


# PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden



**SWEDISH  
PEFC STANDARD  
IN ENGLISH**

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# Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 PEFC in Sweden .....	6
<b>2. Scope .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3. Validity and transition rules .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4. References .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. Document structure .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6. Terms and definitions.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7. Forestry in Sweden.....</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1 Facts about the Swedish forest .....	9
7.2 Climate and forestry .....	12
7.2.1 Increasing carbon stock and the forest's carbon sink.....	12
7.2.2 Substitution.....	13
7.2.3 Products from the forest.....	13
7.2.4 Impact of climate change on the forestry sector .....	14
7.3 The forest policy .....	14
7.3.1 The forest policy objectives .....	14
7.3.2 The Swedish environmental objectives system .....	15
7.3.3 Other forest policy initiatives.....	15
7.3.4 Sector council.....	16
7.3.5 Protection of biological diversity and forest.....	16
7.3.6 Public inquiries .....	17
7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system .....	17
7.4.1 The Forestry Act.....	17
7.4.2 The Environmental Code.....	18
7.4.3 The Timber Regulation .....	19
7.4.4 Protection of private property and the right of public access .....	19
7.4.5 The Discrimination Act .....	20
7.4.6 The Heritage Conservation Act .....	20
7.4.7 The Work Environment Act.....	20
7.4.8 The Reindeer Husbandry Act – a right of the Sami, Sweden's indigenous people .....	20
7.4.9 The Code of Land Laws in the forest.....	20
7.4.10 The Act on Protection against Accidents .....	21
7.4.11 The Hunting Act and forestry .....	21
7.4.12 Tax legislation and forestry .....	21
7.4.13 Competition Act.....	21
7.4.14 The criminal code .....	21
7.4.15 Human rights .....	21

7.5	Public agencies .....	22
7.5.1	Swedish Forest Agency .....	22
7.5.2	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency .....	22
7.5.3	Swedish Work Environment Authority .....	22
7.5.4	The Equality Ombudsman (DO) .....	22
7.5.5	Swedac .....	22
7.5.6	Swedish Competition Authority .....	23
7.5.7	National Agency for Public Procurement .....	23
7.5.8	County Administrative Board .....	23
7.5.9	Municipalities .....	23
7.5.10	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency .....	23
7.5.11	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management .....	23
7.5.12	Water Authorities .....	24
7.5.13	Sami Parliament .....	24
7.6	Quality of governance .....	24
7.7	Monitoring .....	24
7.7.1	State of and changes in forests .....	25
7.7.2	Environment, social issues, and production in forestry .....	25
7.7.3	Other areas of statistics .....	25
7.8	Research and development .....	25
8.	<b>The Swedish PEFC certification system .....</b>	<b>26</b>
8.1	Organization .....	26
8.1.1	PEFC Sweden economic association .....	26
8.1.2	Accreditation .....	26
8.1.3	Certification bodies .....	26
8.2	Implementation .....	27
8.2.1	Forestry certification .....	27
8.2.2	Contractor certification .....	27
8.2.3	Direct certification or group certification .....	28
8.2.4	Chain of custody certification .....	28
8.2.5	Trademark usage licenses .....	28
9.	<b>Exemptions from standard requirements .....</b>	<b>29</b>
10.	<b>Changed preconditions .....</b>	<b>29</b>
11.	<b>Swedish legislation .....</b>	<b>29</b>
12.	<b>Publicity .....</b>	<b>29</b>
13.	<b>External views, complaints, and disputes .....</b>	<b>29</b>
13.1	Complaints on certified actors .....	30
13.2	Complaints on certification bodies .....	30
13.3	Disputes .....	30

13.3.1	Application for settlement of a dispute.....	30
13.3.2	Organization of PEFC Sweden's dispute panel .....	30
13.3.3	The work of the dispute panel.....	30
<b>Appendix A. ILO-conventions and recommendations .....</b>		<b>32</b>
<b>Appendix B. Terms and definitions .....</b>		<b>33</b>
<b>Appendix C. Policy for balancing the interests of forestry and reindeer husbandry.....</b>		<b>44</b>
<b>Appendix D. Swedish PEFC standard-setting procedures .....</b>		<b>47</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Review .....</b>	<b>47</b>
2.1	Editorial and time-critical revisions .....	48
<b>3.</b>	<b>Mechanism for collection of feedback.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Revision of the standard .....</b>	<b>48</b>
4.1	Stakeholder identification mapping .....	48
4.2	Invitation to standard revision .....	48
4.3	The work of the Standard Working group.....	49
4.3.1	Establishment of a Standard Working group .....	49
4.3.2	First draft and general consultation.....	50
4.3.3	Outcome of general consultation .....	50
4.3.4	Hearing with public agencies .....	50
4.3.5	Public consultation.....	50
4.3.6	Approval of standard proposal .....	50
4.3.7	The approved standard.....	50
4.4	Rules of procedure for task forces .....	51
4.5	Balanced representation and decision-making procedures.....	51
4.6	Adjustment Covid-pandemic .....	52
<b>5.</b>	<b>Pilot testing.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Documentation .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Openness and transparency .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Appeal and complaint procedures.....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Evaluation .....</b>	<b>53</b>

# 1. Introduction

Sustainable development is to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development is based on four components that are mutually dependent: environmental consideration, social responsibility, economic growth, and climate benefits from forests and forest material.

