

PEFC-Norway



Oslo, 19.08.2022

Standard revision development report 2022

Appendix 2 to The Application for re-endorsement of the PEFC Norway certification scheme August 2022

Content

1.	Start of the revision	3
2.	Time-table for the revision process	4
3.	Establishing working committee	5
4.	Working committee – revision process	9
5.	Public consultation.....	10
6.	Working committee – consensus on final draft	11
7.	National forest management standard	11
8.	National approval of revised certification system	11
	Attachments.....	11

1. Start of the revision

Given that there is new PEFC benchmark standards since the last national revision, the board of PEFC Norway decided to start full revision within the deadline for the periodic review (February 14th 2020).

PEFC Norway started the revision process in January 2020 doing a stakeholder mapping to identify all relevant sectors and relevant stakeholders in these sectors, who could have an interest in sustainable forestry and forest certification. There were not identified any especially disadvantaged stakeholders, but in order to see that all identified stakeholders received the information about the revision, all stakeholders were directly contacted with a letter inviting them to participate. In total 132 organisations were identified as stakeholders. Stakeholder mapping, see attachment 1.

The start of the revision was publicly announced on PEFC Norway's website the February 14th 2020. All the stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping received an e-mail with invitation to participate in the revision process. The same invitation were published on PEFC Norway's website (<https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022>). The start of the revision was also announced on the website of several of the member organisations of PEFC Norway. PEFC Norway hosted a national webinar April 23rd 2020. The webinar had focus on the upcoming revision and relevant core themes like sustainable forestry and climate, biodiversity and outdoor recreation. The seminar was an informal start of the revision process. 120 participants took part in the webinar.

The applicable standard setting procedures (PEFC N 06) for the revision were revised in 2020, and fulfils the requirements in PEFC ST 1001:2017 – Standard setting – requirements. The standard setting procedures is available on PEFC Norway's website (<https://pefc.no/vare-standarder/det-norske-pefc-systemet>).

PEFC Norway has followed up all organizations and especially those we have defined as core stakeholders, both by e-mail and through telephone calls. By the deadline of 6 May, 19 representatives have been nominated for the working committee and 6 as observers.

In addition to the nominations, there have been 13 written submissions with input on the revision/standards to be revised. 7 of these are from organizations that have also nominated representatives, 5 are from public bodies and 1 is from a private person. The feedback given was on the content in the sustainable forest management standard. There was no feedback on the invitation which indicated that procedures for the revision had to be changed, and the Board of PEFC Norway concluded to continue the revision based on the applicable procedures. The feedback received was presented for the working committee on their first meeting.

The records related to the revision is kept by the secretariat of PEFC Norway for minimum five years, and the secretariat will make them available to interested parties upon request.

In order to lay the foundation of the revision process and clarify how the conditions in the Norwegian forests have developed compared with the standard, criteria and indicators in the

PEFC Norway forest management standard, a scientific report from the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute were prepared. The report is about the condition and development in Norwegian forest 2002-2017 for some selected environmental characteristics.

(https://nibio.brage.unit.no/nibio-xmlui/bitstream/handle/11250/2721804/NIBIO_RAPPORT_2020_6_133.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y).

2. Time-table for the revision process

Milestones	Dates and information
Start of process	Stakeholder mapping (January 2020) PEFC Norway Board, February 10 th 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approval of PEFC N 06 standard (Standard setting process)- Approval to start the revision process Public invitation and call for participation, Feb. 20 th 2020
Working Committee	PEFC Norway Board, May 20 th 2020: Establishing working committee
Working Committee – working period	June 2020 – June 2022
Public Consultation	April 11 th 2022 – June 10 th 2022
Consensus in the working committee on final draft	June 30 th 2022
Approval by the Board of PEFC Norway of revised standards	August 18 th 2022
Submission of a nationally approved certification system	August 20 th 2022

3. Establishing working committee

Based on the nominations done by the invited stakeholders the Board of PEFC Norway established a working committee with representatives of the following organisations on May 6th 2020:

