p>The Certificate for tax exemption by forested area is issued by the DGF and is presented to the Municipality of the department where it is going to be planted, Social Security Bank (BPS) and General Tax Directorate (DGI) who make the exemption effective.</p> <p>Decree No. 1355/016 establishes guidelines for proper environmental management and minimum requirements for environmental monitoring of forest plantations subject to the AAP regime.”</p>
<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>
<p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p> <p>Comment: PEFC Uruguay is of the view that Uruguayan legislation prohibits any reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems and that it therefore would not have been necessary to address this PEFC International benchmark requirement in 6.2.1.2.5 of its forest management standard.</p> <p>Having evaluated the translation of the legislation quoted by PEFC Uruguay, the assessor has concluded that the legislation itself cannot with certainty be understood as fully meeting the requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.1.5. Therefore, the assessor considers addressing the PEFC benchmark on reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems in 6.2.1.2.5 of PEFC Uruguay’s forest management standard as necessary to meet the PEFC International benchmark with certainty.</p>
<p>Conformity with PEFC ST 1003, 8.2.8</p>
<p>PEFC benchmark requirement</p> <p>PEFC ST 1003, 8.2.8 The standard requires that the WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)</p> <p>6.2.2.2.6 WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides are prohibited, except where no viable alternative is available.</p> <p>6.2.2.2.7 Any exception to the use of WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides shall comply with the WHO Pesticides Exception Justification Procedure (see Annex B of this standard).</p>
<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>
<p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1003, 8.4.1 The standard requires that management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve or enhance biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.

Appendix 1, Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations: The requirement (...) 8.4.1 (...) cannot be applied to individual forest stands and shall be considered on a larger scale (bioregional) within the whole forest management unit where the stands of fast growing trees are complemented by buffer zones and set-aside areas dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions. In order to enhance landscape and biodiversity values, and water and soil protection, the size and distribution of the buffer zones and conservation set-aside areas shall be identified at the preparatory stage of the forest plantation establishment, based on social, environmental and ecological assessment, as well as reviewed during the subsequent replanting stages.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

PEFC Uruguay comment: "Prior to any plantation a forest project must be filed with the Ministry of Agriculture (Dirección Forestal) and of Environment in order to be approved before the plantation can take place (Ley Nº 15.939 del 28/12/1987, <https://www.impco.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987>. Please see also Document 5. LIST of documents to present for project approval.pdf).

The project has to establish the planning of all the aspects of the plantation in management units. Management unit must be conformed of up to 60% of plantation area and the rest (40% at least) of non plantation areas, natural areas, protected areas, corridors, buffer zones, etc. The management units have to be described in the project (Ley Nº 15.939 del 28/12/1987, <https://www.impco.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987>) AND is also a requirement in the planning section of the SFM PEFC Uruguay standard, 4.2 General management plan:

"4.2 General Management Plan

4.2.1 The forest management unit shall have a General Management Plan. The plan must include management guidelines in the activities of the unit over which the controller has control.

4.2.4 In management planning, forest resource inventory and mapping shall identify, protect and/or conserve areas of ecological importance containing significant concentrations of:

1. protected ecosystems, priority for their conservation, rare, vulnerable or representative;
2. areas representing natural habitats of endemic, threatened, conservation-specific species, defined in recognized reference lists;
3. threatened or protected genetic resources in situ;

and considering large significant areas of landscape on a global, regional, and national scale.

4.2.5 The management and mapping of forest resources, appropriate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described, shall be established, and maintained."

4.2.6 Short and long-term planning of the management unit shall be periodically documented, implemented, and updated for:

- land use (after characterization of natural, historical - cultural and socio-economic resources), to determine the different areas of management;
- the production of a diversity of goods (loggers and non-loggers) and services, in a sustainable manner;
- implementation of each of the activities;
- conservation of biodiversity at the ecosystem, species, and genetic material level and where appropriate, diversity at the landscape level;
- prevention of occupational and environmental risks;
- prevention of unauthorized activities by third parties, including intrusion, permanent or temporary illegal occupation, unregulated recreational use, unauthorized onset of fire and harvesting or collection of unauthorized forest products.
- achieving sustainable economic performance, in view of new markets and economic activities linked to all relevant goods and services in the management unit.

Plantations in Uruguay can take place ONLY on soils of forest priority (no other productive use, also established in the law). Soils of forest priority have been mapped in Uruguay (CONEAT 1969, <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-ganaderia-agricultura-pesca/politicas-y-gestion/suelos-prioridad-forestal>).

Soils of forest priorities are present throughout the territory in patches. So planification must take into consideration legal, productive and conservation criteria in the establishment of the management units ("6 Sustainable forest management criteria and indicators").

6.2.4 CRITERION 4: Biodiversity conservation

6.2.4.3. Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones

6.2.4.3.1. Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest [identified in 4.2] and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation.

6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones.

6.2.3 CRITERION 3: Maintaining and improving the productive capacity of forest ecosystems

6.2.3.1.1 Land use shall be planned in the management unit, preceded by a characterization of natural and sociocultural resources to define the different management areas. It shall be determined, for each site, species, origins, or varieties introduced and appropriate genotypes, the impacts on ecosystems and genetic integrity of native species and local origins of which have been assessed."

Management Units, as defined in the forest project for legal approval and General Management Plan are the scope of the certification as defined in the SFM standard: "PEFC URUGUAY STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT"

1 Scope

This standard sets out the specific planning requirements, criteria, and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Uruguay. This standard applies to forest plantations in forest management units, from both public and private organizations covering all their products and services.

Assessment decision: Conformity

Justification: The benchmark is met.

8 Group Certification Model

8.1 Analysis and conclusion

The requirements for group forest management certification of the revised Uruguayan PEFC Certification System are defined in DG 07, Group Certification - Requirements.

The previous version of DG 07 was revised by PEFC Uruguay in order to align it with the new and revised requirements for group certification in forest management of PEFC International defined in the PEFC International Benchmark Standard PEFC ST 1002:2018, *Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements* published in 2018.

The assessment has determined that DG 07 fully meets the requirements of PEFC ST 1002:2018. Nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report were resolved by PEFC Uruguay through an amendment of DG 07 during the commenting period of this assessment. The amended document was formally approved by PEFC Uruguay in January 2022.

8.2 Assessment result – Nonconformities

Not applicable

8.3 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

This section contains selected examples of how the system's group certification requirements meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1002:2018.

For the complete checklist containing the assessment against all requirements of PEFC ST 1002:2018 see Annex A of this report.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002,

PEFC benchmark requirement

PEFC ST 1002, 4.4.1 The standard requires that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit programme.

Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)

6. Group management system

6.1 All participants in the group shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit program established by the group.

Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The benchmark is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002, 5.1.1d

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement</p> <p>PEFC ST 1002, 5.1.1d) to establish written procedures for the acceptance of new participants of the group organisation. These acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant's information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its/their size(s)</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)</p> <p>7.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity</p> <p>The Administrator of the Group, duly qualified in the Certification System of Sustainable Forest Management or Chain of Custody, will be responsible for the application before the certifying body and the custody of the Group Certificate, being its functions: (...)</p> <p>13. Develop written procedures for the entry, suspension, and expulsion of members of the Group and implement them in accordance with the guidelines established in DG 07:</p> <p>Item 5. Members of the Group Certification</p> <p>Item 6. Rights of group certification members</p> <p>Item 7. Duties of the members to the Group Certification.</p> <p>Item 8. Loss of the status of member to the Group Certification.</p> <p>Acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant's information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its/their size(s).</p>
Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The benchmark requirement is met.

Conformity with PEFC ST 1002, 9.3.2.2

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement</p> <p>PEFC ST 1002, 9.3.2.2 The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants: ($y=\sqrt{x}$), rounded to the upper whole number.</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)</p> <p>15.3.2.2 The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants: ($y=\sqrt{x}$), rounded to the upper whole number.</p>

Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The benchmark is met.

9 Chain of Custody Standard and Trademark Use

The PEFC Uruguay Certification System has adopted PEFC International's chain of custody standard, PEFC ST 2002:2020, and trademark rules, PEFC ST 2001:2020, as normative elements of its system documentation, without any change to document title, name or content.

In addition, the system has developed chain of custody guidance for honey from PEFC certified forests through DG 12, *Guide for Honeybee production in the CoC PEFC*.

9.1 Analysis and conclusion

DG 12, *Guide for Honeybee production in the CoC PEFC* outlines in detail the requirements for PEFC certified honey production. It requires that the production of honey from bees inside PEFC certified forests is covered by both, forest management certification, where it must be integrated in the certified forest manager's forest management plan, and chain of custody certification of the beekeepers for the physical separation method. Apiaries used for certified honey production are required to be officially registered and mapped, and the honey production must follow the complete set of requirements outlined in PEFC ST 2002:2020.

One question of chain of custody certified bee honey production covered which is not addressed by the guidance is that of the bees' flight and pollen and nectar collection radius. This question would seem relevant in terms of how it can be justified that bees have collected pollen and nectar only from within PEFC certified forests. It is however understood by the assessor that this question is addressed by two factors, namely by a seasonal limiting of certified production to periods of tree flowering and by the large geographical scale of PEFC certified forest plantations in Uruguay, which are usually surrounded by non-forested land rather than other, non-certified forests.

In conclusion, the assessor has determined, that the additional guidance provided for bee honey production under the PEFC Uruguay system as outlined in DG 12 is in line with PEFC ST 2001:2020 requirements.

The system therefore fully meets PEFC International's requirements for chain of custody standards and PEFC trademark rules.

9.2 Assessment result – Nonconformities

Not applicable

9.3 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

Not applicable

10 Certification and Accreditation Procedures

10.1 Chain of custody certification

10.1.1 Analysis and conclusion

PEFC Uruguay has adopted PEFC ST 2003:2020 as part of its system documentation, without any change to document title, name or content.

The system therefore meets PEFC International's requirements on certification and accreditation procedures for chain of custody certification.

10.1.2 Assessment result – Nonconformities

Not applicable

10.1.3 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

Not applicable

10.2 Forest management certification

10.2.1 Analysis and conclusion

The Uruguayan PEFC Certification System's requirements for certification bodies conducting forest management are defined in DG 03, Forest Certification Bodies.

No nonconformities were identified in the assessment of DG 03 and the system's certification and accreditation procedures for forest management are therefore deemed as fully meeting the requirements of Annex 6, PEFC TD.

10.2.2 Assessment result – Nonconformities

Not applicable

10.2.3 Assessment result – Selection of Conformities

This section contains selected examples of how the system's requirements for certification bodies conducting forest management meet the requirements of Annex 6, PEFC TD.

For the complete checklist containing the assessment against all requirements of Annex 6, PEFC TD see Annex A of this report.

Conformity with Annex 6, PEFC TD, 3.1

PEFC benchmark requirement
Annex 6, PEFC TD, 3.1, 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?
Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
DG 03. Forest Certification Bodies
1. Objective
Establish the parameters for the accreditation and notification of certification bodies.
2. Scope

<p>All certification bodies that certify by the PEFC Uruguay scheme.</p> <p>6.Organization of certification bodies</p> <p>The structure of the Sustainable Forest Management or Chain of Custody certification body should provide confidence in its certifications.</p> <p>This certification body must: (...)</p> <p>c. not being involved in the standardization process, nor being part of PEFC Uruguay, so it does not participate in decision-making bodies of standardization.</p> <p>d. be impartial and independent, and have a structure that safeguards these principles, in reference to Forest Management and the Chain of Custody.</p>
<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>
<p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Conformity with Annex 6, PEFC TD, 4

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement</p> <p>Annex 6, PEFC TD, Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)</p> <p>11. Documentation (...)</p> <p>The certification body must provide on request, by means of publications, electronic means or other: (...)</p> <p>g. public availability of certification report summaries.</p>
<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>
<p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Conformity with Annex 6, PEFC TD, 5

<p>PEFC benchmark requirement</p> <p>Annex 6, PEFC TD, 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?</p>
<p>Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)</p> <p>3.Accreditation of certification bodies</p> <p>Certification organisms must:</p> <p>a.be accredited by the Uruguayan Accreditation Organism (OAU) or other accrediting bodies recognized by the IAF (International Accreditation Forum).</p>

Assessment decision: Conformity
Justification: The benchmark is met.

11 Other Aspects

An assessment of the revised PEFC Uruguay Certification System's procedures for PEFC scheme administration against PEFC GD 1004, *Administration of PEFC scheme*, covering the notification of certification bodies, the issuance of PEFC trademark licenses as well as complaints and dispute resolution procedures, has not been included in the scope of this assessment and is expected to be carried out by PEFC International.

Annex A: PEFC Standard and System Requirements Checklist

PEFC Checklist - Standard Setting Procedures and Process (PEFC ST 1001:2017)

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
Standardising Body			
5.1.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:			
(a) its legal status and organisational structure, including a body responsible for consensus-building (working group, refer to 6.4) and procedures for formal adoption of the standard (refer to 7.1),	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC Uruguay DG 13 PROCEDURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND REVISION OF THE STANDARDS OF THE PEFC URUGUAY SYSTEM</p> <p>1. INTRODUCTION PEFC Uruguay is an independent non-profit organization, legally established and recognized in Uruguay. (...)</p> <p>6. STANDARDIZING BODY PEFC Uruguay is the Standardizing Body of the Uruguayan Sustainable Forest Management Certification System (PEFC Uruguay System), being responsible for the development and revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System, in addition to building consensus and formally adopting the standards, according to the requirements established in this document.</p> <p>6.4. PEFC Uruguay must establish a temporary Technical Committee (TC) responsible for the process of developing and/or reviewing its standards. (...)</p> <p>7.11 Formal approval of a standard of the PEFC Uruguay System The Board of Directors of PEFC Uruguay must formally approve each standard in the process of development and/or revision based on evidence of the consensus reached by the Technical Committee. The decision of the Board of Directors of PEFC Uruguay to approve a standard must be taken with a minimum majority of 70%, with a minimum quorum of two thirds</p>


Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) procedures for keeping documented information,	Procedures	YES	6.3. PEFC Uruguay must keep all records related to the process of development and / or review of its standards, providing evidence of compliance with the requirements of PEFC council and the system itself. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	6.5. Organization of the Technical Committee 6.5.1 Composition. The Technical Committee will be integrated, whenever possible, to guarantee the balance in representation and decision between the different interested parties relevant to the subject under analysis. Representatives of the following sectors will be invited to join the Technical Committee: (...) The initial composition of the Technical Committee should be reviewed at the start of a new project, including periodic reviews of an existing one. The review should include consideration of gender balance and representation and invitation to potential new members. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	YES	PEFC Uruguay DG 13 PROCEDURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND REVISION OF THE STANDARDS OF THE PEFC URUGUAY SYSTEM 2. OBJECTIVE Provide rules for the process of development and /or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System, which are defined based on the requirements established by the PEFC Council in its normative documents. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.


Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
(e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	YES	<p>5.6. Consensus General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition on substantive issues by any key stakeholder in relation to the topic in question, and by a process that seeks to consider the views of all interested parties and reconcile any conflicting arguments.</p> <p>Note: Consensus does not necessarily imply unanimity (ISO/IEC Guide 2).</p> <p>6.6.4 Conduct of meetings After the meeting has been opened, the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting have been approved, it will proceed on to the discussion of the items included in the meeting.</p> <p>Issues not on the agenda, or which have not been submitted to members in sufficient time to permit their consideration, may be discussed but may not be the subject of decision-making. However, these matters may be the subject of a decision by correspondence.</p> <p>The agreements of the Technical Committee shall be adopted by consensus.</p> <p>In case of negative votes that represent a sustained opposition to any part of the issue being analyzed, the situation will be resolved using the following mechanism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Discussion and negotiation on the issue of confrontation within the specific group for the purpose of seeking a consensus position. b) Direct negotiation between the representatives who pointed out the objections to the topic under analysis and those with different points of view, with the aim of seeking consensus positions. c) Dispute resolution process. <p>In case of doubt as to the consensus, the approval by a simple majority of the full members of the Committee can be considered sufficient for the project to be submitted to the Board of Directors.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(f) review and revision of standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	YES	<p>8. PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE STANDARDS OF THE URUGUAY PEFC SYSTEM</p> <p>8.1. The standards of the PEFC Uruguay System must be revised at intervals not exceeding 5 years, to adapt to changes in the economic, social, and environmental context of forest certification in Uruguay and the world, and to the requirements established by the PEFC Council. Standards review procedures should follow the guidelines in Chapter 7 of this document.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			9. REVISION OF STANDARDS (...) Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.1.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available and shall review its standard-setting procedures regularly. The review shall consider feedback from stakeholders.	Procedures	YES	7.12. Documentation of the standardization process All documentation on the realization of the standardization process will be made public on the website of PEFC Uruguay (www.pefc.com.uy). PEFC Uruguay will keep all records related to the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System. The records must be kept for a minimum of five years and will be available both for an audit in the process of Endorsement of the PEFC Uruguay System, and for interested parties who request it.9 7.4 Review of the standardization process PEFC Uruguay shall review the process of developing and/or revising the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System based on the comments received in connection with the public announcement. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: To gain access to documents under revision registration on PEFC Uruguay's website is required. However, this registration is non-discriminatory and free of charge. Therefore, the documentation can be considered as being publicly available. The benchmark is met.
5.2.1 The standardising body shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process. Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes:			

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
(a) Standard-setting procedures,	Procedures	YES	<p>PEFC Uruguay DG 13 PROCEDURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND REVISION OF THE STANDARDS OF THE PEFC URUGUAY SYSTEM</p> <p>6.3 PEFC Uruguay must keep all records related to the process of development and / or review of its standards, providing evidence of compliance with the requirements of PEFC council and the system itself.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>http://www.pefc.com.uy/data/documentacion/DG_13.01_PROCEDIMIENTO_PARA_EL_DESARROLLO_Y_REVISIO%CC%81N_DE_LOS_ESTA%CC%81NDARES_del_SISTEMA_PEFC_Uruguay.pdf</p> <p>http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(b) Stakeholder identification mapping,	Procedures	YES	<p>7.1. Identification of stakeholders PEFC Uruguay shall identify the stakeholders that are relevant to the objective and scope of the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System. Stakeholder mapping should include defining the relevant stakeholders, why these are considered, what are the issues important to them, defining key and disadvantaged stakeholders, and defining the means of communication to better reach it.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence documentation: 1.Stakeholder mapping.xlsx</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(c) Contacted and/or invited stakeholders,	Procedures	Y	<p>6.5. Organization of the Technical Committee 6.5.1 Composition. The Technical Committee will be integrated, whenever possible, to guarantee the balance in representation and decision between the different interested parties relevant to the subject under analysis.</p> <p>Representatives of the following sectors will be invited to join the Technical Committee: (...)</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>In addition to general announcements (web, newsletter, press), formal notes will be sent to potential identified members of the Technical Committee through their institutions by mail or e-mail. Invitations will include: (...)</p> <p>6.3 PEFC Uruguay must keep all records related to the process of development and / or review of its standards, providing evidence of compliance with the requirements of PEFC council and the system itself.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence documentation: 2. List of invited/contacted stakeholders</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(d) Stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each working group meeting,	Procedures	YES	<p>6.6.4 The Secretariat maintains the minutes of the meetings and the records generated throughout the process. This information will be available to all members of the Committee and to any person or institution in the Documents under Review Section of the PEFC Uruguay website (www.pefc.com.uy).</p> <p>The minutes of the meetings in electronic format and the records generated will be kept in the Secretariat of PEFC Uruguay for a period of at least 5 years.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Minutes of all meetings can be found in: http://www.pefc.com.uy/minutas-de-las-reuniones</p> <p>Each minute indicates members of the TC present at the meeting:</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>COMITÉ TÉCNICO – REVISIÓN PEFC URUGUAY 2019</div><div>MINUTA</div></div></div><div><div><div>FECHA: 6 de agosto 2019</div><div>LUGAR: Oficina PEFC Uruguay</div></div><div><div>ACTIVIDAD: 1ª reunión Comité Técnico – Revisión estándar Manejo Forestal Sostenible PEFC</div><div>HORA COMIENZO: 14:00 hrs</div><div>HORA FINALIZACIÓN: 17:00 hrs</div></div></div><div><div>Asistentes:</div><div>Carlos Scaglia (DGF) Claudia Pittamiglio (DPI) Fernando Gomez (DRE) Ignacio Figini (INEMA) Juli Bruggen (Comunicación Forestal) Joaquín Castro (Lumina) José Pedro Scabetti (CORAMMA) Juan Cabero (PAGRO- D. Forestal) Ulises Somera (OLAF) Magdalena Peltzer (Banco del Plata) Patricia Escudero (DGF)</div><div>Deben:</div><div>Flavencia Castelli (ASCFUR) Joaquín Genta (DPM) Lorena Vazco (DPM) Monsieur Henry Rafael Sosa (ASCFUR)</div><div>Coordinador: Gabriela Mahdian – PEFC Uruguay (registro de asistencia en adjunto)</div></div></div><div>Evidence documentation: Minutes of all TC meetings.</div><div>Assessment decision: Conformity</div><div>Justification: The benchmark is met.</div></div>
(e) Feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed,	Procedures	YES	<div><div>6.2. PEFC Uruguay shall make its procedures for the development and/or revision of its standards available to the public and conduct regular reviews, including considerations of comments made by interested parties.</div><div>6.3 PEFC Uruguay must keep all records related to the process of development and / or review of its standards, providing evidence of compliance with the requirements of PEFC council and the system itself.</div><div>Assessment decision: Conformity</div><div>Justification: The benchmark is met.</div></div>
	Process	YES	<div><div>Comments on the different topics discussed during the process could be introduced in the Revision section of the PEFC website.</div><div>Evidence documentation:</div><div>- 6. Revision section of website (screenshot) (http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision)</div></div>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>Comments received were considered in the following TC meeting</p>  <p>- 7. Analysis of feedback received during the public consultation</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(f) All drafts and final versions of the standard,	Procedures	YES	<p>7.12. Documentation of the standardization process All documentation on the realization of the standardization process will be made public on the website of PEFC Uruguay (www.pefc.com.uy). PEFC Uruguay will keep all records related to the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System. The records must be kept for a minimum of five years and will be available both for an audit in the process of Endorsement of the PEFC Uruguay System, and for interested parties who request it.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(g) Outcomes from working group considerations,	Procedures	YES	<p>10. AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION 10.1 Documentation system PEFC Uruguay must keep all records related to the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System, including the minutes of the meetings and the comments received, among others. These records will provide evidence of compliance with the PEFC Council's own requirements and the Corporation's own requirements. The records shall be kept for a minimum of five years and shall be available to interested parties on request.</p> <p>10.2 Transparency and public availability</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>The results of the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System will be publicly available, including the draft documents.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/minutas-de-las-reuniones</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(h) Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard(s),	Procedures	YES	<p>6.6.4 Conduct of meetings</p> <p>All agreements reached at a meeting directly related to the conduct of work or the approval of documents shall be recorded in the minutes to be drawn up by the secretary of each meeting held.</p> <p>7.10 Consensus building on the Final Draft</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the meeting of August 13th (9. 13 agosto 2020 - MINUTA), the comments received during the public consultation were considered (7. Analysis of feedback). <p>Final version of the standard was sent to the TC for consent via e-mail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8. Mail for request of consent of the TC for final draft (screenshot) - 9. Text of mail requesting consent on final draft <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(i) Evidence relating to the review process, and	Procedures	YES	<p>6.3 PEFC Uruguay must keep all records related to the process of development and / or review of its standards, providing evidence of compliance with the requirements of PEFC council and the system itself.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>10. AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION</p> <p>10.1. Documentation system PEFC Uruguay must keep all records related to the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System, including the minutes of the meetings and the comments received, among others. These records will provide evidence of compliance with the PEFC Council's own requirements and the Corporation's own requirements. The records shall be kept for a minimum of five years and shall be available to interested parties on request.</p> <p>10.2. Transparency and public availability The results of the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System will be publicly available, including the draft documents.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision - Minutes - Stakeholder map and communication <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(j) Final approval by the standardising body.	Procedures	YES	<p>7.11. Formal approval of a standard of the PEFC Uruguay System The Board of Directors of PEFC Uruguay must formally approve each standard in the process of development and/or revision based on evidence of the consensus reached by the Technical Committee.</p> <p>The decision of the Board of Directors of PEFC Uruguay to approve a standard must be taken with a minimum majority of 70%, with a minimum quorum of two thirds.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
	Process		<p>Evidence documentation:</p> <p>10. Minute of PEFC Board – Sept 24th.pdf</p> <p>11. Translation of Minute of PEFC Board – Sept 24th.word</p> <p>12. Communication web of approval of FM ST 2020 (screenshot)</p> <p>13. Communication of approval to TC (copy mail-pdf)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>5.2.2 Documented information shall be kept until completion of the next review or revision of the standard to which they refer. Otherwise the documented information must be kept for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>10. AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION</p> <p>10.1. Documentation system</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay must keep all records related to the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System, including the minutes of the meetings and the comments received, among others. These records will provide evidence of compliance with the PEFC Council's own requirements and the Corporation's own requirements. The records shall be kept for a minimum of five years and shall be available to interested parties on request.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence documentation: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is</p>
<p>5.2.3 Documented information shall be available to interested parties upon request.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>10.1. Documentation system</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay must keep all records related to the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System, including the minutes of the meetings and the comments received, among others. These records will provide evidence of compliance with the PEFC Council's own requirements and the Corporation's own requirements. The records shall be kept for a minimum of five years and shall be available to interested parties on request.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.3.1 The standardising body shall establish procedure(s) for dealing with any substantial and process complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. It must make procedure(s) accessible to stakeholders. Upon receipt of a complaint or appeal, the standardising body shall:			
(a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint or appeal to the complainant,	Procedures	YES	6.7. Complaints Procedure. PEFC Uruguay shall establish a procedure for responding to any substantiated or procedural complaint relating to the activities of the standardization process, which shall be accessible to interested parties. Once a complaint has been received, PEFC Uruguay will: a) Acknowledge receipt of the claim to the author. Document reference: Document General Sistema PEFC Uruguay (DG 06) – Dispute resolution. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	No complaints have been received Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Neither international stakeholder consultation nor stakeholder survey indicate that complaints have been submitted contrary to PEFC Uruguay's statement. The benchmark is met.
(b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint or appeal, evaluate the subject matter of the complaint or appeal impartially and objectively, and	Procedures	YES	6.7. Complaints Procedure. b) Gather and verify all information necessary to validate the claim, objectively and impartially evaluate the matter, and decide about the claim. Document reference: Document General Sistema PEFC Uruguay (DG 06) – Dispute resolution. Assessment decision: Conformity