Certification of forestry and subsequent industrial stages is a means to demonstrate a sustainable forestry to society and the global market. PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) was founded in 1999 on the initiative of the European forest owners. Its purpose is to provide the market with certified forest-based products based on third-party certification.

PEFC's certification system for sustainable forest management implies that:

## **Forestry shall provide a sustainable yield**

Forests and forest land shall be used efficiently and responsibly to produce a good sustainable yield. The forest production shall be oriented towards giving the forest owner freedom of action and own responsibility in deciding upon the usage of what the forest produces.

## **Forestry shall show consideration for the natural- and cultural environment**

The forestry sector shall show consideration for natural- and cultural environments in forests so that for example biological diversity and good water quality may be preserved and valuable cultural sites in the forest are not destroyed.

## **Forestry shall show social consideration**

The forestry sector shall show consideration for reindeer husbandry, the right of public access, rights of ownership, and rural development. The forestry sector shall also be a good workplace with regulated terms of employment, a good work environment, good work organization and appropriate competence. Different contracting parties in the forestry sector shall have their contractual relationships and commitments clearly regulated.

## **Forests and forestry shall contribute to mitigate climate change**

The forest and forest land shall be managed so that the carbon store is secured and the carbon sink within the landscape is increasing in the long term. With forest material, fossil resources are replaced.

### 1.1 PEFC in Sweden

The PEFC Sweden economic association was founded in 2000 with the purpose to develop a standard for sustainable forest management in Sweden. The Swedish PEFC-system safeguards an economic forest production, environmental consideration, the forest as a workplace, as well as respect for ownership and usage rights. The Swedish PEFC-system shall be a forest certification system that is functional both for larger forest companies as well as for the small-scale forestry. The Swedish PEFC-system is based on responsibility in the whole chain with requirements on PEFC-certification of forest owners, wood procurement organizations, forestry contractors and subsequent industrial stages with a clear and documented distribution of responsibilities.



## 2. Scope

The Swedish PEFC-system (TD V) concerns forest land, forestry business, and forestry contract in Sweden. The standard consists of six parts which describe the system for PEFC-certification of forestry:

- PEFC SWE 001 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden
- PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard
- PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard
- PEFC SWE 004 Direct Certification and Group certification
- PEFC SWE 005 Certification Bodies
- PEFC SWE 006 Notification of Certification Bodies

The present document, *PEFC SWE 001 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden*, is an introductory document that describes how the Swedish PEFC-certification is organized, the basic prerequisites for forestry in Sweden, rules for exemptions and disputes, terms and definitions, as well as the Swedish standard setting procedures.

## 3. Validity and transition rules

This Technical Document (TD V), PEFC SWE 001-006, was approved by the Board of PEFC Sweden on 2022-12-05 and by PEFC International on **xxxxx**.

TD IV is valid for already issued PEFC-certificates during a transition period of 1 year after the entering into force of the new revised TD V.

## 4. References

The Swedish PEFC-system for sustainable forest management is based on requirements and guidelines laid down by PEFC International, as shown by current technical documents on: [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org). Certification of forestry in the PEFC system takes as its point of departure, among others:

- The Lisbon Declaration: The Lisbon Resolution (L2): Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management (<http://www.foresteurope.org>).
- ILO core conventions ([www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org), Appendix A).

## 5. Document structure

Table 1. The Swedish PEFC-system and included documents

System description	Standards for forestry	Part standards
<b>PEFC SWE 001 PEFC's Certification System for Sustainable Forest Management in Sweden</b>  Basic prerequisites for forestry in Sweden  Description of the Swedish PEFC-system  Procedures for Swedish PEFC standard setting  Rules for dispute settlement  Terms and definitions	<b>PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard</b>  Requirements for a sustainable forest production  Requirements for environmental consideration  Social requirements  Requirements for a certification adapted forest management plan  Directions for site-specific work instructions  <b>PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard</b>  Requirements on parts that are often performed by a contracted contractor  Preventive environmental requirements, forest management planning, emergency preparedness, handling of hazardous waste and hazardous goods	<b>PEFC SWE 004 Direct Certification and Group Certification</b>  Requirements on management system, control, and monitoring
		<b>PEFC SWE 005 Certification Bodies</b>  Requirements for performing PEFC-certification of forestry in Sweden
		<b>PEFC SWE 006 Notification of Certification Bodies</b>  PEFC Sweden's notification of certification bodies

The PEFC-system also includes the international standards for chain of custody and trademark (Table 2).