- The United Federation of Trade Unions
- National Association of Outdoor Recreation Councils
- Women in forestry
- Norwegian Association of Heavy Equipment Contractors
- Nature and Youth – Young Friends of the Earth Norway
- Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation
- NORSKOG
- The Norwegian Association for Outdoor Organisations
- Statskog SF
- Sabima - umbrella organization for the biological associations in Norway
- Skognæringa Kyst
- Norwegian Pulp and Paper Association
- Norwegian Wood Industry Federation
- WWF – World Wildlife Fund Norway
- ZERO - Zero Emission Resource Organisation

In addition, the following have been represented by observers in the working committee:

- Norwegian Environment Agency
- Norwegian Agriculture Agency
- NIBIO - Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research
- NINA - Norwegian Institute for Nature Research
- Forestry Extension Institute
- Statsbygg - Norwegian government's building commissioner

The working committee has been established to seek a balanced representation from the different relevant stakeholders groups. The participants represents the interests of forest owners, forest industries, workers and trade unions, women, contractors, outdoor recreation organisations, eNGOs and climate organisations. Relevant national authorities were represented in the working committee as observers. Also relevant research environments from both forestry and nature conservation have participated as observers. In addition to the represented stakeholders and observers, the working committee have invited experts on several subjects related to individual requirements.

Attachment 2 provides more detailed information on the organisations represented in the working committee.

Represented stakeholder groups:

Stakeholder groups	No. of members
Forest owner org.	4
NGO's (environment 3, outdoor recreation 2, climate 1)	6
Women	1
Workers and trade unions	1
Business and industry	4
Total	16
Observers:	
National authorities	2
<i>Business and industry</i>	2
Education, scientific and technological community	2
Total group incl. Observers	22

The working committee has consisted of the following representatives from the participating organisations:

Organization	Name
Norwegian Forest Owners Association	Hans Asbjørn Sørli
Norwegian Forest Owners Association	Simon Thorsdal
NORSKOG – forest owner member organisation	Erling Bergsaker
Staskog - State forest	Monica Grindberg
Sabima – umbrella org. for biological	Christian Steel
WWF	Marianne Hansen
Nature and Youth – Young Friends of the Earth Norway	Mari Strugstad Qviller
The Norwegian Association for Outdoor Organisations	Hans Erik Lerkelund
National Association of Outdoor Recreation Councils	Morten Dåsnes
ZERO – Zero Emission Resource Organisation	Anne Marit Post-Melbye
Women in forestry	Merete Larsmon
The United Federation of Trade Unions	Endre Lie
Norwegian Association of Heavy Machine Contractors (MEF)	Ivar K Hoff
Norwegian Pulp and Paper Association	Elisabeth Berli
Norwegian Wood Industry Federation	Heidi Finstad
Skognærings Kyst	Ole Bakke

Representatives for the observers:

Organization	Name
Statsbygg	Karin Anton
The Forestry Extension Institute	Trygve Øvergård
NIBIO - Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research	Fride Høistad Schei
NINA - Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	Jenni Norden / Rannveig Margrete Jakobsen/ Ulrika Jansson
The Norwegian Agriculture Agency	Vegard Wist/ Turid Trötscher
Norwegian Environment Agency	Eirin Bjørkvoll

PEFC Norway made a substantial effort to get stakeholders from all stakeholder groups to participate in the revision and successfully got key stakeholders from climate, environment and outdoor recreation organisations to participate. The number of organisations and stakeholder groups that have participated in the revision is considerably larger than in the previous revisions.

Different interests related to forests, forestry and forest certification is considered to be well represented and balanced. The committee has also been well gender-balanced. PEFC Norway also made substantial effort to bring in the two major research institutions as observers in the working committee. Observers do not take part in the actual consensus process of the standards, but apart from that they participate fully in the revision work.

The only stakeholder group not represented is the Norwegian indigenous people, the Sami people, as they did not have the resources to take part in the committee. The working committee has however actively contacted and had dialogue with representatives for Sami Reindeer Herders' Association of Norway on the requirement "Sami rights" and other relevant requirements.