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
make a decision regarding the complaint or appeal,			Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	No complaints have been received Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Neither international stakeholder consultation nor stakeholder survey indicate that complaints have been submitted contrary to PEFC Uruguay's statement. The benchmark is met.
(c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint or appeal to the complainant and describe the handling process.	Procedures	YES	6.7. Complaints Procedure. (...) d) Formally communicate the decision on the claim and the process of managing it to its author. Document reference: Document General Sistema PEFC Uruguay (DG 06) – Dispute resolution. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	No complaints have been received Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Neither international stakeholder consultation nor stakeholder survey indicate that complaints have been submitted contrary to PEFC Uruguay's statement. The benchmark is met.
5.3.2 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries, complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be easy to access and readily available.	Procedures	YES	6.6. Contact Information The Executive Secretariat of PEFC Uruguay will be the point of contact to address comments, concerns and complaints related to the development activities and / or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System. The contact point must be easily accessible through: (i) telephone of the Executive Secretariat (+598 2 29146220), e-mail address of the Executive Secretariat (info@pefc.com.uy) and (iii) website of PEFC Uruguay (www.pefc.com.uy). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	No complaints or enquires relating to standard setting activities have been received Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Neither international stakeholder consultation nor stakeholder survey indicate that complaints have been submitted contrary to PEFC Uruguay's statement. The benchmark is met.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
Standard-setting process			
6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, the standardising body shall develop a proposal including:			
(a) the scope of the standard,	Procedures	YES	7. PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AND/OR REVISION OF STANDARDS 7.3 Public announcement of the start of the standardization process PEFC Uruguay must make a public announcement about the start of the process of development and/or revision of PEFC Uruguay standards (...) The announcement and invitation shall include: a) Information about the objectives, scope and stages of the standardization process and its schedule of activities. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
	Process	N/A	The current process refers to a revision of the UNIT FM standard and its formalization as a PEFC Uruguay FM standard (it is not a new standard). IN Revision Process Folder: 3.a PEFC_Uruguay_-_8_de_agosto_2019_-_Comite_Tecnico_de_MFS.pdf Presentation to the Technical Committee in the first meeting about the PEFC Uruguay system and proposed process. Assessment decision: N/A Justification: The benchmark is not applicable for the process as no new standard was developed.
(b) a justification of the need for the standard,	Procedures	YES	7. PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AND/OR REVISION OF STANDARDS 7.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, the PEFC Uruguay shall develop a proposal including: (...) b) justification of the need for the standard, Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
	Process	N/A	Assessment decision: N/A Justification: The benchmark is not applicable for the process as no new standard was developed.
(c) a clear description of the intended outcomes	Procedures	YES	<p>6.4 PEFC Uruguay must establish a temporary Technical Committee (TC) responsible for the process of developing and/or reviewing its standards.</p> <p>6.5.1 Composition</p> <p>The Technical Committee will be integrated, whenever possible, to guarantee the balance in representation and decision between the different interested parties relevant to the subject under analysis. (...) In addition to general announcements (web, newsletter, press), formal notes will be sent to potential identified members of the Technical Committee through their institutions by mail or e-mail. Invitations will include: (...) a brief description of the objectives of the process and the scope of the standards under review</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
	Process	N/A	Assessment decision: N/A Justification: The benchmark is not applicable for the process as no new standard was developed.
(d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as	Procedures	YES	<p>7. PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AND/OR REVISION OF STANDARDS</p> <p>7.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, the PEFC Uruguay shall develop a proposal including:</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively, • unintended consequences of implementation, • actions to address the identified risks, (...) <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
• factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively, • unintended consequences of implementation,			

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> actions to address the identified risks, and 			
	Process	N/A	Assessment decision: N/A Justification: The benchmark is not applicable for the process as no new standard was developed.
0(e) a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable. NOTE Guidance for development of a proposal and justification is given in ISO Directives, Part 1, Annex C and Annex SL (Appendix 1).	Procedures	YES	7. PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AND/OR REVISION OF STANDARDS 7.3 Public announcement of the start of the standardization process PEFC Uruguay must make a public announcement about the start of the process of development and/or revision of PEFC Uruguay standards (...) The announcement and invitation shall include: a) Information about the objectives, scope and stages of the standardization process and its schedule of activities. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
	Process	N/A	Assessment decision: N/A Justification: The benchmark is not applicable for the process as no new standard was developed.
6.1.2 For the revision of a standard the proposal shall cover at least (a) and (e) of clause 6.1.1.	Procedures	YES	7. PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AND/OR REVISION OF STANDARDS 7.3 Public announcement of the start of the standardization process PEFC Uruguay must make a public announcement about the start of the process of development and/or revision of PEFC Uruguay standards (...) The announcement and invitation shall include: a) Information about the objectives, scope and stages of the standardization process and its schedule of activities. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.
	Process	YES	Evidence:

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>3.a PEFC_Uruguay_-_8_de_agosto_2019_-_Comite_Tecnico_de_MFS.pdf</p> <p>Presentation to the Technical Committee in the first meeting about the PEFC Uruguay system and proposed process.</p> <p>Page 11/19 presents the scope of the revision (a) and pages 13, 14, 15 and 16/19 the proposed calendar of activities for the TC (e)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.2.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. It shall define which stakeholder groups are relevant to the subject matter and why. For each stakeholder group the standardising body shall identify the likely key issues, key stakeholders, and which means of communication would be best to reach them.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>7.1. Identification of stakeholders PEFC Uruguay shall identify the stakeholders that are relevant to the objective and scope of the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System. Stakeholder mapping should include defining the relevant stakeholders, why these are considered, what are the issues important to them, defining key and disadvantaged stakeholders, and defining the means of communication to better reach it.</p> <p>7.2. Disadvantaged stakeholders PEFC Uruguay must identify stakeholders who may be at a disadvantage to participate in the process of developing and/or reviewing PEFC Uruguay's standards. Restrictions on their participation should be identified and their participation and contribution to the process should be proactively sought.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Due to the characteristics of the forestry sector in Uruguay, all stakeholders are identified as KEY stakeholders and invited to participate of the process as well as to indicate further potential stakeholders.</p> <p>In the process of conformation of the Technical Committee, a base line of stakeholder organizations (listed in DG 13) that cover all identified aspects of the sector (government, companies, associations, academia) and that have participated in previous revision processes, are contacted, and they are also invited to suggest further participants or in some cases experts.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>Once the organizations have delegated and persons have confirmed their intention to participate, the list is passed to the PEFC Board of Directors for formal approval. In reality, we do not have such a pool of stakeholders that requires selection, and all are designed as equally KEY stakeholders.</p> <p>At the time of the approval by the Board, it is also discussed further potential stakeholders are suggested and invited. For example, for this process, the Association of Uruguay River Canoeing was suggested and invited (no response).</p> <p>In the history of PEFC Uruguay, no refusal has taken place.</p> <p>Evidence: 1. Stakeholders Mapping.xlsx</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
<p>6.2.2 Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest owners, • business and industry, • indigenous people, • non-government organisations, 	Procedures	YES	<p>7.1. Identification of stakeholders PEFC Uruguay shall identify the stakeholders that are relevant to the objective and scope of the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System. Stakeholder mapping should include defining the relevant stakeholders, why these are considered, what are the issues important to them, defining key and disadvantaged stakeholders, and defining the means of communication to better reach it.</p> <p>7.2. Disadvantaged stakeholders PEFC Uruguay must identify stakeholders who may be at a disadvantage to participate in the process of developing and/or reviewing PEFC Uruguay's standards. Restrictions on their participation should be identified and their participation and contribution to the process should be proactively sought.</p> <p>5.11 Stakeholder A person, group, or organization actively involved in the standardization process, or whose interests may be positively or negatively affected by the execution or conclusion of the process. Note: The nine largest groups that have been defined by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on the Environment in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 represent an example of stakeholders in Sustainable Forest Management: i. business and industry,</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scientific and technological community, • workers and trade unions. <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE The full list of nine major stakeholder groups defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> consists of: (i) business and industry, (ii) children and youth, (iii) forest owners, (iv) indigenous peoples, (v) local authorities, (vi) non-government organisations, (vii) scientific and technological community, (viii) women, and (ix) workers and trade unions.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. children and youth, iii. forest owners, iv. Indigenous v. local authorities, vi. NGOs, vii. scientific and technological community, viii. women, and ix. workers and trade unions. <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>NOTE by PEFC Uruguay: Uruguay does not have indigenous populations as considered by the United Nations (“Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them”).</p> <p>Considering this situation, a brief explanation was included in an explanatory document of the PEFC Uruguay System (DG 11 - FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD 2014 AMENDMENTS) during the last revision and the same explanation is now part of the FM standard, ANNEX A – Legal Framework applicable to the FM unit (INFORMATIVE)</p> <p>Amendment in PEFC Uruguay Document DG 11 (Forest Management Standard – Amendments – May 2018)</p> <p>“The situation of original populations in Uruguay is different to those of other countries in Latin America. Uruguay is a country with a population conformed mainly of descendants of European immigrants and in a smaller proportion, descendants of Afro-American and indigenous populations. The current population is the result of a mixture of races.</p> <p>The indigenous population that occupied the territory before and during the colonial period belonged mainly to the macro-ethnia charrúa, that included guenoas, bohanes, yaros, guaraníes and the charrúas themselves.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>The anthropologist Daniel Vidart (2001) states that: “the nomadic Indian was combated and practically exterminated in South America”. From the point of view of the indigenous communities, and differently than in other countries of Latin America, in Uruguay there are no indigenous communities since mid XIX century”.</p> <p>During the first half of the XIX century, the scarce Indians that had survived the arrival of the conqueror and posterior internal wars were eradicated in the massacre at the shores of the Arroyo Salsipuedes in the year 1831, (Vidart 2011). Currently there are no indigenous populations living in any part of the national territory</p> <p>The Uruguayan National Government has recognized the indigenous input in the identity of our country. In 2009, Law 18.589 was approved that declares April 11th the day of the Charrúa Nation and the indigenous identity (Annex 3). In article 2, it is requested that the Executive and the National Administration of Education (ANEP) promote the information and sensibilization of citizens on the participation of the indigenous population in the national identity and the historical events related to the Charrúa Nation in Salsipuedes in 1831 (REFERENCES: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. 2014 200 resultados de la política exterior (2010 – 2014), Vidart, Daniel. 2012. Anuario de Antropología Social y Cultural en Uruguay, Vol. 10.)</p> <p>In consideration to the fact that there are not indigenous communities nor communities with land right conflicts in the country the standard does not address the issue. The standard refers to plantations that have been legally and environmentally authorized on legally owned properties. Social interactions of the forest management system and the local communities (in general) in the vicinity of the plantations are considered in the standard.”</p> <p>Non-government organisations</p> <p>NON-government organizations were invited to participate through the Association of NGOs of Uruguay (ANOG - see composition in the Stakeholder Mapping excel file).</p> <p>The organization replied that they would consider the participation in the TC but did not designate delegates for the committee.</p> <p>Evidence: 1.Stakeholders Mapping.xlsx</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
6.2.3 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key	Procedures	YES	<p>7.1. Identification of stakeholders</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay shall identify the stakeholders that are relevant to the objective and scope of the process of development and/or revision of the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System. Stakeholder mapping</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged and a key stakeholder at the same time.</p>			<p>should include defining the relevant stakeholders, why these are considered, what are the issues important to them, defining key and disadvantaged stakeholders, and defining the means of communication to better reach it.</p> <p>7.2. Disadvantaged stakeholders PEFC Uruguay must identify stakeholders who may be at a disadvantage to participate in the process of developing and/or reviewing PEFC Uruguay's standards. Restrictions on their participation should be identified and their participation and contribution to the process should be proactively sought.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Due to the characteristics of the forestry sector in Uruguay, all stakeholders are identified as KEY stakeholders and invited to participate of the process as well as to indicate further potential stakeholders.</p> <p>In the process of conformation of the Technical Committee, a base line of stakeholder organizations (listed in DG 13) that cover all identified aspects of the sector (government, companies, associations, academia) and that have participated in previous revision processes, are contacted, and they are also invited to suggest further participants or in some cases experts. Once the organizations have delegated and persons have confirmed their intention to participate, the list is passed to the PEFC Board of Directors for formal approval. In reality, we do not have such a pool of stakeholders that requires selection, and all are designed as equally KEY stakeholders.</p> <p>At the time of the approval by the Board, it is also discussed further potential stakeholders are suggested and invited. For example, for this process, the Association of Uruguay River Canoeing was suggested and invited (no response).</p> <p>In the history of PEFC Uruguay, no refusal has taken place.</p> <p>It must be mentioned also that environmental NGOs tend not to participate in this kind of processes, and social organization do not show any interest in the process either.</p> <p>Workers in general, and forest workers in this case, can be represented by the delegate of the BSE (Banco de Seguros del Estado (State Insurance) and ASECFUR (organization of subcontractors in the forestry sector).</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>No disadvantage stakeholders as defined are identified, still the communication of the start of the process was spread through the usual channels (invitations, webpage), and also radio programs, that have a national reach.</p> <p>To facilitate the participation of the stakeholders in as many meetings as possible, all meetings were both in person and online. Towards the end of the process, due to the pandemia, meetings were held only online.</p> <p>The categories of participants can be discriminated as follows:</p> <p>Accreditation/Normalization /Government organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Instituto Uruguayo de Normas Técnicas (UNIT) ✓ Organismo Uruguayo de Acreditación (OUA) ✓ Dirección Forestal (MGAP) ✓ Dirección de Medio Ambiente (DINAMA-MVOTA) ✓ Ministerio de Minería y Energía (MIEM) ✓ Banco de Seguros del Estado (BSE) <p>Academia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Instituto de Ecología y Ciencias Ambientales (IECA-FCIEN) ✓ Departamento Forestal (FAGRO) ✓ Departamento de Suelos y Agua (FAGRO) <p>NGOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sociedad de Productores Forestales (SPF) ✓ Asociación de Ingenieros Agrónomos (AIA) ✓ ANONG (Association of NGOs, social and environmental. Did not participate directly of the TC, they were kept in the communications list of the advancements of the process and consultations) <p>Forest Companies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lumin ✓ UPM – Forestal Oriental ✓ Montes del Plata

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>✓ Asociación de Contratistas Forestales (ASECFUR)</p> <p>Independent professionals</p> <p>Of the categories defined by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. business and industry ii. children and youth, iii. forest owners, iv. Indigenous v. local authorities, vi. NGOs, vii. scientific and technological community, viii. women, and ix. workers and trade unions. <p>Only children and youth and indigenous people were not represented as such. For indigenous people, please see explanation for item 6.2.2.</p> <p>Evidence: 1. Stakeholders Mapping.xlsx</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay NOTE: No constraints were identified for the participation of all stakeholders</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Neither responses from international stakeholder consultation nor stakeholder survey contradict PEFC Uruguay's statement that no constraints for participation in the standard revision process were identified for any stakeholders and that no disadvantaged stakeholders were identified The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>6.3.1 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement shall be made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</p> <p>NOTE 1 <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) four weeks before the first standard-setting activity is scheduled to occur.</p> <p>NOTE 2 <i>Through suitable media</i> means at least through the standardising body's website and by email and/or letter to identified stakeholders. Other media includes press releases, news articles, features in trade-press, information sent to branch organisations, social media, digital media, etc.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>7.3. Public announcement of the start of the standardization process PEFC Uruguay must make a public announcement about the start of the process of development and/or revision of PEFC Uruguay standards and invite to participate in a timely manner through the PEFC Uruguay website (www.pefc.com.uy) and in appropriate media, such as nationally circulated newspapers and forest-related magazines, to enable stakeholders to make their contributions. The announcement and invitation shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Information about the objectives, scope and stages of the standardization process and its schedule of activities. b) Information about the opportunities that stakeholders will have to participate in the process. c) An invitation to interested parties to nominate their representatives to the Technical Committee. The invitation to key and disadvantaged stakeholders should be made by means that ensure that the information reaches the target group and is understandable. d) An invitation to comment on the standardization procedure. The PEFC Uruguay website (www.pefc.com.uy) it must have a public and accessible space in place to facilitate comments on the procedure. A public record of the comments made in such a space shall be kept. e) References to public procedures on the standardization process on the PEFC Uruguay website (www.pefc.com.uy). <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence:</p> <p>http://www.pefc.com.uy/noticia/55/revision-del-sistema-pefc-uruguay--2019</p> <p>3. Translation of invitation letter</p> <p>2. Folder Invited/contacted stakeholders</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.1 The announcement and invitation shall include:			

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
(a) overview of the standard-setting process,	Procedures	YES	7.3. Public announcement of the start of the standardization process (...) The announcement and invitation shall include: a) Information about the objectives, scope and stages of the standardization process and its schedule of activities. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/noticia/55/revision-del-sistema-pefc-uruguay--2019 3. Translation of invitation letter 2. Folder Invited/contacted stakeholders Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1),	Procedures	YES	7.3. Public announcement of the start of the standardization process (...) The announcement and invitation shall include: a) Information about the objectives, scope and stages of the standardization process and its schedule of activities. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/noticia/55/revision-del-sistema-pefc-uruguay--2019 3. Translation of invitation letter 2. Folder Invited/contacted stakeholders Assessment decision: Conformity

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	YES	7.3. Public announcement of the start of the standardization process (...) The announcement and invitation shall include: b) Information about the opportunities that stakeholders will have to participate in the process. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/noticia/55/revision-del-sistema-pefc-uruguay--2019 3. Translation of invitation letter 2. Folder Invited/contacted stakeholders Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the working group (refer to 6.4). The request to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand,	Procedures	YES	7.3. Public announcement of the start of the standardization process (...) The announcement and invitation shall include: c) An invitation to interested parties to nominate their representatives to the Technical Committee. The invitation to key and disadvantaged stakeholders should be made by means that ensure that the information reaches the target group and is understandable Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/noticia/55/revision-del-sistema-pefc-uruguay--2019 3. Translation of invitation letter 2. Folder Invited/contacted stakeholders

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process, and	Procedures	YES	7.3. Public announcement of the start of the standardization process (...) The announcement and invitation shall include: d) An invitation to comment on the standardization procedure. The PEFC Uruguay website (www.pefc.com.uy) it must have a public and accessible space in place to facilitate comments on the procedure. A public record of the comments made in such a space shall be kept. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/noticia/55/revision-del-sistema-pefc-uruguay--2019 3. Translation of invitation letter 2. Folder Invited/contacted stakeholders Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(f) access to the standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	YES	7.3. Public announcement of the start of the standardization process (...) The announcement and invitation shall include: e) References to public procedures on the standardization process on the PEFC Uruguay website (www.pefc.com.uy). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/noticia/55/revision-del-sistema-pefc-uruguay--2019 3. Translation of invitation letter 2. Folder Invited/contacted stakeholders

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.3.2 The standardising body shall review the standard-setting process based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.	Procedures	YES	7.4. Review of the standardization process PEFC Uruguay shall review the process of developing and/or revising the standards of the PEFC Uruguay System based on the comments received in connection with the public announcement. (...)
	Process	YES	Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met. PEFC Uruguay comment: NO COMMENTS RECEIVED IN CONNECTION TO THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Neither international stakeholder consultation nor stakeholder survey received responses that contradict PEFC Uruguay's statement that no comments were received. The benchmark is met.
6.4.1 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group or adjust the composition of an already existing working group based on nominations it received. Acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justified in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an	Procedures	YES	6.5 Organization of the Technical Committee 6.5.1 Composition The Technical Committee will be integrated, whenever possible, to guarantee the balance in representation and decision between the different interested parties relevant to the subject under analysis (...)
			In case of refusal of nominations for the Technical Committee, the PEFC Uruguay Board of Directors shall justify their decision indicating if the decision is based on considerations regarding balanced representation, gender balance, relevance, competence, experience or resources. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.	Process	YES	<p>PEFC Uruguay comment: "Invitations to participate in the revision process through the Technical Committee is sent to ALL identified parties in the sector, which are ALL KEY stakeholders. The base for the invitations includes the organizations of the sector listed in DG 13, plus any other participant on previous processes of revision. From that starting point, by reference from these stakeholders or answers to public requests, other stakeholders are included.</p> <p>Due to the characteristics of the forestry sector in Uruguay, the identification of stakeholders covers practically ALL possible stakeholders, therefore there is no process of "selection". All those that have interest in participating or have been delegated by their organizations can participate in the TC, previous formal approval by the PEFC Uruguay Board of Directors.</p> <p>Now, DG 13 – Item 6.5.1 Composition of the TC, has been modified to clarified that in case of refusal by the PEFC Board of Directors of a delegate or person in particular, this decision shall be justified, and register in the minutes of the meeting."</p> <p>Evidence: 3.1 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board July 8th – Decision to begin the review/revision process 3.2 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board - August 6th . Approval of Technical Committee constitution and beginning of process. In minutes, translated text is in blue</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.4.2 The working group shall:			
(a) have balanced representation and decision-	Procedures	YES	6.5. Organization of the Technical Committee 6.5.1 Composition.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process, and			<p>The Technical Committee will be integrated, whenever possible, to guarantee the balance in representation and decision between the different interested parties relevant to the subject under analysis.</p> <p>Technical Committees (TCs) must be set up, the membership of which shall be approved by the PEFC Uruguay Board of Directors.</p> <p>In case of refusal of nominations for the Technical Committee, the PEFC Uruguay Board of Directors shall justify their decision indicating if the decision is based on considerations regarding balanced representation, gender balance, relevance, competence, experience or resources.</p> <p>Representatives of the following sectors will be invited to join the Technical Committee:</p> <p>Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministerio de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca (Dirección Forestal y Dirección de Recursos Naturales Renovables) - Ministerio de Vivienda Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente (Dirección de Medio Ambiente) - Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social (Dirección de Trabajo) <p>Producers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through the Society of Forest Producers and individually - Harvesters (Association of Forestry Contractors and individual companies) <p>Academy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facultad de Agronomía (Departamento de Producción Forestal, Departamento de Suelos y Aguas, Unidad de Sistemas Ambientales) - Facultad de Ciencias (Instituto de Ecología y Ciencias Ambientales)} - ANEP. De Educación Técnico Profesional <p>Research Centers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Professional Associations: - Asociación de Ingeniero Agrónomos Related/affected parties: - Asociación Rural del Uruguay - Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA) - PEFC Uruguay, certified companies, certification bodies, accreditation bodies Workers: - Plenario Interdisciplinario de Trabajadores. Confederación nacional de Trabajadores (PIT-CNT) NGOs: - Asociación Nacional de ONGs (ANOG) - Individual NGOs
	Process	YES	Evidence: PEFC URUGUAY - Development REPORT 1. Stakeholders Mapping – Sheet “Technical Committee” 3.1 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board July 8th – Decision to begin the review/revision process 3.2 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board - August 6th . Approval of Technical Committee constitution and beginning of process. In minutes, translated text is in blue PEFC Uruguay comment: None of the environmental NGOs responded to the invitation to participate in the process. As can be seen in the Mapping List, ANONG, the organization that nucleates all kinds of NGOs, including environmental (list available in mapping file or ANONG webpage) responded to our invitation saying they would pass along the invitation to the sector of the organization they considered

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>more appropriate (see attached copy of the communication- 2. ANONG Re). They did not express any further interest in participating in the process, but we kept them in the communications listing (reminders, meeting schedules, resolutions, etc). Each communication reminded the recipients the possibility of commenting on procedure and/or process at any time through the established channels (webpage, mail, telephone).</p> <p>In order to compensate for the lack of environmental NGOs that usually do not participate in the processes, we invited members of the Academia, so to have experts in topics like conservation and biodiversity (Faculty of Sciences – Instituto de Ecología y Ciencias Ambientales, Faculty of Agronomy, Departamento Forestal, Departamento de Suelos y Aguas).</p> <p>In terms of NGOs, other than environmental, there was representation of social and professional NGOs, like the Association of Agronomy, or the Association of Forest Producers.</p> <p>The categories of participants can be discriminated as follows:</p> <p>Accreditation/Normalization /Government organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Instituto Uruguayo de Normas Técnicas (UNIT) ✓ Organismo Uruguayo de Acreditación (OUA) ✓ Dirección Forestal (MGAP) ✓ Dirección de Medio Ambiente (DINAMA-MVOTA) ✓ Ministerio de Minería y Energía (MIEM) ✓ Banco de Seguros del Estado (BSE – Workers State Insurance) <p>Academia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Instituto de Ecología y Ciencias Ambientales (IECA-FCIEN) ✓ Departamento Forestal (FAGRO) ✓ Departamento de Suelos y Agua (FAGRO) <p>NGOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sociedad de Productores Forestales (SPF) ✓ Asociación de Ingenieros Agrónomos (AIA) ✓ ANONG (Association of NGOs, social and environmental. Did not participate directly of the TC, they were kept in the communications list of the advancements of the process and consultations)