Table 2. Overview of standards for chain of custody and trademark

Standard	Content
<b>PEFC ST 2002:2020: Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products</b>	Requirements on routines to ensure that information on origin and PEFC-certification accompany in subsequent value chain and that controversial sources are avoided
<b>PEFC ST 2001:2020: PEFC Trademark Usage Rules – Requirements</b>	Requirements for correct use of PEFC's trademark (the initials "PEFC" and PEFC's logotype) when making claims, at labelling, and other use.

## 6. Terms and definitions

Terms and concepts used in the document for the Swedish system for PEFC certification are explained in Annex B.

## 7. Forestry in Sweden

The prerequisites for the Swedish forestry sector are an important starting point in the formulation of the Swedish PEFC standard. To understand the standard as a whole, knowledge about the conditions under which Swedish forestry is practiced is a precondition. This chapter describes laws, public agencies, state of the forests, and other prerequisites that are important to be aware of.

### 7.1 Facts about the Swedish forest

The Swedish land area is 40,7 million hectares and the total standing volume is 3 583 million forest cubic metres, which corresponds to a total tree biomass of 2 692 million tonnes of dry weight. The annual growth is 122 million forest cubic metres. The area of forest land, according to the Forest Agency's definition, is 27,9 million hectares. Of this, 23,4 million hectares have an annual increment of at least 1 forest cubic metre per hectare and count as productive forest land (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, *Skogsdata 2022*).

Individual owners (physical entities, estates, and companies that are not stock companies) own 48 percent of the productive forest land. The privately owned area consists of around 222 000 management units, which are owned by around 311 000 persons, of which 38% are women. Privately owned stock companies own 24 percent, state-owned stock companies 12 percent, the state 8 percent, other private owners 6 percent, and other public owners 1 percent of the productive forest land (Swedish Forest Agency, *Fastighets- och ägarstruktur i skogsbruket, 2021*).

The forest sector employs around 115 000 persons in total. The forest industry's share of the total Swedish industry's added value amounts to 11 percent and 85 percent of total production is exported ([skogsindustrierna.se](http://skogsindustrierna.se)).

The increment on the productive forest land is on average 5 forest cubic metres per hectare and year and 117 million forest cubic metres per year in total. The annual felling is 92 million forest cubic metres (2017-2021). From the 1920's it has increased but has been considerably lower than growth, which has resulted in a

doubling of the total standing timber volume through a steady increase of this with, on average, around 20 million forest cubic metres per year, figure 1.

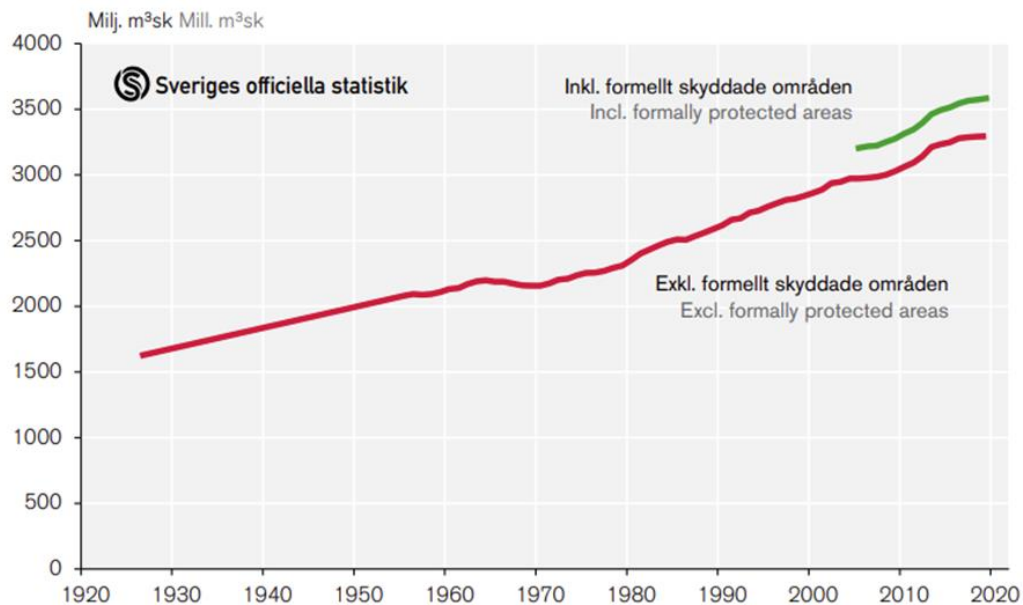


Figure 1. Total standing timber volume in Sweden 1926 – 2019, living trees. Source: SLU, *Skogsdata 2022*.