The members of the working committee constituted the committee on their first meeting June 23rd 2020, and Erling Bergsaker (representing the Norwegian Forestry Association – NORSKOG) was chosen as chair. In addition Thomas Husum from PEFC Norway was chosen as secretary for the committee.

4. Working committee – revision process

The working committee has been organized in an open and transparent way. The representation and decision-making has been balanced and no single interests has dominated the process.

The standard revision procedures (PEFC N 06) were presented to the committee by the secretariat of PEFC Norway, so that the committee had this as a basis for their work. The procedures assures that all demands and views relevant interested parties should be considered and documented in an open and transparent way during the revision process.

Since this was a revision of existing standards there were no requirement or need for pilot testing. The working committee considered that it was no new elements that needed to be tested in the field.

The working committee started working on the revision in June 2020 and in June 2022 the committee presented a final draft of revised standards. All drafts and documents have been sent out to all committee members. All members of the committee have had meaningful opportunities

to contribute to the revision of the standards and to submit their comments to the working drafts. All comments and views from all the committee members have been considered in an open and transparent way and resolution and proposed changes have been recorded.

The committee has had a total of 34 meetings. In addition, there have been several subgroups that have prepared proposals that in turn have been considered by the committee. There has been a great focus on obtaining knowledge from different research environments on the various themes/requirements, both through the research institutions that have participated in the committee and by other external experts. For several of the requirements external experts have been invited to give presentations with the goal of obtaining an updated knowledge base. The broad representation of different interest in the committee, together with extensive gathering of knowledge from observers and other experts, has contributed to significant changes in the forest standard.

5. Public consultation

The working committee had a consensus on a draft on the sustainable forest management standard, PEFC N 02 ready for public consultation in the beginning of April 2022 and PEFC Norway organised a public consultation. The consultation period was set from April 11th to June 10th (60 days). The public consultation was announced on PEFC Norway's website on April 8th. The enquiry draft was made publicly available on PEFC Norway's website (<https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022>). All stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping was directly informed about the consultation by email.

During the consultation period, PEFC Norway hosted a webinar May 5th 2022. The purpose of the webinar was to provide extended information to stakeholders about the proposal for a revised Norwegian PEFC Forest Standard and opportunity to ask questions. Information and a recording of the webinar is available on PEFC Norway's website (<https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022>).

A total of 71 consultation responses have been received. The consultation responses are broadly distributed from different interest groups, NGOs both organisations, private individuals, agencies and other public bodies. The consultation responses was made available on PEFC Norway's website June 13th (<https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022>).

The received responses have been considered by the working committee in an objective manner. A synopsis of the received comments included the results of the committee's consideration was made publicly available on PEFC Norway's website (<https://www.pefc.no/revisjon-av-det-norske-pefc-systemet-2020-2022>). Information about the synopsis were also sent directly by email to all the parties who submitted answers. Several of the received comments were implemented in the standards which the working committee finalized with consensus June 30th 2022. See summary hearing (attachment 3).

6. Working committee – consensus on final draft

The committee had a common agreement on the final draft. There were no negative votes or any other sustained opposition in the working committee to the draft. See final protocol from the Working Committee, dated June 30th 2022 (attachment 4).

7. National forest management standard

The PEFC Norway Forest management standard (PEFC N 02) covers all types of forest and all types and levels of forest management in Norway. The standard defines sustainable forest management in the country.

The standard fulfils all requirements for complying with the national laws, rules and regulations related to forestry. The revised standard is considered to be clear, objective-based and auditable.

8. National approval of revised certification system

The board of PEFC Norway formally approved the revised system August 18th 2022 (attachment 5).

Attachments

Attachment 1:
Stakeholder mapping

Attachment 2:
Working committee – extended information on represented organisations

Attachment 3:
Summary hearing

Attachment 4:
Working Committee – final protocol, June 30th 2022_English translation
Working Committee – final protocol, June 30th 2022_signed (in Norwegian)

Attachment 5:
Board of PEFC Norway – Approval of revised standards August 18th 2022