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>Forest Companies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lumin ✓ UPM – Forestal Oriental ✓ Montes del Plata ✓ Asociación de Contratistas Forestales (ASECFUR – subcontractors) <p>Independent professionals</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(b) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that affected by the standard, and those that can influence implementation of the standard. The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants.	Procedures	YES	<p>5.11 Interested party A person, group, or organization actively involved in the standardization process, or whose interests may be positively or negatively affected by the execution or conclusion of the process.</p> <p>6.5. Organization of the Technical Committee 6.5.1 Composition. The Technical Committee will be integrated, whenever possible, to guarantee the balance in representation and decision between the different interested parties relevant to the subject under analysis.</p> <p>Representatives of the following sectors will be invited to join the Technical Committee: (...)</p> <p>The invitations will include the full list of the institutions and organizations that are being called to the Technical Committee.</p> <p>The initial composition of the Technical Committee is that agreed by the Board of Directors at the time of its creation. The Technical Committee may also propose the membership of other representatives who have not been summoned at first instance to the committee.</p> <p>The identification of disadvantaged sectors and key sectors will be carried out at two levels:</p> <p>a) In consultation with representatives of government authorities with competence in the matter</p> <p>The interests of the population in general and of the most vulnerable (or disadvantaged) sectors are of permanent concern and custody on the part of the ministries with competence. The Technical Committee</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>maintains representatives of the National Environment Directorate, the Forestry Directorate of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries and the Labor Directorate of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security to ensure that these interests are represented. The identification of key sectors is carried out in consultation with the national authorities responsible for promoting State policies.</p> <p>b) In consultation with the already appointed members of the Technical Committee</p> <p>Committee may propose the integration into the committee of other representatives who have not been convened in the first instance and in this regard the Technical Committee will act proactively to identify and encourage the participation of groups of disadvantaged sectors. Efforts will be made to ensure that key sectors in the process provide the necessary support to enable minority or disadvantaged sectors to participate.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence:</p> <p>3.1 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board July 8th – Decision to begin the review/revision process</p> <p>3.2 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board - August 6th . Approval of Technical Committee constitution and beginning of process.</p> <p>In minutes, translated text is in blue</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
6.4.3 In order to achieve balanced representation, the standardising body shall strive to have all identified stakeholder	Procedures	YES	<p>6.5.1 The initial composition of the Technical Committee should be reviewed at the start of a new project, including periodic reviews of an existing one. The review should include consideration of gender balance and representation and invitation to potential new members.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>groups (refer to 6.2) represented. The standardising body shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc.</p> <p>NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standardising body may consider alternative options.</p>			<p>If considerations of gender balance and representation are not fully met at the time of the approval of the TC composition, PEFC Uruguay shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations, etc.</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay comment: The procedures of identification of stakeholders has its roots in UNIT's procedures and are now part of PEFC Uruguay procedures, and reflects the reality of the process in the country. The listing "base" stakeholders, from UNIT procedures and now in DG 13, cover ALL possible aspects of interest for the sector and have a history of participation in the process, therefore, the process of invitation begins with them.</p> <p>Included in the procedure, public communications and invitation letters is the exhortation to refer the invitation to other potential stakeholders. These referrals are followed up by PEFC Uruguay.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	NO	<p>PEFC Uruguay comment: Due to sector characteristics, all stakeholders are defined as key stakeholders and equally seek for participation. ANONG responded to invitation saying they would forward the invitation to their environmental committee to decide whether to participate or not (please see attached copy of mail – 2. Anong-Re). No further communication was received to reminders, but they were still kept in all the communications (meetings, topics to be discuss, resolutions, public consultation).</p> <p>At the time of the approval of the composition of the TC, the response of the stakeholders was considered fair, and the absence of environmental NGOs, was considered to be balanced by the participation of Academia.</p> <p>It is worth mentioning that the members of the TC conformed, participated of ALL topics of the standard, not selectively of those of their own interest.</p> <p>Evidence:</p> <p>3.1 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board July 8th – Decision to begin the review/revision process</p> <p>3.2 Minute PEFC Uruguay Board - August 6th . Approval of Technical Committee constitution and beginning of process.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>In minute, translated text is in blue</p> <p>Assessment decision: Minor nonconformity Justification: It is not apparent from the submitted documentation and additional comments provided by PEFC Uruguay that targets for the participation of key stakeholders were set and that proactive outreach took place to seek the participation of ANONG and environmental NGOs on the Technical Committee.</p>
6.4.4 Activities of the working group shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:			
(a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group,	Procedures	YES	<p>7.6. Organization of the Technical Committee</p> <p>a) The work of the Technical Committee shall be organized in an open and transparent manner, ensuring that:</p> <p>b) Working drafts are available to all members of the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will begin its work based on an Initial Draft, a document that will be based on an analysis of the relevant topics present in other selected international standards.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(b) all members of the working group shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and to provide feedback on working drafts, and	Procedures	YES	<p>7.6</p> <p>c) All members of the Technical Committee can contribute to the development and/or revision of the standards, and to submit comments on the working drafts. For this, the task of the Technical Committee will be permanently coordinated by the Executive Secretariat of PEFC Uruguay, which will also manage the logistics and agenda of all meetings.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence:</p> <p>http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			MINUTES: http://www.pefc.com.uy/minutas-de-las-reuniones Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) feedback and views given by any member of the working group shall be considered in an open and transparent way where the outcome of these considerations is recorded.	Procedures	YES	7.6 d) The comments and visions submitted by any member of the Technical Committee are duly considered, and their resolution and proposed changes are recorded. The Executive Secretariat of PEFC Uruguay will keep records of all meetings and make them available to support discussion and decision-making. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision MINUTES: http://www.pefc.com.uy/minutas-de-las-reuniones Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.4.5 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the working group can utilise the following methods:			
(a) face-to face meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote, a show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal ballot, etc.,	Procedures	YES	7.10. Consensus building on the Final Draft Once the public consultation and the pilot tests of each standard under development and/or revision have been completed, the Technical Committee must analyze the comments received and incorporate those that are relevant to generate the Final Draft for approval by the Superior Council. The decision of the Technical Committee to recommend the Final Draft of a standard must be taken with a minimum majority of 70%, with a minimum quorum of four fifths. To build consensus, the Technical Committee can use the following means to identify if there is opposition: a) A face-to-face meeting where there is a yes/no vote or a vote raising your hand for the yes/no vote; a consensus statement by the Chairman of the Committee, where there are no dissenting voices or raised hands (votes); a formal vote, etc. (...)


Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision MINUTES: http://www.pefc.com.uy/minutas-de-las-reuniones Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) telephone conference meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	YES	To build consensus, the Technical Committee can use the following means to identify if there is opposition: (...) b) A conference call where there is a verbal yes/no vote. (...) Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision MINUTES: http://www.pefc.com.uy/minutas-de-las-reuniones Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) e-mail request to the working group for agreement or objection where the members provide a formal (written) response (vote),	Procedures	YES	To build consensus, the Technical Committee can use the following means to identify if there is opposition: (...) c) A meeting via e-mail where members are provided with a request for approval or objection, which must be answered in written form (proxy for the vote). (...) Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision MINUTES: http://www.pefc.com.uy/minutas-de-las-reuniones

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) combinations of these methods.	Procedures	YES	To build consensus, the Technical Committee can use the following means to identify if there is opposition: (...) d) Combinations of the above Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision MINUTES: http://www.pefc.com.uy/minutas-de-las-reuniones Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
6.4.6 Where a vote is used in decision-making, the standard-setting procedures shall determine and include decision-making thresholds that quantifies consensus. The threshold must be consistent with the consensus definition (refer to 3.1). However, a majority vote cannot override sustained opposition in order to achieve consensus.	Procedures	YES	7.10. Consensus building on the Final Draft Once the public consultation and the pilot tests of each standard under development and/or revision have been completed, the Technical Committee must analyze the comments received and incorporate those that are relevant to generate the Final Draft for approval by the Superior Council. The decision of the Technical Committee to recommend the Final Draft of a standard must be taken with a minimum majority of 70%, with a minimum quorum of four fifths. To build consensus, the Technical Committee can use the following means to identify if there is opposition: Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	During the process there were no conflicts in the decisions, therefore all decisions were taken unanimously after consideration and exchange. Evidence: Minutes Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
6.4.7 When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods:			
(a) finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group,	Procedures	YES	7.10 (...) In the event of a negative vote representing sustained opposition to any significant part of the interests involved in a substantive issue, it shall be resolved by the following mechanisms: a) Discussion and negotiation on a disputed issue within the Technical Committee with the aim of finding a compromise. (...) Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	During the process there were no conflicts in the decisions, therefore all decisions were taken unanimously after consideration and exchange. Evidence: Minutes Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(b) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue,	Procedures	YES	7.10 (...) In the event of a negative vote representing sustained opposition to any significant part of the interests involved in a substantive issue, it shall be resolved by the following mechanisms: (...) b) Direct negotiation between the interested parties submitting the objection and the interested parties with different views on the disputed issue to find a compromise. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	During the process there were no conflicts in the decisions, therefore all decisions were taken unanimously after consideration and exchange. Evidence: Minutes Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary)	Procedures	N/A	Assessment decision: N/A

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. The standardising body determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.			Justification: The benchmark was deemed as voluntary due to the wording “if necessary” and not adopted in the standard setting procedures. The benchmark can therefore be considered as not applicable.
	Process	N/A	During the process there were no conflicts in the decisions, therefore all decisions were taken unanimously after consideration and exchange. Evidence: Minutes Assessment decision: N/A Justification: The benchmark was deemed as voluntary due to the wording “if necessary” and adopted in neither the standard setting procedures nor the process. The benchmark can therefore be considered as not applicable.
6.4.8 When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, the standardising body shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action.	Procedures	YES	DG 13, 7.11 In the event of a negative vote representing sustained opposition to any significant part of the interests involved in a substantive issue, it shall be resolved by the following mechanisms: a) Discussion and negotiation on a disputed issue within the Technical Committee with the aim of finding a compromise. b) Direct negotiation between the interested parties submitting the objection and the interested parties with different views on the disputed issue to find a compromise. c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. PEFC Uruguay determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation. d) When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, PEFC Uruguay shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures (DG 06 – Dispute Resolution) for impartial and objective action. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	During the process there were no conflicts in the decisions, therefore all decisions were taken unanimously after consideration and exchange. Evidence: Minutes

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Assessment decision: N/A Justification: The benchmark was not applicable in the process.
6.5.1 The standardising body shall organise public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			
(a) the start and the end dates of public consultation are announced in a timely manner through suitable media, NOTE <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) the day before the start of public consultation.	Procedures	YES	7.8. Public consultation PEFC Uruguay shall organize a public consultation on the Draft Consultation of each standard under development and/or revision, and shall ensure that: a) The start and end of the public consultation shall be announced two weeks in advance in the appropriate media, in the written press and in radio programs devoted to agricultural issues. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: Announcements of public consultation on draft were published: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEFC Uruguay website: http://www.pefc.com.uy/noticia/68/consulta-publica---estandar-de-gestion-forestal-sostenible-pefc-uruguay Diario El País (IN Revision Process Folder: PC 1. Diario El País. PC announcement)

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revista Forestal. (IN Revision Process Folder: PC 2. Page 56. PC announcement) - IN Revision Process Folder: PC 3. Presentation of changes - IN Revision Process Folder: PC 4. DRAFT document - UNIT web page - IN Revision Process Folder: PC 5. UNIT PC announcement) - IN Revision Process Folder: PC 6. DRAFT UNIT 1152:202X - IN Revision Process Folder: PC 7. List of emails of stakeholders invited to comment <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
(b) a direct invitation to comment on the enquiry draft is sent to	Procedures	YES	<p>7.8. Public consultation</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay shall organize a public consultation on the Draft Consultation of each standard under development and/or revision, and shall ensure that: (...) b) A direct invitation (e-mail) to comment on the</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
each stakeholder identified by stakeholder identification mapping (refer to 6.2) aiming for a balanced participation of stakeholder groups,			<p>draft is sent to each stakeholder identified in the initial stakeholder mapping, with the aim of having a balanced participation of stakeholders.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence: PC 7. List of emails of stakeholders invited to comment</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
(c) invitations are sent to disadvantaged and key stakeholders by methods that ensure they reach recipients and are easy to understand,	Procedures	YES	<p>7.8. Public consultation PEFC Uruguay shall organize a public consultation on the Draft Consultation of each standard under development and/or revision, and shall ensure that: (...) c) The invitation to key and disadvantaged stakeholders is made using the means to ensure that the information reaches its recipients and is understandable.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>
	Process	YES	<p>7.8. Public consultation PEFC Uruguay shall organize a public consultation on the Draft Consultation of each standard under development and/or revision, and shall ensure that: (...) b) A direct invitation (e-mail) to comment on the draft is sent to each stakeholder identified in the initial stakeholder mapping, with the aim of having a balanced participation of stakeholders.</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay comment: Due to the dimensions and characteristics of the sector in the country, all stakeholders identified are considered key stakeholders and invited to participate or delegate representatives to participate.</p> <p>List of stakeholders in TC:</p> <p>Accreditation/Normalization /Government organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Instituto Uruguayo de Normas Técnicas (UNIT) ✓ Organismo Uruguayo de Acreditación ✓ Dirección Forestal (MGAP)

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dirección de Medio Ambiente (DINAMA-MVOTA) ✓ Ministerio de Minería y Energía (MIEM) ✓ Banco de Seguros del Estado (BSE – Workers State Insurance) <p>Academia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Instituto de Ecología y Ciencias Ambientales (IECA-FCIEN) ✓ Departamento Forestal (FAGRO) ✓ Departamento de Suelos y Agua (FAGRO) <p>NGOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sociedad de Productores Forestales (SPF) ✓ Asociación de Ingenieros Agrónomos (AIA) ✓ ANONG (Association of NGOs, social and environmental. Did not participate directly of the TC, they were kept in the communications list of the advancements of the process and consultations) <p>Forest Companies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lumin ✓ UPM – Forestal Oriental ✓ Montes del Plata ✓ Asociación de Contratistas Forestales (ASECFUR – subcontractors) <p>Independent professionals</p> <p>For the public consultation period, all stakeholders that have been contacted during the process are directly invited to comment, besides all the general and public exhortations (e-mails, webs, newspapers, magazines, radio) to comment on the procedures and process.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: PEFC Uruguay has identified no disadvantaged stakeholders and all stakeholders are considered to be key stakeholders. All stakeholders were invited by email. The benchmark is met.</p>
(d) the enquiry draft is made publicly available,	Procedures	YES	<p>7.8. Public consultation</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay shall organize a public consultation on the Draft Consultation of each standard under development and/or revision, and shall ensure that: (...) d) The Draft Consultation generated by</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			consensus of the Technical Committee for each standard under development and/or revision is available and publicly accessible on the PEFC Uruguay website (www.pefc.com.uy). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(e) public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	YES	7.8. Public consultation PEFC Uruguay shall organize a public consultation on the Draft Consultation of each standard under development and/or revision, and shall ensure that: (...) e) The public consultation lasts at least 60 days. The start and end date of the consultation must be indicated on the cover of the draft. f) The WEBSITE of PEFC Uruguay (www.pefc.com.uy) has a public and accessible space to facilitate the participation of interested parties in the public consultation. A public record of the participations made in the space for consultation will be kept. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(f) all feedback is considered by the working group in an objective manner, and	Procedures	YES	7.8. Public consultation PEFC Uruguay shall organize a public consultation on the Draft Consultation of each standard under development and/or revision, and shall ensure that: (...) g) All comments received during the public consultation shall be recorded and considered by the Technical Committee in an objective manner. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: - PC 8. FOLDER of comments received during public consultation. Comments from members of the TC were incorporated in the text of the standard for consideration (editorial comments).

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>- External comments received were consolidated and considered by the TC on the meeting on August 13th, 2020, see 7. Analysis feedback</p> <p>- Minutes</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>(g) a synopsis of feedback is compiled for each material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue. The synopsis is made publicly available (e.g. on a website) and is sent to each stakeholder/party that gave feedback.</p> <p>NOTE For clarity the standardising body's synopsis may aggregate responses on material issues where there was similar feedback from different stakeholders. However, best practice would be to publish each piece of original feedback and the response, to allow each stakeholder to identify its own feedback.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>7.8. Public consultation PEFC Uruguay shall organize a public consultation on the Draft Consultation of each standard under development and/or revision, and shall ensure that: (...) h) Once the consultation is completed, a summary of the comments received will be prepared, compiled by topic, including the results of its consideration, which will be available to the public on the WEBSITE of PEFC Uruguay (www.pefc.com.uy). The information with the changes made based on the public consultation will be considered the result of the standardization process.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision - PC 8. FOLDER of comments received during public consultation. Comments from members of the TC were incorporated in the text of the standard for consideration (editorial comments). - External comments received were consolidated and considered by the TC on the meeting on August 13th, 2020, see 7. Analysis feedback - Minutes <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.5.2 For new standards the standardising body shall organise a second round of public consultation lasting at least 30 days.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>7.17 For new standards the PEFC Uruguay shall organize a second round of public consultation lasting at least 30 days</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	N/A	N/A Revised standard. Second round consultation does not apply.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Assessment decision: N/A Justification: No new standard was developed.
<p>6.6 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of new standard(s) to assess the clarity, auditability and feasibility of the requirements. The working group shall consider the outcome of pilot testing.</p> <p>NOTE Pilot testing is not required for revision of an existing standard when experience from its usage can substitute for pilot testing.</p>	Procedures	YES	7.9. Pilot tests When applicable, PEFC Uruguay must organize pilot tests of the new standards, and the results of these tests must be considered by the Technical Committee. The Preliminary Consultation Draft will be implemented in the field, prior to the public consultation process. As a result of the pilot tests, appropriate actions will be taken to incorporate recommendations and improvements giving rise to the Consultation Draft that will be submitted to the public consultation process. Information on the results of the pilot tests and the implementation of the changes will be available for public consultation. Note: Pilot testing is not required in the case of revising a standard when experience of using it can replace pilot testing. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
	Process	N/A	N/A Revised standard. Pilot testing does not apply Assessment decision: N/A Justification: No new standard was developed.
Approval and Publication			
<p>7.1 The standardising body shall approve the standard(s)/normative document(s) formally when there is evidence of consensus among the working group.</p>	Procedures	YES	7.11. Formal approval of a standard of the PEFC Uruguay System The Board of Directors of PEFC Uruguay must formally approve each standard in the process of development and/or revision based on evidence of the consensus reached by the Technical Committee. The decision of the Board of Directors of PEFC Uruguay to approve a standard must be taken with a minimum majority of 70%, with a minimum quorum of two thirds. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met
	Process	YES	Evidence: 10. MINUTE PEFC Uy Board. September 24 th 2020

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			11. Translation of MINUTE PEFC Uy Board. September 24 th , 2020 12. Communication of approval of FM standard (web) 13. Communication of approval to TC (mail) Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.2.1 The formally approved standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be published and made publicly available at no cost within 14 days of approval, or as otherwise defined by the standardising body.	Procedures	YES	7.13. Publication of a PEFC Uruguay standard The standards of the PEFC Uruguay System, formally approved by the PEFC Uruguay Board of Directors, must be published in a timely manner and accessible on the PEFC Uruguay website (www.pefc.com.uy). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/noticia/71/estandar-de-gestion-forestal-sostenible-pefc-uruguay-2020 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.2.2 Standard(s) shall include:			
(a) identification and contact information for the standardising body,	Procedures	YES	7.14. The published standards shall include: a) identification and contact information for the standardizing body Assessment decision: onformity Justification: The benchmark is
	Process	YES	Evidence: English version Estándar GFS PEFC Uruguay:2020 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
(b) official language of the standard,	Procedures	YES	7.14. The published standards shall include: (...) b) official language of the standard Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: English version Estándar GFS PEFC Uruguay:2020 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(c) a note that when there is inconsistency between versions, the English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference.	Procedures	YES	7.14. The published standards shall include: c) a note that when there is inconsistency between versions, the English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: English version Estándar GFS PEFC Uruguay:2020 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
(d) The approval date and the date of next periodic review NOTE The date of next periodic review may be within a shorter period than five years based on (for example) stakeholder expectations or other foreseen developments.	Procedures	YES	7.14. The published standards shall include: d) The approval date, transition period and the date of next periodic review Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: English version Estándar GFS PEFC Uruguay:2020 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.2.3 Printed copies shall be made available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs (if any)	Procedures	YES	7.15 Printed copies shall be made available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs (if any) Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
	Process	YES	Printed copies are available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.2.4 The standardising body shall make the development report (refer to PEFC GD 1007) publicly available	Procedures	YES	7.16 PEFC Uruguay shall make the development report (refer to PEFC GD 1007) publicly available Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentacion Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
Periodic review of standards			
8.1 The standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard's implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organised to obtain further feedback and input.	Procedures	YES	8.PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE PEFC URUGUAY STANDARDS 8.1 The standards of the PEFC Uruguay System must be revised at intervals not exceeding 5 years, to adapt to changes in the economic, social, and environmental context of forest certification in Uruguay and the world, and to the requirements established by the PEFC Council. Standards review procedures should follow the guidelines in Chapter 7 of this document. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	PEFC standard setting process (DG 13) was established to transfer the standard from UNIT (normalizing organism) to PEFC Uruguay in June 2019. Before that date, development and revision of FM standard followed UNIT standardization procedures. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>8.2.1 The standardising body shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the website of the standardising body and/or PEFC National Governing Body with clear directions for providing feedback.</p> <p>NOTE Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>8.2 Feedback mechanism</p> <p>8.2.1 PEFC Uruguay shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the PEFC Uruguay website with clear directions for providing feedback. Note: Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>PEFC Uruguay comment: Besides the usual communication mechanisms (phone calls, e-mails, personally), the section on the PEFC Uruguay webpage, http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision, is now permanently in place.</p> <p>To access the section, the user must register (auto-register). All comments received in any of the sections available, are automatically forwarded to info@pefc.com.uy and to the Technical Secretary mailbox.</p> <p>The PEFC Uruguay procedure for standard setting (DG 13) and the web standard feedback mechanism was established at the start of the present revision process. From now on, the mechanism remains active.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.2.2 All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded and considered.</p>	Procedures	Y	<p>8.2.2 All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded and considered</p> <p>Assessment decision: onformity Justification: The benchmark is</p>
	Process	YES	<p>PEFC Uruguay comment: Besides the usual communication mechanisms (phone calls, e-mails, personally), and the Dispute Resolutions procedure (DG 06), the section on the PEFC Uruguay webpage, http://www.pefc.com.uy/documentos-en-revision, is now permanently in place.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>To access the section, the user must register (auto-register). All comments received in any of the sections available, are automatically forwarded to info@pefc.com.uy and to the Technical Secretary mailbox.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
8.3.1 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard.	Procedures	YES	<p>8.3 Gap analysis</p> <p>8.3.1 At the start of a review, the PEFC Uruguay shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity ESJustification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Evidence: Revised PEFC Uruguay system Development Report</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: PEFC Uruguay decided to skip the review phase as it was clear that standards needed alignment with new PEFC benchmarks. As can be seen from the revised documentation and as is stated in the development report, a gap analysis has been carried out.</p>
8.3.2 The standardising body shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues.	Procedures	YES	<p>8.3.2 PEFC Uruguay shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research, and relevant emerging issues.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: PEFC Uruguay decided to skip the review phase as it was clear that standards needed alignment with new PEFC benchmarks. Due to the presence of representatives from the scientific/academic community on the Technical Committee, the benchmark can be considered as met.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
8.4.1 Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, the standardising body shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. The standardising body shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.	Procedures	YES	8.4 Stakeholder consultation 8.4.1 Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, PEFC Uruguay shall organize stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. The standardizing body shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: A revision was carried out.
8.4.2 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.2).	Procedures	YES	8.4.2 At the start of a review, the PEFC Uruguay shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.5). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: A revision including stakeholder mapping was carried out.
8.4.3 The standardising body shall organise:			
(a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.5.1) and/or,	Procedures	YES	8.4.3 PEFC Uruguay shall organize: a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 7.8) and/or, b) stakeholder meetings. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Assessment decision: N/A Justification: PEFC Uruguay decided to skip the review phase as it was clear that standards needed alignment with new PEFC benchmarks. A public consultation was included in the revision process.
(b) stakeholder meetings.	Procedures	YES	8.4.3 PEFC Uruguay shall organize: a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 7.8) and/or, b) stakeholder meetings. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: PEFC Uruguay decided to skip the review phase as it was clear that standards needed alignment with new PEFC benchmarks. Meetings with stakeholders took place in the Technical Committee.
8.4.4 The standardising body shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.3).	Procedures	YES	8.4.4 PEFC Uruguay shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 7.3). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: PEFC Uruguay decided to skip the review phase as it was clear that standards needed alignment with new PEFC benchmarks. The revision was announced in a timely manner.
8.5.1 Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, the standardising body shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard	Procedures	YES	8.5 Decision-making 8.5.1 Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, PEFC Uruguay shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: PEFC Uruguay decided to skip the review phase as it was clear that standards needed alignment with new PEFC benchmarks.
8.5.2 The decision shall be made at the highest decision-making level of the standardising body	Procedures	YES	8.5.2 The decision shall be made by the Board of Directors of PEFC Uruguay Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: PEFC Uruguay decided to skip the review phase as it was clear that standards needed alignment with new PEFC benchmarks.
8.5.3 Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, the standardising body shall provide a justification for the decision and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	YES	8.5.3 Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, PEFC Uruguay shall provide a justification for the decision and make the justification publicly available. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: The standard was revised.
8.5.4 Where the decision is to revise the standard, the standardising body shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision).	Procedures	YES	8.5.4 Where the decision is to revise the standard, PEFC Uruguay shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: A normal revision was carried out.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
Revision of standards			
9.1 Procedures for revision of standard(s)/normative document(s) shall conform to those stated in section 6. A normal revision can occur at the periodic review, or between periodic reviews, but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions.	Procedures	YES	9. REVISION OF STANDARDS 9.1 Normal revision A normal revision can occur at the periodic review, or between periodic reviews, but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	PEFC Uruguay statement: The current revision IS a normal revision. Date of previous standard: 2014. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The procures followed aimed to meet section 6.
9.2 Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. The standardising body shall approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard.	Procedures	YES	9.2 Editorial revision Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. The standardizing body shall approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: A normal revision took place.
9.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process.	Procedures	YES	9.3 Time-critical revision 9.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: A normal revision took place.
9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations:			
(a) Change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements	Procedures	YES	9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations: a) Change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: A normal revision took place.
(b) Instruction by PEFC International to comply with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision.	Procedures	YES	9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations: (...) b) Instruction by PEFC International to comply with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: A normal revision took place.
9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps:			