Low-productive forest land, 4,5 million hectares, may not be used for productive forestry according to the Forestry Act. The area of productive forest land, formally protected in different ways, is 1,3 million hectares and an additional 1,8 million hectares of the productive forest land is protected through different kinds of voluntary set-asides (Statistics Sweden (SCB) 2021-06-30). Protection of forests is also described in paragraph 7.3.5.

During the last decades, forestry has been more focused than previously on preservation and improvement of the forest's different values other than timber production. Environmental objective and production objective shall be co-equal according to the 1993 forest political decision. The area of formally protected forest and the area of voluntary set-asides has increased considerably since the new politics entered into force. Apart from set-aside of protected areas, so called environmental consideration (general consideration) is applied. This means, among other things, that valuable trees, groups of trees, and edge zones along water courses are retained at harvesting. Included in the environmental consideration is also to create values such as for example dead wood, and to show consideration for soil and water, cultural environments, and outdoor life. Clearly positive trends have been created for, among other things, the presence of old forest, thick deciduous trees, and dead wood (Figures 2-4) and the size of clear-felled areas has decreased. During the period 1980-2021, the clear-felled areas of private forest owners has been around 3 hectares on average with moderate variation over years, according to data from the Forest Agency. The average clear-felled area for other owners during the same period has decreased from 17 to 5 hectares.

In total, 15 million hectares of productive forest land are covered by certification according to PEFC or FSC or both, so called double certification (Swedish Forest Agency, 2021).

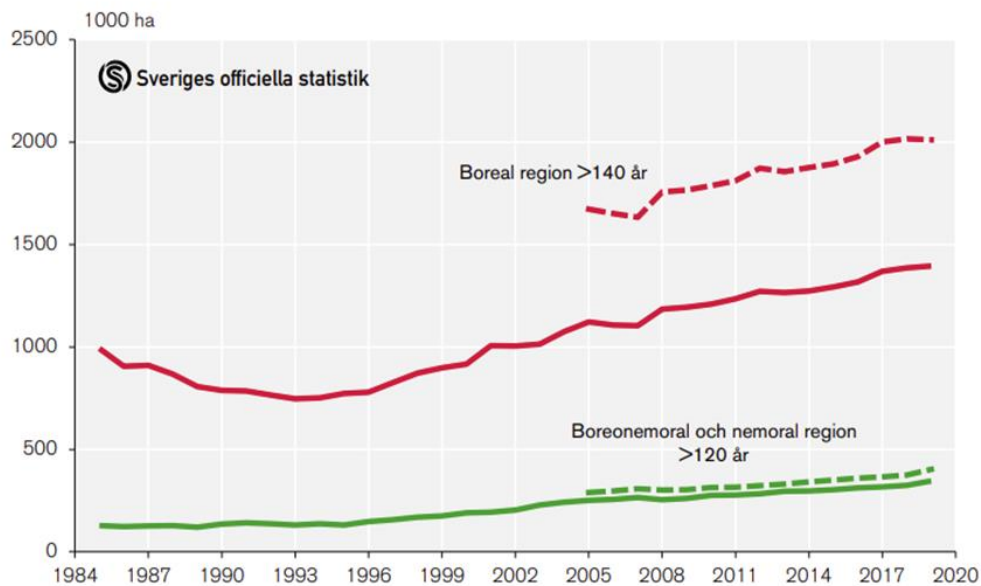


Figure 2. Area of old forest on productive forest land outside of formally protected areas (solid line) and including formally protected areas (dashed line). Source: SUAS, *Skogsdata 2022*. (Boreonemoral and nemoral zones encompass Götaland and Svealand, excluding the counties of Dalarna, Värmland, and Örebro.)

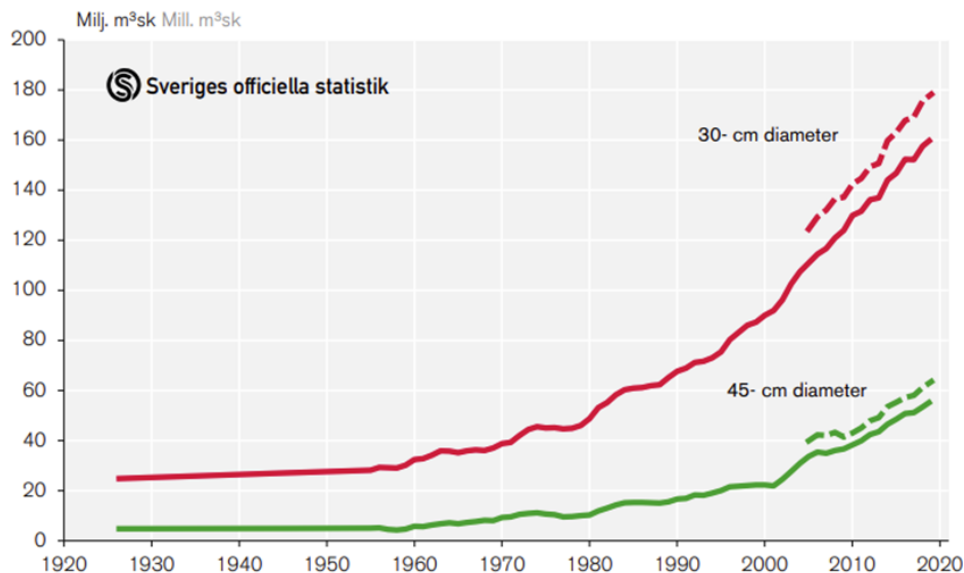


Figure 3. Standing volume of living, thick deciduous trees outside of formally protected areas (solid line) and including formally protected areas (dashed line). Diameter at breast height. Source: SUAS, *Skogsdata 2022*.

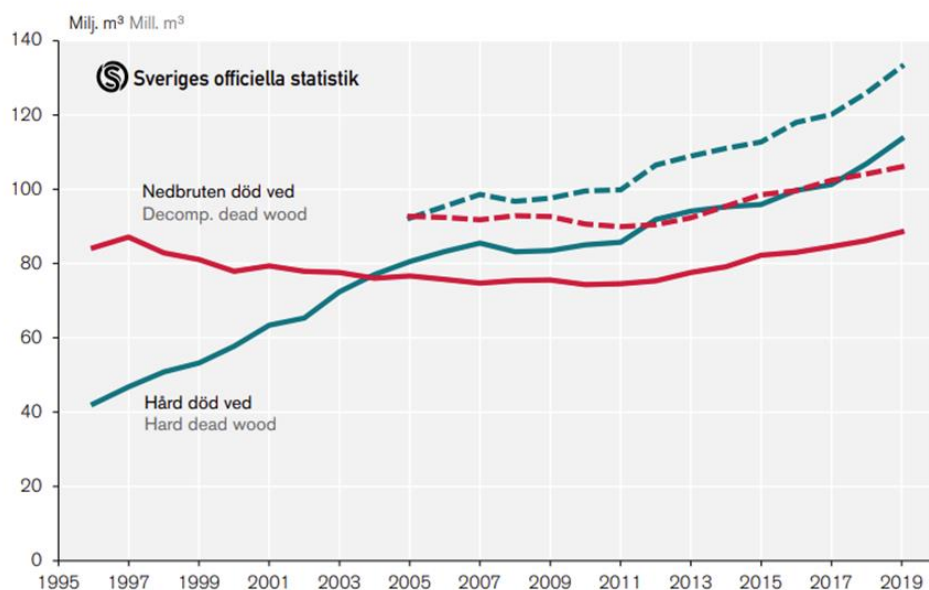


Figure 4. Volume of dead wood on productive forest land, outside of formally protected areas (solid line) and including formally protected areas (dashed line). Source: SUAS, *Skogsdata 2022*.

## 7.2 Climate and forestry

Forestry and the forest industry contribute in several ways to a sustainable society with limited climate impact. Growing forests sequester and store carbon dioxide. Products from the forest replace material based on coal and oil at the same time as renewable energy, based on the industry's residues and by-products, is supplied.

### 7.2.1 Increasing carbon stock and the forest's carbon sink

With an increased timber volume, the carbon stock of the Swedish forests has increased considerably during the last hundred years at the same time as considerable removals of timber volume have been made. The forest and forest land contribute annually to a carbon dioxide uptake of 40 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalents (excluding HWP, Harvested Wood Products) after harvesting and natural thinning (Table 3). An important reason is the high increment in the actively managed forests, which on average is higher than that of non-managed forests. Studies also show that the stock of carbon in mineral soils of the Nordic countries' more intensively managed forests is increasing twice as fast as compared to countries with a less intensive forestry. However, there are considerable losses of greenhouse gases from peatlands (organogenic soils). Despite that, the Swedish forest land is on average a sink for carbon dioxide.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Swedish Forest Agency, Report 2021/11. *Sustainable boreal forest management – challenges and opportunities for climate change mitigation*. ISBN 978-91-986297-3-6.

**Table 3. Emissions and uptake of greenhouse gases in forest during the period 2015-2020 (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents)**

	<b>Dead organic material</b>	<b>Living biomass</b>	<b>Mineral soils</b>	<b>Organogenic soils</b>	<b>Other emissions from forest land</b>	<b>Harvested wood products</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2015</b>	-1,50	-33,60	-10,80	5,30	1,20	-7,40	-46,70
<b>2016</b>	-3,30	-30,70	-10,30	5,30	1,30	-8,20	-46,00
<b>2017</b>	-1,10	-30,70	-10,60	5,50	1,30	-6,50	-42,10
<b>2018</b>	-1,90	-30,80	-11,00	5,80	1,40	-6,00	-42,40
<b>2019</b>	-2,00	-30,90	-11,00	5,80	1,40	-6,50	-43,20
<b>2020</b>	-3,20	-31,10	-11,00	5,70	1,40	-7,40	-45,70

Source: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Data and statistics (*Skog, utsläpp och upptag av växthusgaser* (naturvardsverket.se))

Note that the table above only includes carbon flows in the forest, not the total LULUCF-sector (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry).