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
(a) The standardising body shall draft the revised standard,	Procedures	YES	9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: a) PEFC Uruguay shall draft the revised standard, Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: A normal revision took place.
(b) The standardising body may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory,	Procedures	YES	9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: (...) b) PEFC Uruguay may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory, Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: A normal revision took place.
(c) The revised standard shall be approved formally at the highest appropriate decision-making level of the standardising body,	Procedures	YES	9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: (...) c) The revised standard shall be approved formally by de Board of Directors of PEFC Uruguay Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: A normal revision took place.
(d) The standardising body shall explain the justification for the	Procedures	YES	9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: (...) d) PEFC Uruguay shall explain the justification for the urgent change(s) and make the justification publicly available.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
urgent change(s) and make the justification publicly available.			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	N/A	PEFC Uruguay statement: Does not apply to present revision Assessment decision: N/A Justification: A normal revision took place.
9.4.1 A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	YES	9.4 Application and transition of revised standards 9.4.1 A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standard(s)/ normative document(s). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: English version Estándar GFS PEFC Uruguay:2020 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4.2 An application date shall not be more than one year after the publication of the standard. This allows time for endorsement of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s), introduction of change(s), information dissemination and training.	Procedures	YES	9.4.2 An application date shall not be more than one year after the publication of the standard. This allows time for endorsement of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s), introduction of change(s), information dissemination and training. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: English version Estándar GFS PEFC Uruguay:2020 Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4.3 The transition period shall not exceed one year. The standardising body may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances.	Procedures	YES	9.4.3 The transition period shall not exceed one year. The standardizing body may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
	Process	YES	Evidence: English version Estándar GFS PEFC Uruguay:2020

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC Checklist - Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003:2018)

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard		
4.1 General		
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; Note: An example of a situation where a requirement can be defined as being at another level (e.g. group/regional) is monitoring of forest health. Through monitoring of forest health at regional level, and communicating of results at the FMU level, the objective of the requirement is met without the necessity to carry out the individual monitoring of each forest management unit.	YES	PEFC Uruguay SFM standard:2020 1 Scope This standard sets out the specific planning requirements, criteria, and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Uruguay . This standard applies to forest plantations in forest management units, from both public and private organizations covering all their products and services . The requirements described in this document apply to the owners and managers of organizations as well as contractors and other operators in PEFC certified areas. Forest plantations with genetically modified trees are expressly excluded from the scope of this standard. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) be clear, performance based and auditable;	YES	PEFC Uruguay SFM standard:2020. Chapter 6. The criteria and the indicators established also ensure that sustainable forest management can be documented to a qualified auditor and, ultimately, to the market and consumers. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact	YES	1 Scope

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
on achieving compliance with the requirements;		<p>This standard sets out the specific planning requirements, criteria, and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Uruguay. This standard applies to forest plantations in forest management units, from both public and private organizations covering all their products and services. The requirements described in this document apply to the owners and managers of organizations as well as contractors and other operators in PEFC certified areas. Forest plantations with genetically modified trees are expressly excluded from the scope of this standard.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards;	Y	<p>5.5 Documented information</p> <p>5.5.1 The management system of the organization shall include the <u>documented information</u> required by this specification and that determined by the organization itself as necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.</p> <p>5.5.2 Documented information from the forest management unit shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) General Management Plan. b) procedures and other documents necessary to carry out Sustainable Forest Management. c) the required <u>records</u>. <p>5.5.3 Documented information shall be relevant and up to date as appropriate to the organization's activities</p> <p>5.5.4 Forest management unit managers shall establish a system to allow the updating and approval of documents where necessary.</p> <p>5.5.5 All documentation necessary for Forest Management must be at the places of use.</p> <p>5.5.6 The organization shall keep records providing evidence of compliance with the requirements of forest management standards.</p> <p>5.5.7 Records shall be identified and kept for a period determined by the management unit, to provide evidence of the parameters, as well as the activities carried out.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>e) specify “100% PEFC certified”, or another system specific claim, as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody;</p> <p>Note: System specific claims of PEFC endorsed standards and PEFC Council approved abbreviations of such claims and the claim “100% PEFC certified”, and their translations into languages other than English, are published online on the PEFC website www.pefc.org.</p>	YES	<p>7.4. Declarations</p> <p>7.4.1 The organization shall use the "100% PEFC certified" declaration or “100% Origen PEFC” declaration to communicate the origin of products within the scope of a sustainable management certificate, to customers with a PEFC chain of custody.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>f) require that where owners/managers of forests are selling products from areas other than covered by the standard, only products from areas covered by the standard are sold with the claim “100% PEFC-certified” or a system specific claim;</p>	YES	<p>7.4.2 The organization shall ensure that when forest owners/managers sell products from areas other than those covered by the standard, only products from areas covered by the standard are sold with the "100% PEFC certified" declaration or “100% Origen PEFC” declaration.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>g) require that claims on the origin of products in an area covered by the standard are only made by forest owners/managers covered by a PEFC recognised certificate issued against the standard;</p>	YES	<p>7.4.3 The organization shall require that declarations of origin of products in a certified area be made only by forest owners/managers covered by a recognized PEFC certificate</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>h) specify requirements concerning the information which need to be provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer;</p>	YES	<p>7.4.4 The organization shall provide a client with chain of custody certification with at least the following information:</p> <p>(a) details of the organization.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>(b) formal declaration of the specific category of material (percentage of certified material) for each declared product in the documentation (where applicable).</p> <p>(c) identification of the sustainable forest management certificate or other document confirming the status of certified supplier.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>i) include an overview of applicable legislation, if requirements of this benchmark are not reflected in the regional, national or sub-national standard, because they are already addressed through the legislation.</p>	YES	<p>Annex A (Informative)</p> <p>National Legal Framework applicable to the forest management unit</p> <p>This Addendum presents a non-exhaustive listing of applicable legal and regulatory requirements and does not remove responsibility from the organization implementing this standard to identify and enforce other laws or regulations as applicable or updates to these.</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay comment: Annex A provides a listing on ALL, National legislation applicable (not potentially) to forest management in Uruguay.</p> <p>Organizations are still required to make sure that they comply with other legislations, e.g. local legislations depending on the area where the organization is located (Municipal legislation), or updates and modifications to the National legislation, posterior to the publication of the standard.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		
The standard requires that the organisation shall determine:		
<p>a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to the sustainable forest management;</p>	YES	<p>4.1.3 The organization shall identify affected stakeholders that are relevant to sustainable forest management, the relevant needs, and expectations of these stakeholders.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.	YES	<p>4.1.3 The organization shall identify <u>affected stakeholders</u> that are relevant to sustainable forest management, the relevant needs, and expectations of these stakeholders.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.3 Determining the scope of the management system		
4.3.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the management system to establish its scope.	YES	<p>4.1.2 The <u>organization</u> shall determine the limits and applicability of the management system to establish its scope</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.3.2 The standard requires that 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 practices. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement.	YES	<p>4 Planning</p> <p>4.1 General</p> <p>4.1.1 For the implementation and compliance with the established <u>criteria</u> and indicators, the forest management unit shall carry out planning consistent with the concept of Sustainable Forest Management, seeking a balance between the conservation of natural, historical – cultural and socio-economic resources, productivity (technical, economic and financial) and social welfare in general. Forest management should cover the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and should include an adequate assessment of the social, environmental, and economic impacts of forest management. This will form a basis for a continuous improvement cycle.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5. Leadership		
5.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	YES	<p>4.1.6 The organization shall develop a commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management specification and other applicable requirements of the certification and improvement system of the sustainable forest management system.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.	YES	<p>4.1.1 For the implementation and compliance with the established criteria and indicators, the forest management unit shall carry out planning consistent with the concept of Sustainable Forest Management, seeking a balance between the conservation of natural, historical – cultural and socio-economic resources, productivity (technical, economic, and financial) and social welfare in general. Forest management should cover the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and should include an adequate assessment of the social, environmental, and economic impacts of forest management. This will form a basis for a continuous improvement cycle.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed..</p>
5.2 The standard requires that this commitment shall be publicly available.	YES	<p>4.1.7 The organization's compliance commitment shall be publicly available.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	YES	<p>4.1.5 Responsibilities for the implementation and planning of sustainable management of the forest management unit shall be clearly defined and assigned within the organization.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6. Planning		
6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities		
6.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest management. Size and scale of the operations of the organisation shall be considered.	YES	<p>4.1.4 Organization must consider risks and opportunities related to meeting the requirements for sustainable forest management considering the size and scale of the organization's operations.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
6.1.2 The standard requires that inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described in this international benchmark standard.	YES	<p>4.2.4 In management planning, forest resource inventory and mapping shall identify, protect and/or conserve areas of <u>ecological importance</u> containing significant concentrations of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> protected ecosystems, priority for their conservation, rare, vulnerable or representative; areas representing natural habitats of endemic, threatened, <u>conservation-specific species</u>, defined in recognized reference lists; threatened or protected genetic resources <i>in situ</i>; <p>and considering large significant areas of landscape on a global, regional, and national scale.</p> <p>4.2.5 The management and mapping of forest resources, appropriate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described, shall be established, and maintained.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.2 Management plan		
6.2.1 The standard requires that management plans shall be:		
a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;	YES	<p>4.2 General Management Plan</p> <p>4.2.1 The forest management unit shall have a <u>General Management Plan</u>. The plan must include management guidelines in the activities of the unit over which the controller has control.</p> <p>4.2.2 The General Management Plan shall be a document in itself, subject to periodic review, appropriate to the size and uses of the forest area, or a series of documents including, but not limited to: forest management plans, operational forest management and treatment plans, production control plans (logging and non-wood goods and services), endangered species conservation plans, soil use and conservation plans, forest fire protection plans, prevention plans for illegal activities by third parties, integrated pest monitoring and management plans, forestry plans for the recovery of fire-affected forest areas or climate agents, construction plans and maintenance of infrastructure (including , roads, trails, collection courts, bridges) necessary for the development of the activities of the management unit.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) appropriate to the size and use of the forest area;	YES	<p>4.1.2 The organization shall determine the limits and applicability of the management system to establish its scope</p> <p>4.2.2 The General Management Plan shall be a document in itself, subject to periodic review, appropriate to the size and uses of the forest area (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and	YES	<p>4.3. Legal Compliance - Legal, institutional, and economic framework for the conservation and sustainable management of forests</p> <p>4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.</p> <p>4.3.2 The organization shall identify and implement in the management unit the applicable legal regulations.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) adequately covering forest resources.	YES	<p>4.2.2 The General Management Plan shall be a document in itself, subject to periodic review, appropriate to the size and uses of the forest area, or a series of documents including, but not limited to: forest management plans, operational forest management and treatment plans, production control plans (logging and non-wood goods and services), endangered species conservation plans, soil use and conservation plans, forest fire protection plans, prevention plans for illegal activities by third parties, integrated pest monitoring and management plans, forestry plans for the recovery of fire-affected forest areas or climate agents, construction plans and maintenance of infrastructure(including , roads, trails, collection courts, bridges) necessary for the development of the activities of the management unit.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>4.2.5 The management and mapping of forest resources, appropriate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described, shall be established, and maintained.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.2.2 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.</p> <p>(Appendix 1: The requirements 6.2.2, 8.1.1, 8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.4.1 and 8.6.1 cannot be applied to individual forest stands and shall be considered on a larger scale (bioregional) within the whole forest management unit where the stands of fast growing trees are complemented by buffer zones and set-aside areas dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions. In order to enhance landscape and biodiversity values, and water and soil protection, the size and distribution of the buffer zones and conservation set-aside areas shall be identified at the preparatory stage of the forest plantation establishment, based on social, environmental and ecological assessment, as well as reviewed during the subsequent replanting stages.)</p>	YES	<p>4.2.7 The planning shall take in to account the different uses or functions of the management unit and the role of forest production in rural development. This should be used by those policy instruments established to support the production of commercial and non-commercial forest goods and services.</p> <p>6.2.6.3.1 The social and cultural aspects of the community shall be incorporated into the sustainable forest management, to generate benefits for both the management unit and its employees and communities and to promote a good understanding of them.</p> <p>6.2.6.3.2 The heads of the forest management unit shall identify a person in charge of the relationship with the local community with the aim of promoting communication and good understanding with the communities involved in the productive process of the forest management unit and consider in the planning of forest management the opportunities for employment and promotion of activities in areas of influence, as a contribution to rural development.</p> <p>6.2.6.4.1 In the planning of forest management, the landscape and recreational values shall be considered as pre-existing resources, while preserving historical, cultural, and spiritual values.</p> <p>6.2.4.3. Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones</p> <p>6.2.4.3.1. Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation.</p> <p>6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones.</p> <p>6.2.4.3.3 Parameters: • Identification of buffer zones between habitats of interest and plantations (ha). • surface of biological corridors (ha).</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: In the view of the assessor the benchmark is met even in plantations outside of buffer zones, despite the guidance for interpretation in Appendix 1 of PEFC ST 1003 for this benchmark.</p>
<p>6.2.3 The standard requires that management plans shall include at least a description of the current forest management unit, long-term objectives, and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification.</p>	YES	<p>4.2.2 The General Management Plan shall be a document in itself, subject to periodic review, appropriate to the size and uses of the forest area, or a series of documents including, but not limited to: forest management plans, operational forest management and treatment plans, production control plans (logging and <u>non-wood goods and services</u>), endangered species conservation plans, soil use and conservation plans, forest fire protection plans, prevention plans for illegal activities by third parties, integrated pest monitoring and management plans, forestry plans for the recovery of fire-affected forest areas or climate agents, construction plans and maintenance of infrastructure (including , roads, trails, collection courts, bridges) necessary for the development of the activities of the management unit.</p> <p>4.2.5 The management and mapping of forest resources, appropriate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described, shall be established, and maintained.</p> <p>4.2.6 Short and long-term planning of the management unit shall be periodically documented, implemented, and updated for: • land use (after characterization of natural, historical - cultural and socio-economic resources), to determine the different areas of management; • the production of a diversity of goods (loggers and non-loggers) and services, in a sustainable manner; (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
<p>6.2.4 The standard requires that the annually allowable use of non-wood forest products shall be included in the management plan where forest management covers commercial use of non-wood forest products at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability.</p>	YES	<p>4.2.2 The General Management Plan shall be a document in itself, subject to periodic review, appropriate to the size and uses of the forest area, or a series of documents including, but not limited to: forest management plans, operational forest management and treatment plans, production control plans (logging and <u>non-wood goods and services</u>), endangered species conservation plans, soil use and conservation plans, forest fire protection plans, prevention plans for illegal activities by third parties, integrated pest monitoring and management plans, forestry plans for the recovery of fire-affected forest areas or climate agents, construction plans and maintenance of infrastructure (including , roads, trails, collection courts, bridges) necessary for the development of the activities of the management unit.</p> <p>4.2.6 Short and long-term planning of the management unit shall be periodically documented, implemented, and updated for: • land use (after characterization of natural, historical - cultural and socio-economic</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>resources), to determine the different areas of management; • the production of a diversity of goods (loggers and non-loggers) and services, in a sustainable manner; (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.2.5 The standard requires that management plans specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>4.2.2 The General Management Plan shall be a document in itself, subject to periodic review, appropriate to the size and uses of the forest area, or a series of documents including, but not limited to: forest management plans, operational forest management and treatment plans, production control plans (logging and <u>non-wood goods</u> and <u>services</u>), endangered species conservation plans, soil use and conservation plans, forest fire protection plans, prevention plans for illegal activities by third parties, integrated pest monitoring and management plans, forestry plans for the recovery of fire-affected forest areas or climate agents, construction plans and maintenance of infrastructure(including , roads, trails, collection courts, bridges) necessary for the development of the activities of the management unit.</p> <p>4.2.4 In management planning, forest resource inventory and mapping shall identify, protect and/or conserve areas of ecological importance containing significant concentrations of: 1. protected ecosystems, priority for their conservation, rare, vulnerable or representative; 2. areas representing natural habitats of endemic, threatened, conservation-specific species, defined in recognized reference lists; 3. threatened or protected genetic resources in situ; and considering large significant areas of landscape on a global, regional, and national scale.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>4.2.9 Management plans shall consider the results of scientific research where relevant.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.2.7 The standard requires that a summary of the management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>4.2.10 The organization shall make public a summary of the management plan appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management and include information on the overall objectives and principles of forest management.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
information on the general objectives and forest management principles.		
6.2.8 The standard requires that the publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.	YES	<p>4.2.11 The public summary of the management plan may exclude commercial and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable law or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive characteristics of natural resources.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3 Compliance requirements		
6.3.1 Legal compliance		
<p>6.3.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation.</p> <p>Note: For a country which has signed a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union and the producing country, the "legislation applicable to forest management" is defined by the VPA agreement.</p>	YES	<p>4.3. Legal Compliance - Legal, institutional, and economic framework for the conservation and sustainable management of forests</p> <p>4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.</p> <p>4.3.2 The organization shall identify and implement in the management unit the applicable legal regulations.</p> <p>4.3.3 The organization shall have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updated legal regulations applicable to the management unit and the activities that are carried out and evidence of compliance with it • legal permits or authorizations corresponding to the execution of those activities that require it,

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies, procedures, instructions, codes of good practice defined internally, in accordance with the current legal framework. <p>4.3.4 The organization shall ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updating and monitoring the applicable legal framework. • inform the staff responsible for the application of the regulations where appropriate. <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.3.1.2 The standard requires that the organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest management, including but not limited to forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.</p>	YES	<p>4.3. Legal Compliance - Legal, institutional, and economic framework for the conservation and sustainable management of forests</p> <p>4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.3.1.3 The standard requires that where no anti-corruption legislation exists, the organisation must take alternative anti-corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption.</p>	YES	<p>NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.</p> <p>Incorporated in Annex A:</p> <p>A. 2.30 Normativa anticorrupción en Uruguay</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>1. https://pmb.parlamento.gub.uy/pmb/opac_css/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=85315</p> <p>2. https://pmb.parlamento.gub.uy/pmb/opac_css/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=79771</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Anti-corruption legislation exists in Uruguay. The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.1.4 The standard requires that measures shall be implemented to address protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	YES	<p>4.2.6 Short and long-term planning of the management unit shall be periodically documented, implemented, and updated for (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevention of unauthorized activities by third parties, including intrusion, permanent or temporary illegal occupation, unregulated recreational use, unauthorized onset of fire and harvesting or collection of unauthorized forest products. <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.2 Legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land		
<p>6.3.2.1 The standard requires that property rights, tree ownership and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for the handling of tenure arrangements can be obtained from the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.</p>	YES	<p>4.3. Legal Compliance - Legal, institutional, and economic framework for the conservation and sustainable management of forests</p> <p>4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: In the context of Uruguay and the application of the standard only in forest plantations the benchmark can be considered as met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>6.3.2.2 The standard requires that forest practices and operations 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>	YES	<p>4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.</p> <p><i>PEFC Uruguay comment: “There are no indigenous peoples in Uruguay, as defined by the ILO. There is no legislation regulating the rights of indigenous peoples regarding forestry activities. In addition, there is no legislation that considers land tenure rights or rights to use forest resources for Indigenous Peoples.</i></p> <p><i>At present, ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries has not been ratified by Uruguay.</i></p> <p><i>ILO Convention 169 states that a people may be considered indigenous if:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>It is descended from those who inhabited the area before its colonization.</i> <i>It has maintained its own social, economic, cultural and political institutions since the time of colonization and the establishment of the new states.</i> <i>In addition, the convention states that self-identification is crucial for indigenous peoples. This criterion has been applied for example in the agreements on land claim between the Canadian government and the Inuit of the Northwest Territories. (http://www.iwgia.org/cultura-e-identidad/identificacion)</i> <p>Ammendment in PEFC Uruguay Document DG 11 (Forest Management Standard – Ammendments – May 2018)</p> <p><i>The situation of original populations in Uruguay is different to those of other countries in Latin America. Uruguay is a country with a population conformed mainly of descendants of European immigrants and in a smaller proportion, descendants of Afro-American and indigenous populations. The current population is the result of a mixture of races.</i></p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p><i>The indigenous population that occupied the territory before and during the colonial period belonged mainly to the macro-etnia charrúa, that included guenoas, bohanes, yaros, guaraníes and the charrúas themselves.</i></p> <p><i>The anthropologist Daniel Vidart (2001) states that: “the nomadic Indian was combated and practically exterminated in South America”. From the point of view of the indigenous communities, and differently than in other countries of Latin America, in Uruguay there are no indigenous communities since mid XIX century” ...</i></p> <p><i>During the first half of the XIX century, the scarce Indians that had survived the arrival of the conqueror and posterior internal wars were eradicated in the massacre at the shores of the Arroyo Salsipuedes in the year 1831, (Vidart 2011). Currently there are no indigenous populations living in any part of the national territory.</i></p> <p><i>The Uruguayan National Government has recognized the indigenous input in the identity of our country. In 2009, Law 18.589 was approved that declares April 11th the day of the Charrúa Nation and the indigenous identity (Annex 3). In article 2, it is requested that the Executive and the National Administration of Education (ANEP) promote the information and sensibilization of citizens on the participation of the indigenous population in the national identity and the historical events related to the Charrúa Nation in Salsipuedes in 1831 (REFERENCES: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. 2014 200 resultados de la política exterior (2010 – 2014), Vidart, Daniel. 2012. Anuario de Antropología Social y Cultural en Uruguay, Vol. 10.)</i></p> <p><i>In consideration to the fact that there are not indigenous communities nor communities with land right conflicts in the country the standard does not address the issue. The standard refers to plantations that have been legally and environmentally authorized on legally owned properties. Social interactions of the forest management system and the local communities (in general) in the vicinity of the plantations are considered in the standard.”</i></p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
6.3.2.3 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.	YES	<p>4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.</p> <p>Incorporated in Annex A:</p> <p>A. 2.31 Derechos Humanos. PACTOS INTERNACIONALES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS Y PROTOCOLO FACULTATIVO</p> <p>1. Ley N° 13.751 de 11/07/1969. http://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes-internacional/13751-1969/1</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.3.3 Fundamental ILO conventions		
<p>6.3.3.1 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.</p> <p>Note: In countries where the fundamental ILO conventions have been ratified, the requirements of 6.3.3.1 apply. In countries where a fundamental convention has not been ratified and its content is not covered by applicable legislation, specific requirements shall be included in the forest management standard.</p>	YES	<p>4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.</p> <p>Annex A – A-2.22– OIT (ILO) conventions</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Annex A, A 2.22 lists the individual national laws implementing the relevant fundamental ILO conventions. The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions		
<p>6.3.4.1 The standard requires that forest operations 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</p>	YES	<p>4.2.6 Short and long-term planning of the management unit shall be periodically documented, implemented, and updated for: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevention of occupational and environmental risks.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.</p>		<p>6.2.6 CRITERION 6: Maintenance and improvement of multiple long-term socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of communities</p> <p>6.2.6.1 Indicator: Conditions social and labor of workers in the management unit</p> <p>6.2.6.1.1 A person responsible for implementing a policy on the health and safety of staff working in the management unit shall be appointed.</p> <p>6.2.6.1.2 Parameters: (...) accident rate at work (number of accidents/total hours worked annually).</p> <p>6.2.6.1.3 Procedures: To be defined by those responsible for the management unit</p> <p>6.2.6.1.4 Documents: General Management Plan. Documentation that guarantees the fulfillment of the objectives. Employment and service contracts with contractors and workers.</p> <p>6.2.6.1.5 Records: You must reflect the parameters. Records of authorizations, registrations and other certificates granted by the competent control bodies. Records of labor inspections.</p> <p>6.2.6.2 Indicator: Nivel of training of the workers of the management unit</p> <p>6.2.6.2.1 Workers performing tasks in the management unit, both unit and of the contracted companies, shall be qualified for the activities they carry out and trained in activities related to their work, safety, and hygiene.</p> <p>6.2.6.2.2 Parameters: • hours of training for workers; • number of workers trained out of the total number of workers; • degree of compliance with the training plan (%); • evaluation of the results of the training provided where appropriate.</p> <p>6.2.6.2.3 Procedures: Mechanisms to identify the need for training according to the activities of the management unit.</p> <p>6.2.6.2.4 Documents: General Management Plan. Contracts with forest service companies.</p> <p>6.2.6.2.5 Registrations: Registration of the training days carried out.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>6.3.4.2 The standard requires that 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. Working hours and leave shall comply with national laws or applicable collective agreements.</p> <p>Note: Guidance for specifying national standards can be obtained from the ILO Code of Good Practice: Safety and Health in Forestry Work.</p>	YES	<p>4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.</p> <p>4.2.6 Short and long-term planning of the management unit shall be periodically documented, implemented, and updated for: (...) prevention of occupational and environmental risks.</p> <p>6.2.6 CRITERION 6: Maintenance and improvement of multiple long-term socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of communities</p> <p>6.2.6.1 Indicator: Conditions social and labor of workers in the management unit</p> <p>6.2.6.1.1 A person responsible for implementing a policy on the health and safety of staff working in the management unit shall be appointed.</p> <p>6.2.6.1.2 Parameters: (...) • verification of compliance with collective agreements and agreements developed in different areas; (...) • accident rate at work (number of accidents/total hours worked annually). (...).</p> <p>6.2.6.1.3 Procedures: To be defined by those responsible for the management unit</p> <p>6.2.6.1.4 Documents: General Management Plan. Documentation that guarantees the fulfillment of the objectives. Employment and service contracts with contractors and workers.</p> <p>6.2.6.1.5 Records: You must reflect the parameters. Records of authorizations, registrations and other certificates granted by the competent control bodies. Records of labor inspections.</p> <p>6.2.6.2 Indicator: Nivel of training of the workers of the management unit</p> <p>6.2.6.2.1 Workers performing tasks in the management unit, both unit and of the contracted companies, shall be qualified for the activities they carry out and trained in activities related to their work, safety, and hygiene.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>6.2.6.2.2 Parameters: • hours of training for workers; • number of workers trained out of the total number of workers; • degree of compliance with the training plan (%); • evaluation of the results of the training provided where appropriate.</p> <p>6.2.6.2.3 Procedures: Mechanisms to identify the need for training according to the activities of the management unit.</p> <p>6.2.6.2.4 Documents: General Management Plan. Contracts with forest service companies.</p> <p>6.2.6.2.5 Registrations: Registration of the training days carried out.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>6.3.4.3 The standard requires that wages of local and migrant forest workers as well as of contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas shall meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards or, where applicable, collective bargaining agreements.</p> <p>Note: Where wages are below the living wage of a country, steps should be taken to attain increased wages towards a living wage level over time in addition to increases for inflation.</p>	YES	<p>4.3.1 Those responsible for the management unit, whether public or private, must enforce the current legal framework applicable to it and the activities carried out therein.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Compliance with the current legal framework concerns not only forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTA 2: For more information on the legal framework on some of the applicable legal requirements see Annex A information.</p> <p>6.2.6 CRITERION 6: Maintenance and improvement of multiple long-term socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of communities</p> <p>6.2.6.1 Indicator: Conditions social and labor of workers in the management unit</p> <p>6.2.6.1.1 A person responsible for implementing a policy on the health and safety of staff working in the management unit shall be appointed.</p> <p>6.2.6.1.2 Parameters: (...) • verification of compliance with collective agreements and agreements developed in different areas. • levels of remuneration in accordance with the provisions of the applicable legislation (...).</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
6.3.4.4 The standard requires that the organisation is committed to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and freedom from workplace harassment. Gender equality shall be promoted.	YES	<p>6.2.6 CRITERION 6: Maintenance and improvement of multiple long-term socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of communities</p> <p>6.2.6.1 Indicator: Conditions social and labor of workers in the management unit</p> <p>6.2.6.1.1 A person responsible for implementing a policy on the health and safety of staff working in the management unit shall be appointed.</p> <p>6.2.6.1.2 Parameters: (...) • verification of compliance with collective agreements and agreements developed in different areas., • commitment to equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and a workplace free of harassment, promoting gender equity where possible.(...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7. Support		
7.1 Resources		
7.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.	YES	<p>5 Support</p> <p>5.1 Resources</p> <p>5.1.1 The organization shall identify and provide the necessary resources for the establishment, implementation, maintenance, and continuous improvement of the sustainable forest management system.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.2 Competence		
7.2.1 The standard requires that forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and kept up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a	YES	<p>5.2 Competence</p> <p>5.2.1 Forest managers, contractors, employees, and owners shall receive sufficient information and be kept up to date through ongoing training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all management planning and practices described.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
precondition for all management planning and practices described in this benchmark.		Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.3 Communication		
7.3.1 The standard requires that effective communication and consultation with local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management shall be provided.	YES	5.3 Communication 5.3.1 Effective communication and consultation shall be established with local communities, and other stakeholders related to sustainable forest management. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.4 Complaints		
7.4.1 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.	YES	5.4 Complaints 5.4.1 Appropriate mechanisms shall be followed to resolve complaints and disputes related to forest management operations, land-use rights and working conditions. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.5 Documented Information		
7.5.1 The standard requires that the organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.	YES	5.5 Documented information 5.5.1 The management system of the organization shall include the documented information required by this specification and that determined by the organization itself as necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system. 5.5.2 Documented information from the forest management unit shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) General Management Plan. b) procedures and other documents necessary to carry out Sustainable Forest Management. c) the required records.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.5.2 The standard requires that the documented information is relevant, and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.	YES	5.5.3 Documented information shall be relevant and up to date as appropriate to the organization's activities Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8. Operation		
8.1 Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle		
8.1.1 The standard requires that management shall aim to maintain or increase forests and their ecosystem services and maintain or enhance the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources. (Appendix 1: The requirements 6.2.2, 8.1.1, 8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.4.1 and 8.6.1 cannot be applied to individual forest stands and shall be considered on a larger scale (bioregional) within the whole forest management unit where the stands of fast growing trees are complemented by buffer zones and set-aside areas dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions. In order to enhance landscape and biodiversity values, and water and soil protection, the size and distribution of the buffer zones and conservation set-aside areas shall be identified at the preparatory stage of the forest plantation establishment, based on	YES	Chapter 6 Sustainable forest management criteria and indicators 6.2.1 CRITERION 1: Maintaining the contribution of forests to the global carbon cycle. 6.2.1.1 Indicator: Carbon uptake. 6.2.1.1.1 Management of the management unit shall aim at maintaining or increasing forests and their ecosystem services and maintaining or improving the economic, ecological, cultural, and social values of forest resources. 6.2.4.3. Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones 6.2.4.3.1. Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation. 6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones. 6.2.4.3.3 Parameters: • Identification of buffer zones between habitats of interest and plantations (ha). • surface of biological corridors (ha). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
social, environmental and ecological assessment, as well as reviewed during the subsequent replanting stages.)		
8.1.2 The standard requires that the quantity and quality of the forest resources and the capacity of the forest to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources.	YES	<p>6.2.1.2 Indicator: State of carbon emissions.</p> <p>6.2.1.2.1 Activities in the management unit shall be regulated with the aim of minimizing carbon emissions.</p> <p>6.2.1.2.2 The quantity and quality of forest resources and the forest's ability to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by balancing harvest and growth rates, using appropriate forestry measures, and preferring techniques that minimize adverse impacts on forest resources.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.1.3 The standard requires that climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions and efficient use of resources shall be encouraged.	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.3 Practices promoting greenhouse gas reduction in management operations and efficient use of resources shall be encouraged.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable 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 affected stakeholders; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.4 Forest conversion shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where the conversion: [is] in accordance with national policy and applicable legislation for land use and forest management (see also Annex A);</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>
b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.4 Forest conversion shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where the conversion: (...) represents a proportion, no more than 5%, of the type of forest managed by an organization;</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Justification: Based on the understanding that in this context “type of forest managed by an organization” (see also 8.1.5d for comparison) refers to the forest management unit level and is therefore synonymous with “forest type within the certified area”, the benchmark can be considered as met.
c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	YES	6.2.1.2.4 Forest conversion shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where the conversion: (...) do[es] not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas or other protected areas; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	YES	6.2.1.2.4 Forest conversion shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where the conversion: (...) do[es] not destroy significantly high carbon sink areas; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	YES	6.2.1.2.4 Forest conversion shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where the conversion: (...) contributes to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
Appendix 1, <i>Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations</i> : 8.1.4 The requirement that “forest conversion shall not occur” means that forest plantations established by a forest conversion after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.	YES	6.2.1.2.4 Forest <u>conversion</u> (forest plantations established by a forest conversion after 31 December 2010, <u>shall</u> not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where the conversion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is in accordance with national policy and applicable legislation for land use and forest management (see also Annex A); • represents a proportion, not more than 5%, of the type of forest managed by an organization; • do not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas or other protected areas; • do not destroy significantly high carbon sink areas; • contributes to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Note: The requirement that “forest conversion shall not occur” means that forest plantations established by a forest conversion after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay comment: “Forest conversion is prohibited in Uruguay by the national legislation: Ley N° 15.939 del 28/12/1987. Ley Forestal. Artículo 36. Prohibiciones en el manejo de bosques y terrenos forestales pertenecientes al Patrimonio Forestal del Estado. https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987. This law is prior to the cut-off date of December 31st, 2010</p> <p>Cut-off date does not reinforce the prohibition. In the same line, adding the cut-off date does not change the finality of the prohibition.</p> <p>Forest conversion is prohibited in Uruguay by National legislation: Ley No 15.939 del 28/12/1987). https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987:</p> <p>“TITLE IV - PROTECTION OF FORESTS CHAPTER I - PROTECTION OF PRIVATE FORESTS</p> <p>Article 22</p> <p>Protection of private forests.</p> <p>- The destruction of protective forests is prohibited.</p> <p>Any operation not in compliance with the plan referred to in Article 49 and intentionally or not in violation of the plan, against the development or permanence of the forest shall be considered as destruction of forests.</p> <p>Its (forests) elimination only may be carried out with prior authorization and with the precautions to be laid down by the Forestry Directorate (Dirección Forestal) in each case.</p> <p>Anyone who has destroyed a forest in violation of the provisions of the subparagraphs, will be obliged to reforestation according to the rules of Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15, and will not enjoy, for that purpose the financing benefits conferred by law.</p> <p>Article 23</p> <p>The Executive Power, after obtaining advice from the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries and the competent departmental governments, delimit the areas in which cutting and destruction shall of the protective forests implanted in the urban properties and suburban be prohibited</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>The Departmental Governments may authorize in a well-founded manner the partial or total cut of the forests referred to, with the precautions they deem relevant to each case and require the reforestation of the property as soon as appropriate.</p> <p>Article 24</p> <p>The cut and any operation that threatens the survival of the indigenous forest is prohibited, with the exception of the following cases:</p> <p>A) When the proceeds of the holding are intended for domestic use and Fences of the rural establishment to which it belongs;</p> <p>B) When there is authorization from the Forestry Directorate based on a technical report detailing both the causes that justify the cut as the exploitation plans to be carried out in each case.””</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity. Justification: The benchmark is met.</p> <p>Comment: PEFC Uruguay is of the view that Uruguayan legislation prohibits any conversion of forests to plantations and that it therefore would not have been necessary to address this PEFC International benchmark requirement on forest conversion in 6.2.1.2.4 of its forest management standard.</p> <p>Having evaluated the translation of the legislation quoted by PEFC Uruguay, the assessor has concluded that the legislation itself cannot with certainty be understood as fully meeting the requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.1.4. Therefore, the assessor considers addressing the PEFC benchmark on forest conversions in 6.2.1.2.4 of PEFC Uruguay’s forest management standard as necessary to meet the PEFC International benchmark with certainty.</p>
8.1.5 The standard requires that afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable 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; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.5 Reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where conversion: [is] in accordance with the national policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management (see also Annex A).</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and	YES	<p>“6.2.1.2.5 Reforestation and afforestation of <u>ecologically important</u> non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where conversion: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; (...) <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) nonforest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.5 Reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where conversion: (...) do[es] not have negative impacts on threatened non-forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare, or endangered ecosystems), culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.5 Reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where conversion: (...) represent[s] a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organization.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.5 Reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where conversion: (...) do[es] not destroy significantly high carbon sink areas.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.5 Reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where conversion: (...) contribute[s] to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
<p>Appendix 1, <i>Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations</i>: 8.1.5 The requirement for the “reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important nonforest ecosystems” means that ecologically important non-forest ecosystems reforested or afforested after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.5 Reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems (after December 31st 2010) shall not occur unless it is in justified circumstances where conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in accordance with the national policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management (see also Annex A). • do not have negative impacts on threatened non-forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare, or endangered ecosystems), culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; • represent a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organization; • do not destroy significantly high carbon sink areas; • contribute to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits. <p>NOTE: “Reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non forest ecosystems” means that ecologically important non-forest ecosystems reforested or afforested after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.</p> <p>PEFC Uruguay comment: “Annex A. A.2 Land tenure and management rights. Legal rights to make the use of the land.</p> <p>Decree No. 1355/016 establishes guidelines for proper environmental management and minimum requirements for environmental monitoring of forest plantations subject to the Protected Areas regime. Law is prior to cut of date of December 31st, 2010.</p> <p>Cut-off date does not reinforce the prohibition. In the same line, adding the cut-off date does not change the finality of the prohibition.</p> <p>Further clarification:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Legislation – Appendix 1 of FMS PEFC Uruguay:2020</p> <p>A.1.3.2 Forest plantations larger than 100 ha</p> <p>For forest plantations of more than 100 ha, a Prior Environmental Authorization (issued by DINAMA) of a mandatory nature by decree 349/005 and registration against DGF regulated by decree 452/988 is mandatory.</p> <p>Decree No. 349/005 establishes that for those plantations of more than 100 hectares, the application for a Prior Environmental Authorization (AAP) is mandatory for all those forestry projects after 2005.</p> <p>This application must be submitted to the National Directorate of the Environment (DINAMA) and it is a requirement to obtain the AAP in order to plant. Obtaining the AAP implies that whoever proposes the project (in this case forestry companies or individuals) declares what the planned planting design will be together with the activities of the project in the different stages of the project (pre and post-planting / harvest / abandonment). Likewise, the receiving environment to be affected (physical, biotic and social environment) must be characterized. From the evaluation that arises from the interaction between the activities of the project with the receiving environment, the possible impacts of the project will be identified, and prevention and mitigation measures must be considered to prevent or mitigate the significant negative impacts if any. Some of these measures can be: maintaining buffer strips to watercourses, to ecosystems of natural interest; leave conservation areas of representative natural ecosystems; implement management measures; perform quality monitoring of the environmental factors of the site affected by the plantation. On the other hand, being part of the compliance with national regulations (Law 18.308), compliance must be given with the provisions of the territorial planning instruments in force and applicable to the place of the planned forestry project.</p> <p>Explanation</p> <p>Any changes made to the management plans submitted must be notified by means of a declaration to DGF, which has the ability to approve it.</p> <p>The Certificate for tax exemption by forested area is issued by the DGF and is presented to the Municipality of the department where it is going to be planted, Social Security Bank (BPS) and General Tax Directorate (DGI) who make the exemption effective.</p> <p>Decree No. 1355/016 establishes guidelines for proper environmental management and minimum requirements for environmental monitoring of forest plantations subject to the AAP regime.”Assessment decision: Conformity.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p> <p>Comment: PEFC Uruguay is of the view that Uruguayan legislation prohibits any reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems and that it therefore would not have been necessary to address this PEFC International benchmark requirement in 6.2.1.2.5 of its forest management standard.</p> <p>Having evaluated the translation of the legislation quoted by PEFC Uruguay, the assessor has concluded that the legislation itself cannot with certainty be understood as fully meeting the requirements of PEFC ST 1003:2018, 8.1.5. Therefore, the assessor considers addressing the PEFC benchmark on reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems in 6.2.1.2.5 of PEFC Uruguay's forest management standard as necessary to meet the PEFC International benchmark with certainty.</p>
8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable 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; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.6 The conversion of severely degraded forests into forest plantations shall be considered, it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. The conversion can be done if:</p> <p>[it is] in accordance with the national policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management (see also Annex A).</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.6 The conversion of severely <u>degraded forests</u> into forest plantations shall be considered, it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. The conversion can be done if: (...) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.6 The conversion of severely degraded forests into forest plantations shall be considered, it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. The conversion can be done if: (...) [it does not] have a positive impact on vegetation's ability to hijack carbon in the long run</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.6 The conversion of severely degraded forests into forest plantations shall be considered, it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. The conversion can be done if: (...)</p> <p>[it] do[es] not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or threatened non-forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare, or endangered ecosystems) other protected areas;</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.6 The conversion of severely degraded forests into forest plantations shall be considered, it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. The conversion can be done if: (...)</p> <p>[it] safeguard[s] the protective functions of the forest for society and other ecosystem services.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
f) safeguards socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.6 The conversion of severely degraded forests into forest plantations shall be considered, it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. The conversion can be done if: (...)</p> <p>[it] safeguard[s] the socio-economic functions of forests, including recreational functions and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
g) has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence	YES	<p>6.2.1.2.6 The conversion of severely degraded forests into forest plantations shall be considered, it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. The conversion can be done if: (...)</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
of deliberate poor forest management practices; and		evidence is provided that degradation is not a deliberate consequence of inadequate management practices. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.	YES	6.2.1.2.6 The conversion of severely degraded forests into forest plantations shall be considered, it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. The conversion can be done if: (...) [it is] demonstrated with evidence that the area is not recovered or in the process of recovery. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.2 Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality		
8.2.1 The standard requires that health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be maintained or enhanced and degraded forest ecosystems shall be rehabilitated wherever and as far as economically feasible, by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures. (Appendix 1: The requirement(...) 8.2.1 (...) cannot be applied to individual forest stands and shall be considered on a larger scale (bioregional) within the whole forest management unit where the stands of fast growing trees are complemented by buffer zones and set-aside areas dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions. In order to enhance landscape and biodiversity values, and water and soil protection, the size and	YES	6.2.2 CRITERION 2: Maintenance and improvement of the health and vitality of forest ecosystems. 6.2.2.2 Indicator: Health of forest ecosystems. 6.2.2.2.1 Real and potential health risks shall be considered in all tasks to be carried out. Documented preventive actions should be carried out in the management unit to reduce the incidence of pests. 6.2.2.2.2 The existing forest pests in the management unit shall be identified and monitored. Strategies should be established to minimize the risks of the introduction of harmful organisms and to prevent the increase in incidence of existing ones. 6.2.2.2.3 Pest control alternatives shall be selected, giving preference to biological, forestry or mechanical control measures over the use of phytosanitary products. Pathogens and harmful agents shall be monitored under the guidelines of an integrated pest management system. The best environmentally and economical pest management and control alternatives should be determined. 6.2.5.2 Indicator: Area of affected soils and level of affectation by erosion and other types of physical degradation. 6.2.5.2.1 The potential risks of soil erosion and degradation should be considered in the planning and execution of all tasks to be carried out.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>distribution of the buffer zones and conservation set-aside areas shall be identified at the preparatory stage of the forest plantation establishment, based on social, environmental and ecological assessment, as well as reviewed during the subsequent replanting stages.)</p>		<p>6.2.5.2.2 It shall identify affected areas of potential risk and take documented preventive and corrective measures to reduce, prevent and even reverse the advance of erosive processes and other types of physical degradation.</p> <p>6.2.5.2.3 Plans and procedures must be formulated, implemented, and periodically reviewed to prevent and minimize areas affected by degradation processes. Plans must include, among others: o procedures to control animal load in areas under grazing and/or under silvopastoral use. o application of techniques and tools according to the floors of the management unit; o procedures to reduce traffic in the direction of the maximum slope during forestry operations; minimize the impact of harvesting, collection and/or loading machinery on the soils of the management unit; respect waiting times in the operation of machinery in terms of the transit conditions of the soils and roads; minimize times and areas of exposure of soil devoid of vegetation cover; o prioritize the direction of tilling perpendicular to the direction of the maximum slope.</p> <p>6.2.4.3. Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones</p> <p>6.2.4.3.1. Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation.</p> <p>6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones.</p> <p>6.2.4.3.3 Parameters: • Identification of buffer zones between habitats of interest and plantations (ha). • surface of biological corridors (ha).</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: In the view of the assessor, the benchmark can be considered as being essentially addressed.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>8.2.2 The standard requires that adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.</p> <p>(Appendix 1: The requirement(...) 8.2.2 (...) cannot be applied to individual forest stands and shall be considered on a larger scale (bioregional) within the whole forest management unit where the stands of fast growing trees are complemented by buffer zones and set-aside areas dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions. In order to enhance landscape and biodiversity values, and water and soil protection, the size and distribution of the buffer zones and conservation set-aside areas shall be identified at the preparatory stage of the forest plantation establishment, based on social, environmental and ecological assessment, as well as reviewed during the subsequent replanting stages.)</p>	YES	<p>PEFC Uruguay comment: "Prior to any plantation a forest project must be filed with the Ministry of Agriculture (Dirección Forestal) and of Environment in order to be approved before the plantation can take place (Ley N° 15.939 del 28/12/1987, https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987. Please see also Document 5. LIST of documents to present for project approval.pdf).</p> <p>The project has to establish the planning of all the aspects of the plantation in management units. Management unit must be conformed of up to 60% of plantation area and the rest (40% at least) of non plantation areas, natural areas, protected areas, corridors, buffer zones, etc. The management units have to be described in the project (Ley N° 15.939 del 28/12/1987, https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987) AND is also a requirement in the planning section of the SFM PEFC Uruguay standard, 4.2 General management plan:</p> <p>"4.2 General Management Plan</p> <p>4.2.1 The forest management unit shall have a <u>General Management Plan</u>. The plan must include management guidelines in the activities of the unit over which the controller has control.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>4.2.4 In management planning, forest resource inventory and mapping shall identify, protect and/or conserve areas of <u>ecological importance</u> containing significant concentrations of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protected ecosystems, priority for their conservation, rare, vulnerable or representative; 2. areas representing natural habitats of endemic, threatened, <u>conservation-specific species</u>, defined in recognized reference lists; 3. threatened or protected genetic resources <i>in situ</i>; <p>and considering large significant areas of landscape on a global, regional, and national scale.</p> <p>4.2.5 The management and mapping of forest resources, appropriate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described, shall be established, and maintained."</p> <p>4.2.6 Short and long-term planning of the management unit shall be periodically documented, implemented, and updated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land use (after characterization of natural, historical - cultural and socio-economic resources), to determine the different areas of management;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the production of a diversity of goods (loggers and non-loggers) and services, in a sustainable manner; • implementation of each of the activities; • conservation of biodiversity at the ecosystem, species, and genetic material level and where appropriate, diversity at the <u>landscape level</u>; • prevention of occupational and environmental risks; • prevention of unauthorized activities by third parties, including intrusion, permanent or temporary illegal occupation, unregulated recreational use, unauthorized onset of fire and harvesting or collection of unauthorized forest products. • achieving sustainable economic performance, in view of new markets and economic activities linked to all relevant goods and services in the management unit. <p>-----</p> <p>Plantations in Uruguay can take place ONLY on soils of forest priority (no other productive use, also established in the law). Soils of forest priority have been mapped in Uruguay (CONEAT 1969, https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-ganaderia-agricultura-pesca/politicas-y-gestion/suelos-prioridad-forestal).</p> <p>Soils of forest priorities are present throughout the territory in patches. So planification must take into consideration legal, productive and conservation criteria in the establishment of the management units ("6 Sustainable forest management criteria and indicators").</p> <p>6.2.4 CRITERION 4: Biodiversity conservation</p> <p>"6.2.4.3. Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones</p> <p>6.2.4.3.1. Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest [identified in 4.2] and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation."</p> <p>"6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones"</p> <p>6.2.3 CRITERION 3: Maintaining and improving the productive capacity of forest ecosystems</p> <p>-----</p> <p>"6.2.3.1.1 Land use shall be planned in the management unit, preceded by a characterization of natural and sociocultural resources to define the different management areas. It shall be determined, for each site,</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>species, origins, or varieties introduced and appropriate genotypes, the impacts on ecosystems and genetic integrity of native species and local origins of which have been assessed.”</p> <p>Management Units, as defined in the forest project for legal approval and General Management Plan are the scope of the certification as defined in the SFM standard:</p> <p>“PEFC URUGUAY STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT</p> <p>1 Scope This standard sets out the specific planning requirements, criteria, and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Uruguay. This standard applies to forest plantations in forest management units, from both public and private organizations covering all their products and services. -----”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark requirement is met.</p>
8.2.3 The standard requires that use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for regeneration, wildfire protection and habitat management or a recognized practice of indigenous peoples. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken.	YES	<p>6.2.2.1.4 The use of fire as a forestry tool in forestry grounds shall be avoided. Controlled burning may be carried out only after a technical evaluation.”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
8.2.4 The standard requires that 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.	YES	<p>6.2.3.1.1 Land use shall be planned in the management unit, preceded by a characterization of natural and sociocultural resources to define the different management areas. It shall be determined, for each site, species, origins, or varieties introduced and appropriate genotypes, the impacts on ecosystems and genetic integrity of native species and local origins of which have been assessed.</p> <p>6.2.5.2.3 Plans and procedures must be formulated, implemented, and periodically reviewed to prevent and minimize areas affected by degradation processes. Plans must include, among others: o procedures to control animal load in areas under grazing and/or under silvopastoral use. o application of techniques and tools according to the floors of the management unit; o procedures to reduce traffic in the direction of the maximum slope during forestry operations; minimize the impact of harvesting, collection and/or loading machinery on the</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>soils of the management unit; respect waiting times in the operation of machinery in terms of the transit conditions of the soils and roads; minimize times and areas of exposure of soil devoid of vegetation cover; o prioritize the direction of tilling perpendicular to the direction of the maximum slope.</p> <p>6.2.2.1.5 Mechanical damage shall be prevented during forest treatment, harvesting or transport activities.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.2.5 The standard requires that the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during forest management operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.5.4 Indicator: Chemicals and waste management</p> <p>6.2.5.4.1 In the use of agrochemicals, fuels, and lubricants, as well as other activities of the management unit, it shall prevent contamination of soil and water resources due to activities of the management unit.</p> <p>6.2.5.4.2 The management plan of the management unit must define how to manage among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • storage, handling and application of agrochemicals and prevention of possible spills that can affect the quality of soil and water resources. • storage, handling of lubricants and fuels and prevention of possible spills that can affect the quality of soil and water resources • disposal of liquid and solid waste. • environmental accident report <p>6.2.5.4.3 In cases where activities in the forest management unit affect the quality of soil and water resources, corrective actions shall be taken.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
<p>8.2.6 The standard requires that integrated pest management, appropriate silviculture alternatives and other biological measures shall be preferred to minimise the use of pesticides.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.2.2 Indicator: Health of forest ecosystems.</p> <p>6.2.2.2.1 Real and potential health risks shall be considered in all tasks to be carried out. Documented preventive actions should be carried out in the management unit to reduce the incidence of pests.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>6.2.2.2.2 The existing forest pests in the management unit shall be identified and monitored. Strategies should be established to minimize the risks of the introduction of harmful organisms and to prevent the increase in incidence of existing ones.</p> <p>6.2.2.2.3 Pest control alternatives shall be selected, giving preference to biological, forestry or mechanical control measures over the use of phytosanitary products. Pathogens and harmful agents shall be monitored under the guidelines of an integrated pest management system. The best environmentally and economical pest management and control alternatives should be determined.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.2.7 The standard requires that any use of pesticides is documented.	YES	<p>6.2.2.2.5 All use of pesticides in the management unit shall be documented</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.2.8 The standard requires that the WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.	YES	<p>6.2.2.2.6 WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides are prohibited, except where no viable alternative is available.</p> <p>6.2.2.2.7 Any exception to the use of WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides shall comply with the WHO Pesticides Exception Justification Procedure (see Annex B of this standard).</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.2.9 The standard requires that 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.</p> <p>Note: "Pesticides banned by international agreements" are defined in the Stockholm</p>	YES	<p>6.2.2.2.8 Pesticides such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the up and down chain beyond their intended use and any pesticides prohibited by international agreement are prohibited.</p> <p>NOTE: "Pesticides prohibited by international agreements" are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001 and its amendments. Rotterdam Convention in Annex III and the pesticides listed in the Montreal Protocol.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.		
8.2.10 The standard requires that the use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment by trained personnel.	YES	<p>6.2.2.2.9 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions of the pesticide manufacturer and be implemented with appropriate equipment by trained personnel.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.2.11 The standard requires that where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment. Fertilizer use shall not be an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.	YES	<p>6.2.2.2.10 Where fertilizers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>
8.3 Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		
8.3.1 The standard requires that the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis shall be maintained.	YES	<p>6.2.3 CRITERION 3: Maintaining and improving the productive capacity of forest ecosystems</p> <p>6.2.3.1 Indicator: Genotypes used in the forested area for obtaining goods, both lumber and non-loggers and services, in relation to the total area in the management unit</p> <p>6.2.3.1.1 Land use shall be planned in the management unit, preceded by a characterization of natural and sociocultural resources to define the different management areas. It shall be determined, for each site, species, origins, or varieties introduced and appropriate genotypes, the impacts on ecosystems and genetic integrity of native species and local origins of which have been assessed.</p> <p>6.2.3.1.2 The relationship between the total area available in the management unit with capacity for forest production, the area forested and that intended for other productions or uses shall be determined.</p> <p>6.2.3.1.3 The use of <u>genetically modified trees</u> is expressly prohibited.</p> <p>6.2.3.1.4 The techniques and equipment to be used in each activity shall be defined, as well as the planning, establishing, and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to carry out sustainable forest management.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>6.2.3.2 Indicator: periodic balance of forest plantations in terms of forested effective area, growing stocks, increase, mortality, and crop yields for the management unit</p> <p>6.2.3.2.1 The conservation of forest plantation productivity in the management unit should be reflected in the relationship between the increase in growing stocks and the volume of harvest, at reference periods of the General Management Plan.</p> <p>6.2.3.2.2 Predictable relationships should be identified between the forested effective area, growing stocks, increased stocks, and harvest yields of forest plantations; assess possible losses from various causes.</p> <p>6.2.3.4 Indicator: Quantity of non-wood products and forest services</p> <p>6.2.3.4.1 Goods and services in forests that enable non-wood products to be obtained, both for the producer and for the community, shall be identified and quantified.</p> <p>6.2.3.4.2 non-wood forest products of the management unit should be identified and quantified and prevent unauthorized use.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.3.2 The standard requires that sound economic performance shall be pursued, taking into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.3.2 Indicator: periodic balance of forest plantations in terms of forested effective area, growing stocks, increase, mortality, and crop yields for the management unit</p> <p>6.2.3.2.1 The conservation of forest plantation productivity in the management unit should be reflected in the relationship between the increase in growing stocks and the volume of harvest, at reference periods of the General Management Plan.</p> <p>6.2.3.2.2 Predictable relationships should be identified between the forested effective area, growing stocks, increased stocks, and harvest yields of forest plantations; assess possible losses from various causes.</p> <p>6.2.3.3 Indicator: Percentage of harvested wood versus wood produced.</p> <p>6.2.3.3.1 Adequate control of production shall be carried out, identifying the volumes produced and the volumes used or marketed, newspapers. It shall try to maximize the percentage of volume used to gain greater use of the resource.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>6.2.3.3.2 In order to obtain maximum commercial use of the forest, tree waste resulting from forest management practices and forest harvesting, should be minimized, mainly from woody products and prevent losses.</p> <p>6.2.3.4 Indicator: Quantity of non-wood products and forest services</p> <p>6.2.3.4.1 Goods and services in forests that enable non-wood products to be obtained, both for the producer and for the community, shall be identified and quantified.</p> <p>6.2.3.4.2 non-wood forest products of the management unit should be identified and quantified and prevent unauthorized use.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>
<p>8.3.3 The standard requires that management, harvesting and regeneration operations shall be carried out at a time, and in a way, that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to soil and retained stands and trees.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.3.1.4 The techniques and equipment to be used in each activity shall be defined, as well as the planning, establishing, and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to carry out sustainable forest management.</p> <p>6.2.5.2.3 Plans and procedures must be formulated, implemented, and periodically reviewed to prevent and minimize areas affected by degradation processes. Plans must include, among others: o procedures to control animal load in areas under grazing and/or under silvopastoral use. o application of techniques and tools according to the floors of the management unit; o procedures to reduce traffic in the direction of the maximum slope during forestry operations; minimize the impact of harvesting, collection and/or loading machinery on the soils of the management unit; respect waiting times in the operation of machinery in terms of the transit conditions of the soils and roads; minimize times and areas of exposure of soil devoid of vegetation cover; o prioritize the direction of tilling perpendicular to the direction of the maximum slope.</p> <p>6.2.2.1.5 Mechanical damage shall be prevented during forest treatment, harvesting or transport activities.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>
<p>8.3.4 The standard requires that 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</p>	YES	<p>6.2.3.2 Indicator: periodic balance of forest plantations in terms of forested effective area, growing stocks, increase, mortality, and crop yields for the management unit</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
use shall be made of the harvested products.		<p>6.2.3.2.1 The conservation of forest plantation productivity in the management unit should be reflected in the relationship between the increase in growing stocks and the volume of harvest, at reference periods of the General Management Plan.</p> <p>6.2.3.2.2 Predictable relationships should be identified between the forested effective area, growing stocks, increased stocks, and harvest yields of forest plantations; assess possible losses from various causes.</p> <p>6.2.3.3 Indicator: Percentage of harvested wood versus wood produced.</p> <p>6.2.3.3.1 Adequate control of production shall be carried out, identifying the volumes produced and the volumes used or marketed, newspapers. It shall try to maximize the percentage of volume used to gain greater use of the resource.</p> <p>6.2.3.3.2 In order to obtain maximum commercial use of the forest, tree waste resulting from forest management practices and forest harvesting, should be minimized, mainly from woody products and prevent losses.</p> <p>6.2.3.4 Indicator: Quantity of non-wood products and forest services</p> <p>6.2.3.4.1 Goods and services in forests that enable non-wood products to be obtained, both for the producer and for the community, shall be identified and quantified.</p> <p>6.2.3.4.2 non-wood forest products of the management unit should be identified and quantified and prevent unauthorized use.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>
8.3.5 The standard requires that 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>6.2.3.1.4 The techniques and equipment to be used in each activity shall be defined, as well as the planning, establishing, and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to carry out sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems		