## 7.2.2 Substitution

Substitution is when different types of bio-based products replace products based on different types of fossil raw materials with higher climate impact. This occurs for example when sawn wood products replace concrete and steel, packaging of paper replace fossil-based plastic, and bio-based energy is used instead of oil or coal. The magnitude of this substitution effect depends on what kind of products that are produced, where and how they are produced, and what they are replacing. As the forestry sector and forest industry become even more resource- and energy efficient and develop products with an even higher climate benefit, the substitution effect of forest products is also increasing.

## 7.2.3 Products from the forest

When forest raw material is harvested and used for different purposes, the carbon reservoir is moved from the forest to society into various long-lived products (HWP). Products made from wood and wood-based raw materials store carbon during the entire life cycle which, when it comes to for example wooden house construction, may be very long. Hygiene-, cardboard-, and paper products have a shorter life span but may nevertheless be beneficial from a climate perspective compared to other raw material alternatives, and are important products in the healthcare sector. For calculation of net storage in the HWP-pool for reporting in accordance with decisions made within the UN Climate Convention and within the EU, methodology developed by IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) is used. This shows that net emissions from harvested wooden raw material have varied between -8,2 and -6,0 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents during the years 2015-2020 (Table 3.).

By making use of “grot” (branches and tops) and to some extent stumps which result from harvesting, thinning and pre-commercial thinning, climate-friendly fuels may be produced. When these residues from the forestry sector are used as fuel in the combined heat and power plants, bio-based power and heat is generated. The energy extracted from biofuels is called bioenergy. If the fuels are further processed, they may also be used as biofuels for transport. Bioenergy is a renewable energy source and only emits the amount of carbon dioxide that the fuel has sequestered during its growth phase. By replacing fossil fuels, biofuels may reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and contribute to reduced climate impact. During the year 2020, 141 TWh of biofuels

were used in Sweden<sup>2</sup>, which corresponds to 39% of Sweden's total energy consumption. Around 20 TWh come from residues from the forestry sector.

Via Bio-CCS and Bio-CCU (capturing of carbon dioxide from point sources for storage or use) there is further potential for the forest sector to contribute with negative sinks in the climate work.

#### 7.2.4 Impact of climate change on the forestry sector

An accelerating climate change affects the forest's growth and the risk of damages. An increase in average temperature generates longer vegetation periods, but also risk entailing shorter and milder winters, longer periods of drought, and favoring of pests.

Climate adaptation of forestry is fundamental to ensure continued vital forests in the future. Important components are site adaptation, active forest management, forest tree breeding, and varied forests. Game populations that are balanced is a prerequisite for vital and varied forests.

Shorter periods with ground frost and increased precipitation demand development of methods and techniques to reduce the risk of soil damages. The accessibility of the forest road network needs to be secured.

### 7.3 The forest policy

The forest, the forestry sector, and the forest industry have for long been very important to the Swedish economy. Legislation to ensure a sustainable management of forests has been in place since 1903 when the first modern Forestry Act was adopted. Already in this first Act, there was a reforestation obligation, which explains the development of standing volume (Figure 1). The current Swedish forest policy was adopted with broad parliamentary support in 1993 (government bill 1992/93:226). This policy has since then been confirmed by several governments and parliamentary majorities. In the year 2008 through the government bill "*En skogspolitik i takt med tiden*" ["A forest policy in line with the times"] and latest in the year 2022 through the government bill "*Stärkt äganderätt, flexibla skyddsformer och ökade incitament för naturvård i skogen*" ["Strengthened property right, flexible forms of protection, and increased incentives for nature conservation in the forest"] (government bill 2021/22:58). The 2022 bill emphasizes the property- and use right and that voluntariness shall be a fundamental principle at protection of forests.

#### 7.3.1 The forest policy objectives

The forest policy objectives consist since 1993 of one environmental objective and one objective for forest production, which shall be co-equal. The environmental objective states that the natural productive capacity of forest land shall be preserved. Biological diversity and genetic variation in forests shall be secured. Forests shall be managed in a manner that enables plant and animal species naturally belonging to the forests to survive under natural conditions and in viable populations. Threatened species and natural habitat types shall be protected. The cultural heritage assets of forests and their aesthetic and social values shall be safeguarded. The production objective states that forests and forest land shall be used efficiently and responsibly to produce a good sustainable yield. Forest production shall be oriented towards giving freedom of action regarding the usage of what the forest produce.

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<sup>2</sup> Swedish Energy Agency 2021. *Energiläget 2021 – en översikt*. ET 2021:10. ISBN 978-91-7993-19-6. [Available in English: *Energy in Sweden 2021 – An overview*. ISBN 978-91-7993-020-2]



With the forest policy decision of 1993, the concept of “sector responsibility” was introduced. This means that actions needed to preserve forest natural and cultural values is a common responsibility of the forestry sector and public agencies. The government bill from 2008 also states that well defined and long-term ownership of forest land is a prerequisite for the forest policy objectives to be met, as well as for forest owners and society to be able to take its shared responsibility. In summary, Swedish forest policy is often described as “freedom with responsibility”. The Swedish model implies that general consideration is shown on the entire productive forest area. At the same time, voluntary set-asides are made on 7,7 percent of the productive forest area. Overall, mostly native tree species are used, and no genetically modified plants are used.

The Forest Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency presented during spring 2011 the result of a government commission on developing a “Knowledge-platform on sustainable use of forests”, focusing on the environmentally related objectives (Swedish Forest Agency and Environmental Protection Agency, 2011). As a result of this, the Forest Agency took the initiative to a developed dialogue with the forestry sector on objectives, legal requirements, and methods for follow-up of environmental consideration. In the dialogue on environmental consideration, the Forest Agency, other authorities concerned, the forestry sector, and non-governmental organizations have collaborated to calibrate the view on nature conservation within the sector. The work has resulted in descriptive target scenarios for good conservation actions regarding nature conservation, soil and water, cultural environments, as well as outdoor life and recreation. Some fifty target scenarios have been developed. The target scenarios have been applied in forestry to a great extent since the first report in 2013. One group worked during the first years with review of §30 of the Forestry Act, another with follow-up of environmental consideration at forestry operations. In addition, there has been a coordinating collaboration-group, a process-group, and a steering group within the Forest Agency. The work with the target scenarios continues.

### **7.3.2 The Swedish environmental objectives system**

Since 1999, Sweden also has a system of environmental objectives, adopted by the parliament, as a complement to the policy area concerning for example the forest sector. The overall goal is to pass on to the next generation a society in which the major environmental problems have been solved, without increasing environmental and health problems outside Sweden's borders. The goals shall guide towards a sustainable development and constitute the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030. Sweden's environmental objectives consist of the overall generation goal, 16 environmental quality objectives, and several milestone targets. The Environmental Protection Agency has the overall responsibility for follow up of the work with the environmental objectives. Environmental quality objectives that concern forests are above all “Sustainable Forests”, but also “Thriving wetlands”, “A Rich Diversity of Plant and Animal Life” and “Reduced Climate Impact” are of relevance to forests. In Sweden's objective for outdoor life there are specifications about outdoor life that are included in several of the environmental quality objectives. The environmental quality objectives have an ambition level notwithstanding the legislation and are together with the forest sector's target scenarios for conservation actions in forest management an important point of departure for the requirements of the forestry standard. Certification of forestry is an important tool for the forest policy objectives and the forest sector responsibility. Certification has for example been a strong driving force behind the voluntary set-asides.

### **7.3.3 Other forest policy initiatives**

The Government commissioned in 2012 the Forest Agency and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences to develop a model for so called adaptive forest management, to help the Swedish forestry sector to achieve an increased production of forest biomass at the same time as the environmental state of the forests is improved and we get a more varied forestry. Within this commission, a knowledge platform on forest

production has been elaborated.<sup>3</sup> The Forest Agency also regularly makes forecast analysis, which consists of several scenarios for the development of Swedish forests depending on different usage and management. Calculations are made regarding consequences of the different scenarios in a 100 years' time and the results are then used as a basis for decisions on issues regarding long-term use of the forest. Another initiative which implies gathering around the forest is to, like many other countries, develop a so-called National Forest Program. In that work, objectives for five focus areas have been formulated: 1. A sustainable forest management with greater climate benefits. 2. Multiple uses of forest resources for more jobs and sustainable growth throughout the country. 3. World-class innovations and processed forest products. 4. Sustainable use and conservation of forests as a profile issue in Sweden's international cooperation. 5. A knowledge leap to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of forests. Also at the regional level, forest programs have been elaborated with an active participation of many stakeholders in society. The National Forest Program is run by the Government, with support from the Forest Agency, and at regional level by the County Administrative Boards.

The Forest Agency ran during 2017 – 2019 a collaboration process for forest production which resulted in a report with proposals on how forests may be managed to provide a high forest production in a sustainable manner and in that way contribute to the transition to a fossil free society and a growing bioeconomy.<sup>4</sup>

#### 7.3.4 Sector council

There is a national sector council for forestry issues which functions as an advisory body to the General Director of the Forest Agency, and which principally handles overarching forest- and environmental policy issues. The Council is composed of representatives from forestry, other business sectors with a basis in the forest resources, non-profit organizations, public agencies, and research. In addition, there is at the regional level permanent regional sector councils which are tied to the regions of the Forest Agency, and where authorities and stakeholders concerned are represented. Regional sector councils play an important role when it comes to breaking down the quantitative environmental- and forestry sector target scenarios from national to regional level. Apart from the permanent sector councils, there are other advisory groups regarding statistics, forest protection etc. Temporary groups are also often established when important activities are planned and implemented (e.g., inventories, forecasts, environmental impact assessments, information campaigns). The widely spread use of sector councils at both national and regional levels has developed gradually during the last 30 years. Their main contribution to Swedish forest policy is to widen the discussion, to encourage consensus and transparency, to build confidence between different actors concerned, to increase commitment to forest policy objectives, and to create enabling conditions for an efficient implementation.