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>8.4.1 The standard requires that management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve or enhance biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.</p> <p>(Appendix 1: The requirements 6.2.2, 8.1.1, 8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.4.1 and 8.6.1 cannot be applied to individual forest stands and shall be considered on a larger scale (bioregional) within the whole forest management unit where the stands of fast growing trees are complemented by buffer zones and set-aside areas dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions. In order to enhance landscape and biodiversity values, and water and soil protection, the size and distribution of the buffer zones and conservation set-aside areas shall be identified at the preparatory stage of the forest plantation establishment, based on social, environmental and ecological assessment, as well as reviewed during the subsequent replanting stages.)</p>	YES	<p>PEFC Uruguay comment: "Prior to any plantation a forest project must be filed with the Ministry of Agriculture (Dirección Forestal) and of Environment in order to be approved before the plantation can take place (Ley N° 15.939 del 28/12/1987, https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987. Please see also Document 5. LIST of documents to present for project approval.pdf).</p> <p>The project has to establish the planning of all the aspects of the plantation in management units. Management unit must be conformed of up to 60% of plantation area and the rest (40% at least) of non plantation areas, natural areas, protected areas, corridors, buffer zones, etc. The management units have to be described in the project (Ley N° 15.939 del 28/12/1987, https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987) AND is also a requirement in the planning section of the SFM PEFC Uruguay standard, 4.2 General management plan:</p> <p>"4.2 General Management Plan</p> <p>4.2.1 The forest management unit shall have a <u>General Management Plan</u>. The plan must include management guidelines in the activities of the unit over which the controller has control.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>4.2.4 In management planning, forest resource inventory and mapping shall identify, protect and/or conserve areas of <u>ecological importance</u> containing significant concentrations of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protected ecosystems, priority for their conservation, rare, vulnerable or representative; 2. areas representing natural habitats of endemic, threatened, <u>conservation-specific species</u>, defined in recognized reference lists; 3. threatened or protected genetic resources <i>in situ</i>; <p>and considering large significant areas of landscape on a global, regional, and national scale.</p> <p>4.2.5 The management and mapping of forest resources, appropriate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described, shall be established, and maintained."</p> <p>4.2.6 Short and long-term planning of the management unit shall be periodically documented, implemented, and updated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land use (after characterization of natural, historical - cultural and socio-economic resources), to determine the different areas of management;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the production of a diversity of goods (loggers and non-loggers) and services, in a sustainable manner; implementation of each of the activities; conservation of biodiversity at the ecosystem, species, and genetic material level and where appropriate, diversity at the <u>landscape level</u>; prevention of occupational and environmental risks; prevention of unauthorized activities by third parties, including intrusion, permanent or temporary illegal occupation, unregulated recreational use, unauthorized onset of fire and harvesting or collection of unauthorized forest products. achieving sustainable economic performance, in view of new markets and economic activities linked to all relevant goods and services in the management unit. <p>-----</p> <p>Plantations in Uruguay can take place ONLY on soils of forest priority (no other productive use, also established in the law). Soils of forest priority have been mapped in Uruguay (CONEAT 1969, https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-ganaderia-agricultura-pesca/politicas-y-gestion/suelos-prioridad-forestal).</p> <p>Soils of forest priorities are present throughout the territory in patches. So planification must take into consideration legal, productive and conservation criteria in the establishment of the management units ("6 Sustainable forest management criteria and indicators").</p> <p>6.2.4 CRITERION 4: Biodiversity conservation</p> <p>"6.2.4.3. Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones</p> <p>6.2.4.3.1. Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest [identified in 4.2] and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation."</p> <p>"6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones."</p> <p>6.2.3 CRITERION 3: Maintaining and improving the productive capacity of forest ecosystems</p> <p>-----</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“6.2.3.1.1 Land use shall be planned in the management unit, preceded by a characterization of natural and sociocultural resources to define the different management areas. It shall be determined, for each site, species, origins, or varieties introduced and appropriate genotypes, the impacts on ecosystems and genetic integrity of native species and local origins of which have been assessed.”</p> <p>Management Units, as defined in the forest project for legal approval and General Management Plan are the scope of the certification as defined in the SFM standard:</p> <p>“PEFC URUGUAY STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT</p> <p>1 Scope This standard sets out the specific planning requirements, criteria, and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Uruguay. This standard applies to forest plantations in forest management units, from both public and private organizations covering all their products and services. -----”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.4.2 The standard requires that inventory, mapping and planning of forest resources shall identify, protect, conserve or set aside ecologically important forest areas.</p> <p>Note: This does not prohibit forest management activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.</p> <p>(Appendix 1: <i>Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations</i>: The requirement laid out in 8.4.2 shall primarily be addressed at the stage of the establishment of forest plantations and those areas shall form part of the buffer zones and set-aside areas that</p>	YES	<p>4.2.4 In management planning, forest resource inventory and mapping shall identify, protect and/or conserve areas of ecological importance containing significant concentrations of: 1. protected ecosystems, priority for their conservation, rare, vulnerable or representative; 2. areas representing natural habitats of endemic, threatened, conservation-specific species, defined in recognized reference lists; 3. threatened or protected genetic resources in situ; and considering large significant areas of landscape on a global, regional, and national scale.</p> <p>6.2.4.1.1 The presence of natural ecosystems in the management unit should be identified and quantified to conserve biodiversity.</p> <p>6.2.4.2 Indicator: State of ecosystems, species, and their genetic diversity</p> <p>6.2.4.2.1 Natural ecosystems present in the management unit should be described and evaluated to identify sites, species, or communities of importance for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>6.2.4.2.2 The management of identified natural ecosystems and animal and plant species, both native and exotic, shall be described and planned considering, if relevant, the following:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>are dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions.)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring of habitats to be preserved in the management unit, including at least abundance/wealth indices/indicators for threatened species, priority and of singular importance for conservation, as well as exotic species that pose a threat or pest. • adequacy of animal endowment to load capacity in the management unit. <p>formulation and implementation of forestry procedures including biodiversity conservation measures such as the maintenance of dead, fallen or standing trees, such as wildlife habitat, old groves, rare or unique species, <i>etc.</i>) while simultaneously considering the potential effects of these measures on human safety and the protection and stability of surrounding forests and ecosystems.</p> <p>6.2.4.3. Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones</p> <p>6.2.4.3.1. Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation.</p> <p>6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.4.3 The standard requires that protected, threatened 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>Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.4.2 Indicator: State of ecosystems, species, and their genetic diversity</p> <p>6.2. 4.2.1 Natural ecosystems present in the management unit should be described and evaluated to identify sites, species, or communities of importance for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>6.2.4.2.2 The management of identified natural ecosystems and animal and plant species, both native and exotic, shall be described and planned considering, if relevant, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring of habitats to be preserved in the management unit, including at least abundance/wealth indices/indicators for threatened species, priority and of singular importance for conservation, as well as exotic species that pose a threat or pest. • adequacy of animal endowment to load capacity in the management unit.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>formulation and implementation of forestry procedures including biodiversity conservation measures such as the maintenance of dead, fallen or standing trees, such as wildlife habitat, old groves, rare or unique species, <i>etc.</i>) while simultaneously considering the potential effects of these measures on human safety and the protection and stability of surrounding forests and ecosystems.</p> <p>4.2.4 In management planning, forest resource inventory and mapping shall identify, protect and/or conserve areas of ecological importance containing significant concentrations of: 1. protected ecosystems, priority for their conservation, rare, vulnerable or representative; 2. areas representing natural habitats of endemic, threatened, conservation-specific species, defined in recognized reference lists; 3. threatened or protected genetic resources in situ;</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.4.4 The standard requires that successful regeneration shall be ensured through natural regeneration or planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.1.1 Indicator: Carbon uptake. 6.2.1.1.1 Management of the management unit shall aim at maintaining or increasing forests and their ecosystem services and maintaining or improving the economic, ecological, cultural, and social values of forest resources.</p> <p>6.2.1.1.2 Parameters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forested effective area in the management unit (ha); • forested area relative to the forest fitness area (%) and area intended for other productions or uses relative to the total area (%); • average annual increase (m3/ha/year); <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>
<p>8.4.5 The standard requires that for reforestation and afforestation origins of native species that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity</p>	YES	<p>6.2.3 CRITERION 3: Maintaining and improving the productive capacity of forest ecosystems</p> <p>6.2.3.1 Indicator: Genotypes used in the forested area for obtaining goods, both lumber and non-loggers and services, in relation to the total area in the management unit</p> <p>6.2.3.1.1 Land use shall be planned in the management unit, preceded by a characterization of natural and sociocultural resources to define the different management areas. It shall be determined, for each site, species (native or introduced), origins, or varieties introduced and appropriate genotypes, the impacts</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.</p> <p>Note: CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction, and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species are recognised as guidance for avoidance of invasive species.</p> <p>(Appendix 1: <i>Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations</i>: The evaluation of the impact of “introduced species, provenances or varieties” shall be understood as having increased importance for forest plantations and shall be an important part of both the planning and management stages of the production cycle.)</p>		<p>on ecosystems and genetic integrity of native species and local origins of which have been assessed. Only those introduced species, provenances, or varieties whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated shall be used and when negative impacts can be avoided or minimized.</p> <p>NOTE: <i>The ST refers to commercial plantations therefore the analysis of species for reforestation and afforestation of plantations shall follow CRITERION 3 indicators.</i></p> <p><i>For management of natural ecosystems in the management units, CRITERION 4 indicators shall be followed (6.2.4.2.2 The management of identified natural ecosystems and animal and plant species, both native and exotic, shall be described and planned considering, if relevant, the following:----)</i></p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.4.6 The standard requires that afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.4.3 Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones</p> <p>6.2.4.3.1 Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation.</p> <p>6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>8.4.7 The standard requires that genetically-modified trees shall not be used.</p> <p>Note: The restriction on the usage of genetically-modified trees has been adopted by the PEFC General Assembly based on the Precautionary Principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically modified trees indicates that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to, or more positive than, those presented by trees genetically improved by traditional methods, no genetically-modified trees will be used.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.3.1.3 The use of genetically modified trees is expressly prohibited.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.4.8 The standard requires that a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures and the diversity of species such as mixed stands shall be promoted, where appropriate. The practices shall also aim to maintain or restore landscape diversity.</p> <p>(Appendix 1: <i>Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations</i>: The requirements 8.4.8, 8.4.9 and 8.4.13 do not usually apply to forest plantations and shall be understood to be primarily taking place in buffer zones and set-aside areas, which complement forest plantations, and which are dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions.)</p>	YES	<p>PEFC Uruguay comment: “Prior to any plantation a forest project must be filed with the Ministry of Agriculture (Dirección Forestal) and of Environment in order to be approved before the plantation can take place (Ley N° 15.939 del 28/12/1987, https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987. Please see also Document 5. LIST of documents to present for project approval.pdf).</p> <p>The project has to establish the planning of all the aspects of the plantation in management units. Management unit must be conformed of up to 60% of plantation area and the rest (40% at least) of non plantation areas, natural areas, protected areas, corridors, buffer zones, etc. The management units have to be described in the project (Ley N° 15.939 del 28/12/1987, https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/leyes/15939-1987) AND is also a requirement in the planning section of the SFM PEFC Uruguay standard, 4.2 General management plan:</p> <p>“4.2 General Management Plan</p> <p>4.2.1 The forest management unit shall have a <u>General Management Plan</u>. The plan must include management guidelines in the activities of the unit over which the controller has control.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>4.2.4 In management planning, forest resource inventory and mapping shall identify, protect and/or conserve areas of ecological importance containing significant concentrations of:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>4. protected ecosystems, priority for their conservation, rare, vulnerable or representative;</p> <p>5. areas representing natural habitats of endemic, threatened, <u>conservation-specific species</u>, defined in recognized reference lists;</p> <p>6. threatened or protected genetic resources <i>in situ</i>;</p> <p>and considering large significant areas of landscape on a global, regional, and national scale.</p> <p>4.2.5 The management and mapping of forest resources, appropriate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described, shall be established, and maintained.”</p> <p>4.2.6 Short and long-term planning of the management unit shall be periodically documented, implemented, and updated for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land use (after characterization of natural, historical - cultural and socio-economic resources), to determine the different areas of management; • the production of a diversity of goods (loggers and non-loggers) and services, in a sustainable manner; • implementation of each of the activities; • conservation of biodiversity at the ecosystem, species, and genetic material level and where appropriate, diversity at the <u>landscape level</u>; • prevention of occupational and environmental risks; • prevention of unauthorized activities by third parties, including intrusion, permanent or temporary illegal occupation, unregulated recreational use, unauthorized onset of fire and harvesting or collection of unauthorized forest products. • achieving sustainable economic performance, in view of new markets and economic activities linked to all relevant goods and services in the management unit. <p>-----</p> <p>Plantations in Uruguay can take place ONLY on soils of forest priority (no other productive use, also established in the law). Soils of forest priority have been mapped in Uruguay (CONEAT 1969, https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-ganaderia-agricultura-pesca/politicas-y-gestion/suelos-prioridad-forestal).</p> <p>Soils of forest priorities are present throughout the territory in patches. So planification must take into consideration legal, productive and conservation criteria in the establishment of the management units (“6 Sustainable forest management criteria and indicators”).</p> <p>6.2.4 CRITERION 4: Biodiversity conservation</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“6.2.4.3. Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones</p> <p>6.2.4.3.1. Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest [identified in 4.2] and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation.”</p> <p>“6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones.”</p> <p>6.2.3 CRITERION 3: Maintaining and improving the productive capacity of forest ecosystems -----</p> <p>“6.2.3.1.1 Land use shall be planned in the management unit, preceded by a characterization of natural and sociocultural resources to define the different management areas. It shall be determined, for each site, species, origins, or varieties introduced and appropriate genotypes, the impacts on ecosystems and genetic integrity of native species and local origins of which have been assessed.”</p> <p>Management Units, as defined in the forest project for legal approval and General Management Plan are the scope of the certification as defined in the SFM standard:</p> <p>“PEFC URUGUAY STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT</p> <p>1 Scope This standard sets out the specific planning requirements, criteria, and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Uruguay. This standard applies to forest plantations in forest management units, from both public and private organizations covering all their products and services. -----”</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.4.9 The standard requires that traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems on appropriate sites shall be supported, where appropriate.	YES	4.2.8 The socio-cultural context shall be considered in forest management planning, with reference to the traditional forest experience and knowledge of local communities and other stakeholders. Where appropriate, traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems at appropriate management unit sites shall be supported.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
(Appendix 1: <i>Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations</i> : The requirements 8.4.8, 8.4.9 and 8.4.13 do not usually apply to forest plantations and shall be understood to be primarily taking place in buffer zones and set-aside areas, which complement forest plantations, and which are dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions.)		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.4.10 The standard requires that 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 maintain or improve biological diversity.	YES	<p>6.2.3.1.4 The techniques and equipment to be used in each activity shall be defined, as well as the planning, establishing, and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to carry out sustainable forest management.</p> <p>6.2.4.1.1 The presence of natural ecosystems in the management unit should be identified and quantified to conserve biodiversity.</p> <p>6.2.5.2.3 Plans and procedures must be formulated, implemented, and periodically reviewed to prevent and minimize areas affected by degradation processes. Plans must include, among others: o procedures to control animal load in areas under grazing and/or under silvopastoral use. o application of techniques and tools according to the floors of the management unit; o procedures to reduce traffic in the direction of the maximum slope during forestry operations; minimize the impact of harvesting, collection and/or loading machinery on the soils of the management unit; respect waiting times in the operation of machinery in terms of the transit conditions of the soils and roads; minimize times and areas of exposure of soil devoid of vegetation cover; o prioritize the direction of tilling perpendicular to the direction of the maximum slope.</p> <p>6.2.2.1.5 Mechanical damage shall be prevented during forest treatment, harvesting or transport activities.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>
8.4.11 The standard requires that infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimizes damage to ecosystems, especially to rare,	YES	<p>6.2.3.1.4 The techniques and equipment to be used in each activity shall be defined, as well as the planning, establishing, and maintaining the infrastructure necessary to carry out sustainable forest management.</p> <p>6.2.4.3 Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.		<p>6.2.4.3.1 Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation.</p> <p>6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Considering the context of plantation forestry, the benchmark can be considered as sufficiently addressed.</p>
8.4.12 The standard requires that, with due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to control the pressure of animal populations on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.	YES	<p>6.2.4.2 Indicator: State of ecosystems, species, and their genetic diversity</p> <p>6.2.4.2.1 Natural ecosystems present in the management unit should be described and evaluated to identify sites, species, or communities of importance for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>6.2.4.2.2 The management of identified natural ecosystems and animal and plant species, both native and exotic, shall be described and planned considering, if relevant, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring of habitats to be preserved in the management unit, including at least abundance/wealth indices/indicators for threatened species, priority and of singular importance for conservation, as well as exotic species that pose a threat or pest. • adequacy of animal endowment to load capacity in the management unit. • formulation and implementation of forestry procedures including biodiversity conservation measures such as the maintenance of dead, fallen or standing trees, such as wildlife habitat, old groves, rare or unique species, <i>etc.</i>) while simultaneously considering the potential effects of these measures on human safety and the protection and stability of surrounding forests and ecosystems. <p>6.2.5.2.3 Plans and procedures must be formulated, implemented, and periodically reviewed to prevent and minimize areas affected by degradation processes. Plans must include, among others: o procedures to control animal load in areas under grazing and/or under silvopastoral use. (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>8.4.13 The standard requires that standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and 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> <p>(Appendix 1: <i>Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations</i>: The requirements 8.4.8, 8.4.9 and 8.4.13 do not usually apply to forest plantations and shall be understood to be primarily taking place in buffer zones and set-aside areas, which complement forest plantations, and which are dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions.)</p>	YES	<p>6.2.4.2 Indicator: State of ecosystems, species, and their genetic diversity</p> <p>6.2.4.2.1 Natural ecosystems present in the management unit should be described and evaluated to identify sites, species, or communities of importance for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>6.2.4.2.2 The management of identified natural ecosystems and animal and plant species, both native and exotic, shall be described and planned considering, if relevant, the following: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formulation and implementation of forestry procedures including biodiversity conservation measures such as the maintenance of dead, fallen or standing trees, such as wildlife habitat, old groves, rare or unique species, <i>etc.</i>) while simultaneously considering the potential effects of these measures on human safety and the protection and stability of surrounding forests and ecosystems. <p>6.2.4.3 Indicator: Surface of biological corridors and buffer zones</p> <p>6.2.4.3.1 Buffer zones shall be established between habitats and/or ecosystems of interest and forest plantations, so as not to compromise their conservation.</p> <p>6.2.4.3.2 Contributions to the conservation of the natural ecosystems and species of interest present in the management unit shall be contributed through territorial planning of the management unit, including biological corridors and buffer zones.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as essentially addressed.</p>
8.5 Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
<p>8.5.1 The standard requires that protective functions of forests for society, such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.1.1.1 Management of the management unit shall aim at maintaining or increasing forests and their ecosystem services and maintaining or improving the economic, ecological, cultural, and social values of forest resources.</p> <p>6.2.5.1.1 The management unit must have information to design practices that allow the use of the land resource according to its suitability and ensure its proper conservation and recovery.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>6.2.5.1.2 A diagnosis of the situation of the soil resource with respect to the previous and current use must be carried out, which allows the preparation and periodic review of the soil management plan of the management unit. Minimize the proportion of areas whose use/management is not consistent with their fitness for use.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.1 In the management of natural resources the forest management unit shall consider the water resource, to minimize potential adverse effects on its quality. It shall identify and delimit the basins associated with forest management.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.2 The current state of the resource must be known and monitored over time according to the scale of the management unit. Where implemented, water monitoring points shall be established, and water quality monitoring plans defined.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.3 In cases where activities in the forest management unit affect the quality of surface water in the defined basins, corrective action shall be established.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.5.2 The standard requires that areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be mapped, and forest management plans and operations shall ensure the maintenance or enhancement of these functions.</p>	YES	<p>4.2.4 In management planning, forest resource inventory and mapping shall identify, protect and/or conserve areas of ecological importance containing significant concentrations of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protected ecosystems, priority for their conservation, rare, vulnerable or representative. 2. areas representing natural habitats of endemic, threatened, conservation-specific species, defined in recognized reference lists. 3. threatened or protected genetic resources <i>in situ</i>. <p>and considering large significant areas of landscape on a global, regional, and national scale.</p> <p>4.2.5 The management and mapping of forest resources, appropriate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described, shall be established, and maintained.</p> <p>6.2.4.1.1 The presence of natural ecosystems in the management unit should be identified and quantified to conserve biodiversity. (...) 6.2.4.1.5 Records: must provide evidence of the parameters. Mapping.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>6.2.5.1.2 A diagnosis of the situation of the soil resource with respect to the previous and current use must be carried out, which allows the preparation and periodic review of the soil management plan of the management unit. Minimize the proportion of areas whose use/management is not consistent with their fitness for use. (...)</p> <p>6.2.5.1.6 Records: they must provide evidence of the parameters. Soil mapping of the management unit. Soil analysis of the management unit.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.1 In the management of natural resources the forest management unit shall consider the water resource, to minimize potential adverse effects on its quality. It shall identify and delimit the basins associated with forest management.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.2 The current state of the resource must be known and monitored over time according to the scale of the management unit. Where implemented, water monitoring points shall be established, and water quality monitoring plans defined.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.3 In cases where activities in the forest management unit affect the quality of surface water in the defined basins, corrective action shall be established.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
<p>8.5.3 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Techniques applied and the machinery used shall be suitable for such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations on these areas.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.5.2 Indicator: Area of affected soils and level of affectation by erosion and other types of physical degradation.</p> <p>6.2.5.2.1 The potential risks of soil erosion and degradation should be considered in the planning and execution of all tasks to be carried out.</p> <p>6.2.5.2.2 It shall identify affected areas of potential risk and take documented preventive and corrective measures to reduce, prevent and even reverse the advance of erosive processes and other types of physical degradation.</p> <p>6.2.5.2.3 Plans and procedures must be formulated, implemented, and periodically reviewed to prevent and minimize areas affected by degradation processes. Plans must include, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ procedures to control animal load in areas under grazing and/or under silvopastoral use. ○ application of techniques and tools according to the floors of the management unit.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ procedures to reduce traffic in the direction of the maximum slope during forestry operations; minimize the impact of harvesting, collection and/or loading machinery on the soils of the management unit; respect waiting times in the operation of machinery in terms of the transit conditions of the soils and roads; minimize times and areas of exposure of soil devoid of vegetation cover. ○ prioritize the direction of tilling perpendicular to the direction of the maximum slope <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.5.4 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations 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. Downstream water balance and water quality shall not be significantly affected by the operations.</p>	YES	<p>6.2.5.3 Indicator: State of quality of the water resource.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.1 In the management of natural resources the forest management unit shall consider the water resource, to minimize potential adverse effects on its quality. It shall identify and delimit the basins associated with forest management.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.2 The current state of the resource must be known and monitored over time according to the scale of the management unit. Where implemented, water monitoring points shall be established, and water quality monitoring plans defined.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.3 In cases where activities in the forest management unit affect the quality of surface water in the defined basins, corrective action shall be established.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>8.5.5 The standard requires that 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</p>	YES	<p>6.2.5.2 Indicator: Area of affected soils and level of affectation by erosion and other types of physical degradation.</p> <p>6.2.5.2.1 The potential risks of soil erosion and degradation should be considered in the planning and execution of all tasks to be carried out.</p> <p>6.2.5.2.2 It shall identify affected areas of potential risk and take documented preventive and corrective measures to reduce, prevent and even reverse the advance of erosive processes and other types of physical degradation.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.</p>		<p>6.2.5.2.3 Plans and procedures must be formulated, implemented, and periodically reviewed to prevent and minimize areas affected by degradation processes. Plans must include, among others: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • application of techniques and tools according to the floors of the management unit. • procedures to reduce traffic in the direction of the maximum slope during forestry operations; minimize the impact of harvesting, collection and/or loading machinery on the soils of the management unit; respect waiting times in the operation of machinery in terms of the transit conditions of the soils and roads; minimize times and areas of exposure of soil devoid of vegetation cover. • prioritize the direction of tilling perpendicular to the direction of the maximum slope <p>6.2.5.2.4 Parameters: Identification and periodic quantification of the affected areas due to degradation processes, among others of: (...) erosion associated with infrastructure works.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.1 In the management of natural resources the forest management unit shall consider the water resource, to minimize potential adverse effects on its quality. It shall identify and delimit the basins associated with forest management.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.2 The current state of the resource must be known and monitored over time according to the scale of the management unit. Where implemented, water monitoring points shall be established, and water quality monitoring plans defined.</p> <p>6.2.5.3.3 In cases where activities in the forest management unit affect the quality of surface water in the defined basins, corrective action shall be established.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions		
<p>8.6.1 The standard requires that forest management planning shall aim to respect all socio-economic functions of forests.</p> <p>(Appendix 1: The requirements 6.2.2, 8.1.1, 8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.4.1 and 8.6.1 cannot be</p>	YES	<p>6.2.6 CRITERION 6: Maintenance and improvement of multiple long-term socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of communities</p> <p>6.2.6.1 Indicator: Conditions social and labor of workers in the management unit</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>applied to individual forest stands and shall be considered on a larger scale (bioregional) within the whole forest management unit where the stands of fast growing trees are complemented by buffer zones and set-aside areas dedicated to environmental, ecological, cultural and social functions. In order to enhance landscape and biodiversity values, and water and soil protection, the size and distribution of the buffer zones and conservation set-aside areas shall be identified at the preparatory stage of the forest plantation establishment, based on social, environmental and ecological assessment, as well as reviewed during the subsequent replanting stages.)</p>		<p>6.2.6.1.1 A person responsible for implementing a policy on the health and safety of staff working in the management unit shall be appointed.</p> <p>6.2.6.1.2 Parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of jobs generated, directly and indirectly, by the forest management unit; • verification of compliance with collective agreements and agreements developed in different areas; • levels of remuneration in accordance with the provisions of the applicable legislation • accident rate at work (number of accidents/total hours worked annually). • commitment to equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and a workplace free of harassment, promoting gender equity where possible. <p>6.2.6.3 Indicator: Relationship with local communities</p> <p>6.2.6.3.1 The social and cultural aspects of the community shall be incorporated into the sustainable forest management, to generate benefits for both the management unit and its employees and communities and to promote a good understanding of them.</p> <p>6.2.6.3.2 The heads of the forest management unit shall identify a person in charge of the relationship with the local community with the aim of promoting communication and good understanding with the communities involved in the productive process of the forest management unit and consider in the planning of forest management the opportunities for employment and promotion of activities in areas of influence, as a contribution to rural development.</p> <p>6.2.6.4 Indicator: Conservation of landscape, historical, cultural, and recreational values</p> <p>6.2.6.4.1 In the planning of forest management, the landscape and recreational values shall be considered as pre-existing resources, while preserving historical, cultural, and spiritual values.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>6.2.6.4.2 Sustainable forest management should be considered as contributing to the research and data collection necessary for sustainable forest management or supporting relevant research activities carried out by other organisations where appropriate</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: In the view of the assessor the benchmark can be considered as met, even in the context of forest plantations.</p>
8.6.2 The standard requires that adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided, taking into account respect for ownership rights, safety and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest	YES	<p><i>PEFC Uruguay statement: The standard refers to plantations all privately owned. Despite this fact the consideration of the historic, cultural, and recreational values of the areas are considered in the standard:</i></p> <p>6.2.6.4 Indicator: Conservation of landscape, historical, cultural, and recreational values</p> <p>6.2.6.4.1 In the planning of forest management, the landscape and recreational values shall be considered as pre-existing resources, while preserving historical, cultural, and spiritual values.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Considering the context of commercial plantation forestry under private ownership, the benchmark may be considered adequately addressed by the standard. (Comment on PEFC Uruguay statement: Private ownership does not exonerate from benchmark requirements.)</p>
8.6.3 The standard requires that sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the needs of indigenous peoples and 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	<p>6.2.6.4 Indicator: Conservation of landscape, historical, cultural, and recreational values</p> <p>6.2.6.4.1 In the planning of forest management, the landscape and recreational values shall be considered as pre-existing resources, while preserving historical, cultural, and spiritual values.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: Considering the context of commercial plantation forestry under private ownership, the benchmark may be considered adequately addressed by the standard.</p>
8.6.4 The standard requires that management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area, where appropriate supported by	YES	<p>6.2.6.3 Indicator: Relationship with local communities</p> <p>6.2.6.3.1 The social and cultural aspects of the community shall be incorporated into the sustainable forest management, to generate benefits for both the management unit and its employees and communities and to promote a good understanding of them.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples.		<p>6.2.6.3.2 The heads of the forest management unit shall identify a person in charge of the relationship with the local community with the aim of promoting communication and good understanding with the communities involved in the productive process of the forest management unit and consider in the planning of forest management the opportunities for employment and promotion of activities in areas of influence, as a contribution to rural development.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6.5 The standard requires that the best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples. Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be encouraged.	YES	<p>4.2.8 The socio-cultural context shall be considered in forest management planning, with reference to the traditional forest experience and knowledge of local communities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>6.2.6.3.2 The heads of the forest management unit shall identify a person in charge of the relationship with the local community with the aim of promoting communication and good understanding with the communities involved in the productive process of the forest management unit and consider in the planning of forest management the opportunities for employment and promotion of activities in areas of influence, as a contribution to rural development.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6.6 The standard requires that management shall give due regard to the role of forestry in local economies. Special consideration shall be given to new opportunities for training and employment of local people, including indigenous peoples.	YES	<p>6.2.6.3.2 The heads of the forest management unit shall identify a person in charge of the relationship with the local community with the aim of promoting communication and good understanding with the communities involved in the productive process of the forest management unit and consider in the planning of forest management the opportunities for employment and promotion of activities in areas of influence, as a contribution to rural development.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
8.6.7 The standard requires that forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support	YES	<p>6.2.6.4.2 Sustainable forest management should be considered as contributing to the research and data collection necessary for sustainable forest management or supporting relevant research activities carried out by other organisations where appropriate.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.		
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
9.1.1 The standard requires that monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.	YES	7 Performance evaluation 7.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis, and evaluation 7.1.1 Forest resources shall be monitored regularly, and their management evaluated, including ecological, social, and economic impacts, and the results must be fed back into the planning process Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.1.2 The standard requires that 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	7.1.2 The health and vitality of forests, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that may affect the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, should be monitored periodically. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.1.3 The standard requires that where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.	YES	7.1.3 The forest owner/manager shall regulate, monitor, and control the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
9.1.4 The standard requires that working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.	YES	7.1.4 Working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2 Internal audit		
9.2.1 Objectives		
The standard requires that an internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system		
a) conforms to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the organisation's requirements for its management system; • the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard 	YES	7.2 Internal audit 7.2.1 At planned intervals, an internal audit program should be established to provide information on whether the management system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) conforms to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the organization's requirements for its management system. • the requirements of the national specification for sustainable forest management Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) is effectively implemented and maintained.	YES	7.2.1 At planned intervals, an internal audit program should be established to provide information on whether the management system (...) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) it is effectively implemented and maintained. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2.2 Organisation		
The standard requires that the organisation shall:		

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;	YES	<p>7.2.2 The organization shall:</p> <p>a) plan, establish, implement, and maintain an audit program including frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall consider the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	YES	<p>7.2.2 The organization shall: (...)</p> <p>b) define the audit criteria and the scope of each audit;</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	YES	<p>7.2.2 The organization shall: (...)</p> <p>c) selecting auditors and conducting audits to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the audit process;</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;	YES	<p>7.2.2 The organization shall: (...)</p> <p>d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to the relevant management;</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	YES	7.2.2 The organization shall: (...) e) retain the information documented as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and its findings. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3 Management review		
9.3.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include		
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	YES	7.3 Management review 7.3.1 A review of shall be conducted at least annually: a) the status of the actions of the reviews of previous reviews. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system;	YES	7.3.2 A review of shall be conducted at least annually: (...) b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nonconformities and corrective actions; • monitoring and measurement results; • audit results; 	YES	7.3.3 A review of shall be conducted at least annually: (...) c) information on the performance of the organization, including trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nonconformities and corrective actions. • monitoring and measurement results. • audit results. Assessment decision: Conformity

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) opportunities for continuous improvement	YES	7.3.4 A review of shall be conducted at least annually: (...) d) opportunities for continuous improvement. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.	YES	7.3.2 The results of the management review shall include decisions relating to opportunities for continuous improvement and any need for changes in the management system. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.	YES	7.3.3. The documented information resulting from the review shall be retained as evidence of the review. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires that when a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:		
a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;	YES	8 Improvement 8.1 No conformities and corrective actions 8.1.1 In the event of no-conformity, the organization shall: a) assess no-conformity and, where appropriate: i. take steps to monitor and correct; ii. deal with the consequences.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;	YES	8.1.1 In the event of no-conformity, the organization shall: (...) b) assess the need to act to eliminate the causes of non-conformity, so that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. assess non-conformity; ii. determine the causes of non-conformity; iii. determine whether similar nonconformities exist, or could occur; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) implement any action needed;	YES	8.1.1 In the event of no-conformity, the organization shall: (...) c) implement any necessary actions; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	YES	8.1.1 In the event of no-conformity, the organization shall: (...) d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken; Assessment decision: Conformity

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.	YES	8.1.1 In the event of no-conformity, the organization shall: (...) e) make changes to the management system, if necessary. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.	YES	8.1.2 Corrective actions shall be appropriate for the purposes of the nonconformities found. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
10.1.3 The standard requires that the organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	YES	8.1.3 The organization shall retain documented information as evidence of: (a) the nature of the non-conformities and the subsequent measures taken. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) the results of any corrective action.	YES	8.1.3 The organization shall retain documented information as evidence of: (...) (b) the results of any corrective action. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
10.2 Continual improvement The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.	YES	8.2 Continuous improvement 8.2.1 The suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system and sustainable forest management should be continuously improved. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

PEFC Checklist - Group Forest Management Certification (PEFC ST 1002:2018)

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
4. Context of the group organisation		
4.1 Understanding the group organisation and its context		
The standard shall define how relevant external and internal issues of the group organisation shall be determined. A general framework for the group organisation shall be determined:		
a) regional groups: group of forest owners/managers defined by regional borders and	N/A	Assessment decision: N/A Justification: Groups are not defined by regional (subnational) borders.
b) other groups and/or	YES	DG 07. Group Certification - Requirements 5.Context of the Group Organization The Group Certification requires the grouping of the interested parties, who will be administered by a legally constituted entity (company, association, or person), or by means of a written agreement, in which it will be determined who will act as Administrator of the Group. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) whether there are any other specific circumstances which influence the implementation of the group management system.	N/A	Assessment decision: N/A Justification: No specific circumstances which influence the implementation of the group management system mentioned.
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders		
4.2.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall identify:		
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant for the group management system and	YES	5.1 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders 5.1.1 The group organization shall identify:

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant for the group management system and</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.	YES	<p>b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
4.3 Determining the scope of the group management system		
4.3.1 The standard shall provide definitions relating to the following terms, which are in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3:		
a) the group organisation and the elements of the group organisation (group entity and participant),	YES	<p>4.12 Group organization</p> <p>A group of participants represented by the group entity for the purposes of implementation of the sustainable forest management standard and its certification. A binding written agreement shall be established between a participant and the group entity.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the certified area,	YES	<p>4.3 Certified area</p> <p>The forest area covered by a sustainable forest management system according to the PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standard (PEFC ST 1003).</p> <p>In the group certification context, the certified area is the sum of forest areas of the participants and covered by a group forest certificate.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) the group certificate and	YES	<p>4.8 Group forest certificate</p> <p>A document confirming that the group organization complies with the requirements of a sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) the document confirming participation in group certification.	YES	4.5 Document confirming participation in group forest certification A document issued to a participant that refers to the group forest certificate and that confirms the participant as being covered by the scope of the group forest certification. Note: This document may be for instance a sub-certificate or a confirmation of participation. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
4.3.2 The standard requires that for the establishment of the scope for the group management system the boundaries and applicability of the group management system shall be determined.	YES	5.2 Determining the scope of the group management system 5.2.2 For the establishment of the scope for the group management system the boundaries and applicability of the group management system shall be determined. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
4.3.3 The standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable forest management standard may be fulfilled on group level.	YES	PEFC Uruguay comment: "All requirements are to be met on FM management unit level." 5.2.1 Group forest certification must follow the PEFC Uruguay certification scheme. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: all requirements of the sustainable forest management standard are to be met on group participant level. The benchmark is met.
4.3.4 The standard requires that the scope shall be made available as documented information.	YES	5.2.3 The scope shall be made available as documented information. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
4.4 Group management system		

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
4.4.1 The standard requires that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit programme.	YES	6. Group management system 6.1 All participants in the group shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit program established by the group. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
4.4.2 The standard requires that a certified PEFC chain of custody system shall be in place if a group entity acts as a trader of forest based material not covered by group certificate.	YES	6.2 A certified PEFC chain of custody system shall be in place if a group entity acts as a trader of forest-based material not covered by group certificate. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5. Leadership		
5.1 Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities		
5.1.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity		
The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the group entity shall be specified:		
a) to implement and maintain an effective management system covering all participants of the group;	YES	7.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity The Administrator of the Group, duly qualified in the Certification System of Sustainable Forest Management or Chain of Custody, will be responsible for the application before the certifying body and the custody of the Group Certificate, being its functions: 1. Ensure that all certification-related activities are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Sustainable Forest Management Certification System or Chain of Custody. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) to represent the group organisation in the certification process, including in communications and relationships with the	YES	2. Represent the group organization 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.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body;		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) to establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;	YES	<p>4. Develop and implement a written procedure for the annual monitoring of the members of the Group in relation to the fulfillment of their obligations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) internal monitoring shall be carried out annually. b) each group participant will be monitored each year. c) the Group Administrator will conduct a review of the compliance of the monitoring with the Forest Management or Chain of Custody system. This review will include reviewing the results of the annual monitoring program, corrective and preventive measures if required; and to assess the effectiveness of the corrective measures implemented. d) the Group Administrator shall keep a written record of all instances of annual monitoring (monitoring report, nonconformities, corrective actions). <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
d) to establish written procedures for the acceptance of new participants of the group organisation. These acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant's information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its/their size(s)	YES	<p>7.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity</p> <p>The Administrator of the Group, duly qualified in the Certification System of Sustainable Forest Management or Chain of Custody, will be responsible for the application before the certifying body and the custody of the Group Certificate, being its functions: (...)</p> <p>13. Develop written procedures for the entry, suspension, and expulsion of members of the Group and implement them in accordance with the guidelines established in DG 07:</p> <p>Item 5. Members of the Group Certification</p> <p>Item 6. Rights of group certification members</p> <p>Item 7. Duties of the members to the Group Certification.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Item 8. Loss of the status of member to the Group Certification.</p> <p>Acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant's information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its/their size(s).</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark requirement is met.</p>
<p>e) to establish written procedures for the suspension and exclusion of participants who do not correct/close nonconformities. Group participants excluded from any certification group based on nonconformities cannot be accepted within 12 months after exclusion</p>	YES	<p>10. Develop written procedures for the entry, suspension, and expulsion of members of the Group and implement them in accordance with the guidelines established in DG 07:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Item 5. Members of the Group Certification</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Item 6. Rights of group certification members</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Item 7. Duties of the members to the Group Certification.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Item 8. Loss of the status of member to the Group Certification.</p> <p>9.2 Duties of the Group Certification participants The members of the group must:</p> <p>1. Provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system; group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion.</p> <p>2. Provide the group entity with information about previous group participation</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.</p>
<p>f) to keep documented information of:</p> <p>i. the group entity and participants' conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system,</p>	YES	<p>7. Keep a record of all forest areas, of the members of the group, included in the group certificate, identifying owner, manager, and surface, as well as maintain written records of the agreements of conformity of the members with the requirements of the group certification scheme and of the realization and evolution of the internal monitoring of each of the members.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s),</p> <p>iii. the certified area,</p> <p>iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken;</p>		<p>8. In the case of the Chain of Custody, keep the records established in the certification system of all the members of the group.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>g) to establish connections with all participants based on a binding 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 nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard;</p> <p>Note: The requirements for "participant' commitment" and "written contract or other written agreement with all participants" may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to</p>	YES	<p>15. Provide group members with a written document confirming their participation in the forest certification group.</p> <p>16. Provide a written commitment, by the entire group, to comply with the Sustainable Forest Management or Chain of Custody standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme.</p> <p>17. Provide a written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and apply corrective or preventive measures and to initiate the exclusion of participants from the scope of certification in cases of non-compliance with the Sustainable Forest Management standard or the Chain of Custody standard.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.		
h) to provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;	YES	15. Provide group members with a written document confirming their participation in the forest certification group. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
i) to provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system;	YES	5. Inform members and stakeholders about group certification, their rights and obligations and provide the information and assistance necessary for the effective implementation of Sustainable Forest Management or the Chain of Custody. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
j) to address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification and to ensure implementation with all group members;	YES	10. Address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification and to ensure implementation with all group members. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
k) to operate an internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants' conformity with the certification requirements;	YES	4. Develop and implement a written procedure for the annual monitoring of the members of the Group in relation to the fulfillment of their obligations: a) internal monitoring shall be carried out annually. b) each group participant will be monitored each year. c) the Group Administrator will conduct a review of the compliance of the monitoring with the Forest Management or Chain of Custody system. This review will include reviewing the results of the annual monitoring program, corrective and preventive measures if required; and to assess the effectiveness of the corrective measures implemented.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>d) the Group Administrator shall keep a written record of all instances of annual monitoring (monitoring report, nonconformities, corrective actions).</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
l) to operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity;	YES	<p>7. Organizational roles, responsibilities, and authorities 7.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity (...) 5. To operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity;</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
m) to operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review;	YES	<p>7. Organizational roles, responsibilities, and authorities 7.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity (...) 6. To operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review;</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
n) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International or the National Governing Body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organisation and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.	YES	<p>9. Provide technical assistance and full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International or the National Governing Body for relevant data, documentation, or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organization and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.1.2 Function and responsibilities of participants		

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the participants shall be specified:		
<p>a) To provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system; group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion.</p> <p>Note: The requirement for “written agreement” and participants’ “commitment” is also satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners’/managers’ association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.</p>	YES	<p>9.2 Duties of the Group Certification participants</p> <p>The members of the group must:</p> <p>1. Provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system; group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>b) To provide the group entity with information about previous group participation.</p>	YES	<p>2 Provide the group entity with information about previous group participation.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
<p>c) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system;</p>	YES	<p>4. Expressly commit to comply with the obligations imposed by this Sustainable Forest Management Certification System or Chain of Custody.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
d) 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 access to the forest and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system;	YES	<p>9. 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 access to the forest and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
e) to inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.	YES	<p>10. Inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
f) to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	YES	<p>5. Commit to the closure of nonconformities identified during monitoring and take preventive and/or corrective measures.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
5.2 Commitment and policy		
5.2.1 The standard requires that the group entity shall provide a commitment:		
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	YES	<p>11. Commitment and policy</p> <p>11.1 The group entity shall provide a commitment:</p> <p>a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
b) to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system;	YES	b) to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) to continuously improve the group management system;	YES	c) to continuously improve the group management system; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants.	YES	d) to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.2.2 The commitment of the group entity may be part of a group management policy and shall be publicly available as documented information upon request.	YES	11.2 The commitment of the group entity may be part of a group management policy and shall be publicly available as documented information upon request. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
5.2.3 The standard requires that the participants shall provide a commitment		
a) to follow the rules of the management system;	YES	9.2 Duties of the Group Certification participants The members of the group must: 1. Provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system; group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
b) to implement the requirements of the sustainability standard in their operations in their area.	YES	<p>5.Expressly commit to comply with the obligations imposed by this Sustainable Forest Management Certification System or Chain of Custody.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark can be considered as met.</p>
6. Planning		
6.1 The standard requires that if a group organisation plans any changes in the group management system, these changes shall be included in a group management plan.	YES	<p>12. Planning</p> <p>12.1 If a group organization plans any changes in the group management system, these changes shall be included in a group management plan. 12.2 If a group organization decides to fulfil requirements of the sustainable forest management standard on the group level, these requirements shall be considered in a group management plan.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
6.2 The standard requires that if a group organisation decides to fulfil requirements of the sustainable forest management standard on the group level, these requirements shall be considered in a group management plan.	YES	<p>12.2 If a group organization decides to fulfil requirements of the sustainable forest management standard on the group level, these requirements shall be considered in a group management plan.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7. Support		
7.1 The standard requires that resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system shall be determined and provided.	YES	<p>13. Support</p> <p>13.1 Resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance, and continual improvement of the group management system shall be determined and provided.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
7.2 The standard shall define the necessary competence of persons doing work in the group management system.	YES	<p>13.2 The Administrator of the Group (person or entity), must be duly qualified in the Certification System of Sustainable Forest Management and/or Chain of Custody, and will be responsible for the application before the certifying body and the custody of the Group Certificate.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.3 The standard requires that communication processes shall be in place to raise the awareness of participants concerning: a) the group management policy;	YES	<p>13.3 A communication processes shall be in place to raise the awareness of participants concerning: a) the group management policy.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
b) the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard;	YES	<p>b) the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainableforest management, including the benefits of improved group performance;	YES	<p>c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved group performance.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.	YES	<p>d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
7.4 The standard requires that the internal and external communications relevant to the group management system shall be determined. This includes:		
a) on what to communicate;	YES	<p>13.4</p> <p>Internal and external communications relevant to the group management system shall be determined in the group management plan. This includes:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		a) on what to communicate; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) when to communicate;	YES	b) when to communicate; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) with whom to communicate;	YES	c) with whom to communicate; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) how to communicate.	YES	d) how to communicate. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.5 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms shall be in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations.	YES	13.5 The group must have in place procedures for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.6 The standard requires that the documented information relevant to the group management system and the conformance with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard is:		
a) up to date;	YES	13.6 Documented information relevant to the group management system and the conformance with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard must be: a) up to date; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;	YES	b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.	YES	c) adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8. Operation		
8.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall plan, implement and control processes needed:		
a) to meet the requirements of the group certification standard and the sustainable forest management standard and	YES	14. Operation 14.1 The group organization shall plan, implement, and control processes needed: a) to meet the requirements of the group certification standard and the sustainable forest management standard and Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) to implement the actions determined in 6.	YES	b) to implement the actions determined in 12. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
8.2 The standard requires that this planning, implementing and controlling shall be done by:		
a) defining the necessary processes and establishing criteria for those;	YES	14.2 Planning, implementing, and controlling shall be done by: a) defining the necessary processes and establishing criteria for those; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria;	YES	b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) keeping documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned.	YES	c) keeping documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9. Performance evaluation		
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation		
9.1.1 The standard requires that an ongoing internal monitoring programme provides confidence in the conformity of the group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard. In particular, it shall be determined:		
a) what shall be monitored and measured;	YES	15. Performance evaluation 15.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis, and evaluation 15.1.1 An ongoing internal monitoring program must be established to provide confidence in the conformity of the group organization with the sustainable forest management standard. It shall be determined: a) what shall be monitored and measured; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results;	YES	b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed;	YES	c) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed; Assessment decision: Conformity

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated;	YES	d) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analyzed and evaluated; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.	YES	e) what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.1.2 The standard requires that the group entity shall evaluate the group management performance and the effectiveness of the group management system concerning the implementation of the sustainable forest management requirements.	YES	15.1.2 The group entity shall evaluate the group management performance and the effectiveness of the group management system concerning the implementation of the sustainable forest management requirements. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2 Internal audit		
9.2.1 Objectives		
9.2.1.1 The standard requires that an annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system:		
a) conforms to i. the group organisation's own requirements for its group management system; ii. the requirements of the national group certification standard;	YES	15.2 Internal audit 15.2.1 Objectives 15.2.1.1 An annual internal audit program shall provide information on whether the group management system: a) conforms to i. the group organization's own requirements for its group management system; ii. the requirements of the national group certification standard;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met. Comment: It might be clearer to refer to “this standard”, i.e. DG 07, instead of “the national group certification standard”
b) ensures the implementation of the sustainable forest management standard on the participant level;	YES	b) ensures the implementation of the sustainable forest management standard on the participant level; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) is effectively implemented and maintained.	YES	c) is effectively implemented and maintained. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2.1.2 The standard requires that the internal audit programme shall cover the group entity and all group participants. The group entity shall be audited annually. The participants may be selected on a sample basis.	YES	15.2.1.2 The internal audit program shall cover the group entity and all group participants. The group entity shall be audited annually. The participants may be selected on a sample basis. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.2.2 Organisation		
The standard requires an internal audit programme which shall cover at least:		
a) planning, establishing, implementing and maintaining an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;	YES	15.2.2 Organization An internal audit program shall cover at least: a) planning, establishing, implementing and maintaining an audit program(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	YES	b) definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit; Assessment decision: Conformity

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) competence of internal auditor (forest knowledge, standard knowledge);	YES	c) competence of internal auditor (forest knowledge, standard knowledge); Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	YES	d) selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) ensuring that the results of the audits are reported to relevant group management;	YES	e) ensuring that the results of the audits are reported to relevant group management; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
f) retaining of the documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	YES	f) retaining of the documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and the audit results. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3 Selection of participants in the internal audit programme		
9.3.1 General		
9.3.1.1 The standard requires the establishment of requirements for the selection of participants in the internal audit programme. These requirements shall include the following procedures for: a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2);	YES	15.3 Selection of participants in the internal audit program 15.3.1 General 15.3.1.1 The audit plan must establish the requirements for the selection of participants in the internal audit program. These requirements shall include the following procedures for: a) determination of the sample size (15.3.2); Assessment decision: Conformity

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) determination of sample categories(9.3.3);	YES	b) determination of sample categories(15.3.3); Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4);	YES	c) distribution of the sample to the categories (15.3.4); Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) selection of the participants (9.3.5).	YES	d) selection of the participants (15.3.5). Assessment decision: onformity Justification: The benchmark is
9.3.1.2 The standard may define additional requirements on the regional, national or sub-national level.	N/A	No additional requirement established Assessment decision: N/A Justification: No additional requirements established
9.3.1.3 The standard shall define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming which have their own members.	YES	15.3.5 Selection of the participants 15.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random. 15.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified. 15.3.5.3 In case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, the group entity shall establish additional sampling procedures. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is essentially addressed.
9.3.2 Determination of the sample size		

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
9.3.2.1 The sample size shall be calculated for the participants of the group organisation.	YES	15.3.2 Determination of the sample size 15.3.2.1 The sample size shall be calculated for the participants of the group organization. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.2.2 The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants: ($y=\sqrt{x}$), rounded to the upper whole number.	YES	15.3.2.2 The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants: ($y=\sqrt{x}$), rounded to the upper whole number. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.2.3 The size of the sample may be adapted by a standard taking into account one or more of the following indicators:		
a) results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;	YES	15.3.2.3 The size of the sample may be adapted considering one or more of the following indicators: a) results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits;	YES	b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme;	YES	c) quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring program; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements; Note: Such technologies may be e.g. the use of satellite data or drones and allow	YES	d) use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements; Note: Such technologies may be e.g. the use of satellite data or drones and allow compliance statements for specific requirements of a sustainability standard or support the risk based sampling.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
compliance statements for specific requirements of a sustainability standard or support the risk based sampling.		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground. Note: One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground.	YES	e) based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground. Note: One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.3 Determination of sample categories		
9.3.3.1 The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard. The following non exhaustive list of indicators may be used for the risk assessment:		
a) ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);	YES	15.3.3 Determination of sample categories 15.3.3.1 The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard. The following non exhaustive list of indicators may be used for the risk assessment: a) ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest); Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) size of management units (different size classes);	YES	b) size of management units (different size classes); Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) biogeographic region (e.g. lowlands, low mountain range, high mountain range);	YES	c) biogeographic region (e.g. lowlands, low mountain range, high mountain range); Assessment decision: Conformity

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) operations, processes and products of potential group participants;	YES	d) operations, processes and products of potential group participants; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) deforestation and forest conversion;	YES	e) deforestation and forest conversion; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
f) rotation period(s);	YES	f) rotation period(s); Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
g) richness of biological diversity;	YES	g) richness of biological diversity; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;	YES	h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
i) dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people;	YES	i) dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
j) available resources for administration, operations, training and research;	YES	j) available resources for administration, operations, training and research; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
k) governance and law enforcement.	YES	k) governance and law enforcement.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.3.2 Conditions which constitute risk for each indicator on low, medium and high level and the respective consequences for the sampling shall be defined.	YES	15.3.3.2 Conditions which constitute risk for each indicator on low, medium, and high level and the respective consequences for the sampling shall be defined. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.4 Distribution of the sample The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the result of the risk assessment.	YES	15.3.4 Distribution of the sample The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the result of the risk assessment. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.5 Selection of the participants		
9.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.	YES	15.3.5 Selection of the participants 15.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified.	YES	15.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4 Management review		
9.4.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include:		
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	YES	15.4 Management review

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		15.4.1 An annual management review shall at least include: a) the status of actions from previous management reviews; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system;	YES	b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) the status of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance;	YES	c) the status of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring program, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) information on the group performance, including trends in: i. nonconformities and corrective actions; ii. monitoring and measurement results; iii. audit results;	YES	d) information on the group performance, including trends in: i. nonconformities and corrective actions; ii. monitoring and measurement results; iii. audit results; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) opportunities for continual improvement.	YES	e) opportunities for continual improvement. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities	YES	15.4.2 The outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the group management system.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
and any need for changes to the group management system.		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
9.4.3 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews.	YES	15.4.3 The group organization shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
10. Improvement		
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action		
10.1.1 The standard requires when a nonconformity occurs, the group organisation shall:		
a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;	YES	16. Improvement 16.1 Nonconformity and corrective action 16.1.1 [W]hen a nonconformity occurs, the group organization shall: a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity;	YES	b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;		Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
c) implement any action needed;	YES	c) implement any action needed; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	YES	d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
e) make changes to the group management system, if necessary.	YES	e) make changes to the group management system, if necessary. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
10.1.2 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:		
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	YES	16.1.2 The group organization shall retain documented information as evidence of: a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken; Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
b) the results of any corrective action.	YES	b) the results of any corrective action. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
10.1.3 The standard requires that a participant who was excluded from a group certification shall be internally audited by the group entity before it is allowed to re-enter the group	YES	16.1.3 A participant who was excluded from a group certification shall be internally audited by the group entity before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion. Assessment decision: Conformity

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.		Justification: The benchmark is met.
<p>10.2 Continual improvement</p> <p>The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.</p>	YES	<p>16.2 Continual improvement</p> <p>The suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

PEFC Checklist - Certification and Accreditation Procedures (Annex 6, PEFC TD)

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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	DG 03. Forest Certification Bodies 1. Objective Establish the parameters for the accreditation and notification of certification bodies. 2. Scope All certification bodies that certify by the PEFC Uruguay scheme. 6.Organization of certification bodies The structure of the Sustainable Forest Management or Chain of Custody certification body should provide confidence in its certifications. This certification body must: (...) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. not being involved in the standardization process, nor being part of PEFC Uruguay, so it does not participate in decision-making bodies of standardization. d. be impartial and independent, and have a structure that safeguards these principles, in reference to Forest Management and the Chain of Custody. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
2.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	6.Organization of certification bodies The structure of the Sustainable Forest Management or Chain of Custody certification body should provide confidence in its certifications.

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021?			<p>This certification body must: (...)</p> <p>o. have established and documented internal procedures in accordance with the requirements defined in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 for management systems or in ISO/IEC 17065:2012, for chain of custody that will be made available to those who request it, to: (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>6. Organization of certification bodies (...)</p> <p>This certification body must: (...)</p> <p>I. have sufficient staff, with the training, experience, training and competencies in forest management, social and environmental economic impacts and forest certification criteria; in accordance with the applicable technical standards of Forest Management and Chain of Custody systems, to carry out certification activities according to the type, rank and volume of work, under the responsibility of an executive director or certification manager</p> <p>(see also DG 04 – Auditor Qualification Criteria);</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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>6. Organization of certification bodies (...)</p> <p>This certification body must: (...)</p> <p>b. know the PEFC Uruguay System against those who will perform the certification of Forest Management and Chain of Custody.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
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	6. Organization of certification bodies (...) This certification body must: (...) <p>I. have sufficient staff, with the training, experience, training and competencies in forest management, social and environmental economic impacts and forest certification criteria; in accordance with the applicable technical standards of Forest Management and Chain of Custody systems, to carry out certification activities according to the type, rank and volume of work, under the responsibility of an executive director or certification manager</p> (see also DG 04 – Auditor Qualification Criteria); Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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	6. Organization of certification bodies (...) This certification body must: (...) <p>p. have audit procedures that comply with the requirements of ISO 19011.</p> Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
7.	Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management audits? [*1]	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	Additional criteria are defined in DG 04. Auditor Qualification Criteria Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
Certification procedures				
8.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management certification?	Annex 6, 4	YES	6. Organization of certification bodies (...) This certification body must: (...) <p>n. have documented and implemented a certification regulation, which includes:</p> 1. procedures for the assessment and certification of Forest Management Systems.

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
			<p>2. procedures for issuing, monitoring, renewing, and withdrawing certificates.</p> <p>3. the control of the use and application of the documentation used in the certification of Sustainable Forest Management or Chain of Custody.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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?	Annex 6, 4	<p>YES</p> <p>6. Organization of certification bodies (...)</p> <p>This certification body must: (...)</p> <p>o. have established and documented internal procedures in accordance with the requirements defined in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 for management systems or in ISO/IEC 17065:2012, for chain of custody that will be made available to those who request it, to: (...)</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
10.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?	Annex 6, 4	<p>YES</p> <p>6. Organization of certification bodies (...)</p> <p>This certification body must: (...)</p> <p>o. have established and documented internal procedures in accordance with the requirements defined in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 for management systems or in ISO/IEC 17065:2012, for chain of custody that will be made available to those who request it, to:</p> <p>1. carry out the <u>initial audit</u> of the Forest Management or Chain of Custody system of the organization that requested it, in accordance with the provisions of ISO 19011 standards and other applicable documents.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
11.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued	Annex 6, 4	<p>YES</p> <p>6. Organization of certification bodies (...)</p> <p>This certification body must: (...)</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	forest management certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?			<p>o. 5. communicate to PEFC Uruguay, in writing,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the results of the initial audit processes of the companies to be certified - certificate issues - annual information on certified companies (certification area, total area, contact information, validity of the certificate) - results of follow-up audits, nonconformities, and corrective actions, - regular updates of the information provided <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
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	<p>6. Organization of certification bodies (...)</p> <p>This certification body must: (...)</p> <p>w. control the proper use of the PEFC logo of the certified companies that use it.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
13.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p>6. Organization of certification bodies (...)</p> <p>This certification body must: (...)</p> <p>o. have established and documented internal procedures in accordance with the requirements defined in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 for management systems or in ISO/IEC 17065:2012, for chain of custody that will be made available to those who request it, to: (...)</p> <p>2. carry out the follow-up audits (not exceeding one year) and renewal of forest management systems every 3 years as required by ISO/IEC 17021-1 and every 5 years for chain of custody. its procedures, to correct all nonconformities.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				Justification: The benchmark is met.
14.	Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for forest management certifications?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p>6. Organization of certification bodies (...)</p> <p>This certification body must: (...)</p> <p>o. have established and documented internal procedures in accordance with the requirements defined in ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 for management systems or in ISO/IEC 17065:2012, for chain of custody that will be made available to those who request it, to: (...)</p> <p>2. carry out the follow-up audits (not exceeding one year) and renewal of forest management systems every 3 years as required by ISO/IEC 17021-1 and every 5 years for chain of custody. its procedures, to correct all nonconformities.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met. (Comment: The latest 17021 should allow also five years now.)</p>
15.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p>11. Documentation (...)</p> <p>The certification body must provide on request, by means of publications, electronic means or other: (...)</p> <p>g. public availability of certification report summaries.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
16.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p>6. Organization of certification bodies (...)</p> <p>This certification body must: (...)</p> <p>o. (...)</p> <p>4. Auditor's evidence to determine compliance with the forest management standard should include relevant information from external sources (e.g., government agencies, communities, conservation organizations, etc.) to the extent deemed appropriate.</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
17.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures? [*1]	Annex 6, 4	YES	DG 03 and DG 04 cover all requirements for certification bodies Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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	3.Accreditation of certification bodies Certification organisms must: a. be accredited by the Uruguayan Accreditation Organism (OAU) or other accrediting bodies recognized by the IAF (International Accreditation Forum). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
19.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES	7. Information specified in PEFC certificates At a minimum, PEFC certificates must include: (...) <h4>h.</h4> include the OAU accreditation symbol or corresponding accreditation body. Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.
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	Annex 6, 5	YES	3.Accreditation of certification bodies Certification organisms must: a. be accredited by the Uruguayan Accreditation Organism (OAU) or other accrediting bodies recognized by the IAF (International Accreditation Forum). Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
	described in ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?			
21.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management certification as “accredited certification” based on ISO 17021 and the relevant forest management standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p>3. Accreditation of certification bodies</p> <p>Certification organisms must:</p> <p>a. be accredited by the Uruguayan Accreditation Organism (OAU) or other accrediting bodies recognized by the IAF (International Accreditation Forum).</p> <p>b. include in their scope the Sustainable Forest Management System (PEFC Uruguay Sustainable Forest Management Standard (2020) and PEFC Uruguay Documentation System) and Chain of Custody (ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements) and PEFC ST 2003:2020 (Requirements for Certification Bodies Conducting PEFC Chain of Custody Certification).</p> <p>c. in the case of certification bodies for Sustainable Forest Management or Chain of Custody systems; have implemented a quality system, which complies with the applicable requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, appropriate to the type, range and volume of work performed.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
22.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6	YES	<p>1. PEFC Uruguay notification for certifying bodies</p> <p>a. Notification procedure</p> <p>a1. The certification body submits a request for notification to PEFC Uruguay including the relevant information</p> <p>a2. PEFC Uruguay evaluates the application and documentation and decides</p> <p>a3. PEFC Uruguay and the certification body sign the notification contract for the certification of forest management and/or chain of custody.</p>

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation (including quotation of relevant text)
				<p>The contract must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - administrative conditions (e.g., transfers of information and communication between PEFC Uruguay and the certification body) - compliance with the requirements for certifying bodies with a valid accreditation in accordance with the requirements of Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Documentation on Certification and Accreditation Procedures. - financial conditions. <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>
23.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6	YES	<p>No discriminating requirements preventing qualified certification bodies from carrying out certification against the PEFC Uruguay system were identified in the assessment.</p> <p>Assessment decision: Conformity Justification: The benchmark is met.</p>

Annex B: Results of stakeholder involvement survey

On 13th December 2021 CK Services sent an email to 32 stakeholders from the stakeholder list provided by PEFC Uruguay as part of the submitted documentation as well as to Friends of the Earth Uruguay, inviting them to participate in a stakeholder survey consisting out of eight questions regarding stakeholders' involvement in the standard setting process.

The 32 stakeholders that had been identified by PEFC Uruguay during a stakeholder mapping exercise carried out at the beginning of the revision process and were from all stakeholder categories for which seats were available on the revision working group.

The stakeholders were invited to respond to the survey via "SurveyMonkey.com", an online survey tool, by 19th December 2021. It was offered that additional time to respond to the survey was available on request.

Two survey responses were received by the date of the draft report (27th December 2021). The responses received confirm the information provided by PEFC Uruguay on the revision process.

For survey questions and responses see the table below.

Question 1: Before you answer the survey, please provide your name and email address in the field below, so that you can be contacted in case of questions. Your name and contact details will not be made publicly available, used for any other purpose or forwarded to third parties.	
Q2: Are you aware of a public announcement by PEFC Uruguay at the start of the revision of the PEFC Uruguay Certification System, inviting stakeholders to participate in the revision process? If your answer is "yes", how/where was the announcement made?	
Possible answers: 1. Yes, on the website of PEFC Uruguay or another website 2. Yes, by press release 3. Yes, in a public magazine or through other media 4. Yes, by direct mailing 5. No Comments:...	Answered: 1. 1x 2. 0x 3. 0x 4. 1x 5. 0x
Q3: Did you have access to the standard setting procedures/ rules for the development of PEFC Uruguay's forest management standard?	

Possible answers: 1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't know Comments:...	Answered: 1. 2x 2. 0x 3. 0x
Q4: Have you been invited to nominate a representative to PEFC Uruguay's working group for the revision of the PEFC Uruguay Certification System? If your answer is "yes", how/where was the invitation made?	
Possible answers: 1. Yes, by general invitation on PEFC Uruguay 's website or in other media 2. Yes, directly by mailing or other communication 3. No Comments:...	Answered: 1. 0x 2. 2x 3. 0x
Q5: Did you submit a nomination to PEFC Uruguay, and if you did, has it been accepted or rejected?	
Possible answers: 1. No, we/I did not submit a nomination 2. Yes, we/I submitted a nomination, and it was accepted 3. Yes, we/I submitted a nomination, and it was not accepted Comments:...	Answered: 1. 0x 2. 2x 3. 0x
Q6: Did you notice the public consultation on a draft revised forest management standard of the PEFC Uruguay Certification System? If yes, where/how?	
Possible answers: 1. Yes, on PEFC Uruguay 's or other website 2. Yes, through a press release 3. Yes, in a public magazine or other media 4. Yes, directly by mailing or other communication 5. No Comments:...	Answered: 1. 0x 2. 0x 3. 0x 4. 2x 5. 0x
Q7: Have you made comments during the public consultation and if you did, have they been considered?	
Possible answers:	Answered:

1. No, we/I did not submit comments 2. Yes, we/I submitted comments and they were considered 3. Yes, we/I submitted comments and they were not considered 4. Yes, we/I submitted comments and we/I do not know if they were considered or not Comments:...	1. 1x 2. 1x 3. 0x 4. 0x
Q8: Have you submitted any complaint relating to the standard setting/revision process? If you did submit a complaint, please provide more information in the comment field.	
Possible answers: 1. No 2. Yes Comments:...	Answered: 1. 0x 2. 0x

Annex C: Results of international consultation

No comments were submitted in the international public consultation on the revised PEFC Uruguay Certification System.

Annex D: Internal review comments

PEFC International Internal Review comments and responses by the assessor:

Report chapter / Page	Assessor's report statement	Internal Review comment	Assessor's response
3.1 Overall (...)	Four major and 27 minor nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report could all be resolved by PEFC Uruguay through the amendment of technical documentation and the provision of additional information and evidence during the commenting period of the assessment.	I would suggest to remove this paragraph, since the current documentation doesn't carry these non-conformities and there will be no access to these details in the future, when the report is published.	Done
3.3 Standard Setting Procedures	Six minor nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report could be resolved by PEFC Uruguay through an amendment of DG 13 during the commenting period of the assessment.	I would suggest to remove this paragraph, since the current documentation doesn't carry these non-conformities and there will be no access to these details in the future, when the report is published.	Done
3.4 Standard Setting Process	Five further minor nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report could be resolved by PEFC Uruguay through the provision of additional information and evidence during the commenting period of the assessment.	I would suggest to remove this paragraph, since the current documentation doesn't carry these non-conformities and there will be no access to these details in the future, when the report is published.	Done
3.5 Forest Management Standard	Ten minor and four major nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report could be resolved by PEFC	I would suggest to remove this paragraph, since the current documentation doesn't carry these non-conformities and there will be	Done

	Uruguay through an amendment of the standard during the commenting period of the assessment.	no access to these details in the future, when the report is published.	
3.6 Group Certification Model	Six minor nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report could be resolved by PEFC Uruguay through an amendment of DG 07 during the commenting period of the assessment.	I would suggest to remove this paragraph, since the current documentation doesn't carry these non-conformities and there will be no access to these details in the future, when the report is published.	Done
5 Standard setting procedures 5.1 Analysis and conclusion	The scope of DG 13 includes all “standards” of PEFC Uruguay, of which there is understood to currently exist only one, namely the system’s forest management standard.	How about the group certification?	DG 07, Group Certification - Requirements is defined as a “General System Document” of PEFC Uruguay.
5 Standard setting procedures 5.1 Analysis and conclusion	Six minor non-conformities which had been identified in the draft assessment report could be resolved by PEFC Uruguay through an amendment of its standard development and revision procedures during the commenting period of this assessment.	I would suggest to remove this paragraph, since the current documentation doesn't carry these non-conformities and there will be no access to these details in the future, when the report is published.	Done
6 Standard setting process	The standard revision process of the PEFC Uruguay Certification System took place in the period <u>July to October 2020</u> (...)	Isn't this July 2020 to October 2021?	Corrected to “July 2019 to October 2020”. The revision was announced in July 2019 and the revised standard published in October 2020 according to PEFC Uruguay’s development report.
6 Standard setting process	Only the revision process for the system’s forest management standard is covered by this assessment in detail.	How about the group certification?	The scope of PEFC ST 1001:2017, Standard Setting – Requirements is limited to the development and revision of standards for forest management and chain of custody.
7 Forest Management Standard	Entire paragraph	Since there were some modifications in response to the findings of the draft report, please include in the text that the	Wording amended to: Nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report were resolved by PEFC

		<p>modifications were already approved.</p> <p>Same applies for the group certification standard.</p>	Uruguay through an amendment of its forest management standard during the commenting period of this assessment. The amended standard was formally approved by PEFC Uruguay in January 2022.
7 Forest Management Standard	Despite the standard having been evaluated as mostly meeting PEFC ST 1003 requirements, 10 Ten minor and 4 four major nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report were resolved by PEFC Uruguay through amending its forest management standard during the commenting period of this assessment.	I would suggest to remove this paragraph, since the current documentation doesn't carry these non-conformities and there will be no access to these details in the future, when the report is published.	Wording amended to: Nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report were resolved by PEFC Uruguay through an amendment of its forest management standard during the commenting period of this assessment. The amended standard was formally approved by PEFC Uruguay in January 2022.
8 Group Certification Model	Six minor nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report have all been resolved by PEFC Uruguay during the commenting period of the assessment through an amendment of DG 07.	I would suggest to remove this paragraph, since the current documentation doesn't carry these non-conformities and there will be no access to these details in the future, when the report is published.	Wording amended to: Nonconformities that had been identified in the draft assessment report were resolved by PEFC Uruguay through an amendment of DG 07 during the commenting period of this assessment. The amended document was formally approved by PEFC Uruguay in January 2022.