#### 7.3.5 Protection of biological diversity and forest

The Swedish model for safeguarding biological diversity is a combination of general consideration in the daily forestry practice and designation of areas for set-aside and protection. General consideration is described in the forestry legislation and implies, inter alia, that valuable trees, groups of trees, and edge zones around water courses shall be preserved at felling operations. Also included is to create values as for example dead wood, and to show consideration for soil and water, cultural environments as well as outdoor life. Regarding areas set-aside and protected, the political target was to, until 2020, protect 2,8 million hectares of productive ecologically important forest land: 1,4 million as formally protected, including national parks, nature reserves, and habitat protection, and 1,4 million as voluntarily set-aside areas. The certification systems are one of the most important tools for voluntary set-asides. Formally protected areas according to the Environmental Code

<sup>3</sup> Swedish Forest Agency, *Meddelande 2016:1, "Kunskapsplattform för skogsproduktion - Tillståndet i skogen, problem och tänkbara insatser och åtgärder"*.

<sup>4</sup> Swedish Forest Agency, *Rapport 2019:24, "Skogsskötsel med nya möjligheter – Rapport från Samverkansprocess skogsproduktion"*.

are national parks, nature reserves, habitat protection, and nature conservation agreements. All low-productive forest land is protected through the forestry legislation since the 1970's. Specific restrictions applies for forests in the subalpine region.

### 7.3.6 Public inquiries

The Government launched in 2019 a forest inquiry (*“Stärkt äganderätt, flexibla skyddsformer och naturvård i skogen” SOU 2020:73*) [“Strengthened property rights, flexible protection forms and nature conservation in forests”] with the purpose to investigate the possibilities to come up with proposals for measures to enforce property rights to forest, new flexible forms for protection and compensation at protection of forest land, as well as how international obligations regarding biological diversity shall be combined with a growing circular bioeconomy. The inquiry resulted in a government bill with proposals on clearer regulations concerning compensation in forests in the subalpine region. During the year 2020, a parallel inquiry of the ordinance on species protection was carried out (*“Skydd av arter – vårt gemensamma ansvar”, SOU 2021:51*) [“Protection of Species – our common responsibility”]). The inquiry's main task was partly to review the ordinance on species protection and partly to improve the prerequisites for the work with prevention, detection, and the taking of legal proceedings against criminality related to species protection.

## 7.4 Laws and ordinances of special significance to the PEFC certification system

This chapter provides an overview of legislation relevant to forestry and the Swedish PEFC-standard. The descriptions are intended as an overview and describe current legislation at the time of development of the standard. For current information during the standard's time of validity, other sources shall be used, e.g., *Regelrätt skogsbruk*.

### 7.4.1 The Forestry Act

The Forestry Act sets out the demands placed on forest owners by society. Here are specified the requirements on the forest owner regarding forest management and what consideration that must be shown for natural- and cultural environments as well as for reindeer husbandry. The Swedish Forest Agency is the responsible agency. Apart from the Forestry Act, the Forest Agency is also responsible for supervising compliance with parts of the Environmental Code.

#### 7.4.1.1 Definition of forest land

The Forestry Act defines forest land as all land within a continuous area where the trees have a height of more than five metres and where trees have a crown density of more than ten percent or have the prerequisites to reach that height and crown density without any actions being taken to increase productivity. The Forestry Act excludes from this definition areas where the land to a considerable extent is used for agricultural purposes, which belongs to buildings or other installations, or which is used for other purposes than meeting interests that may be attributed to trees and vegetation. Abandoned agricultural land must be afforested within three years, with the exemption of land that shall be protected due to natural- or cultural values.

#### 7.4.1.2 Notification of regeneration felling

Regeneration felling of areas larger than 0,5 hectares shall be notified to the Forest Agency six weeks in advance at the latest. As regeneration felling does not count thinning and pre-commercial thinning which promotes forest development.

Notification of **regeneration** felling shall include: the size of the area to be felled, description of actions planned to secure regeneration, a map and description of planned measures to show consideration for natural- and

cultural environments as well as to reindeer husbandry, where relevant. A notification must also be submitted where felling of an area larger than 0,5 ha is planned to convert forest land to other land use. The same is valid at extraction of forest fuels after regeneration felling, when regeneration is made with exotic tree species on an area larger than 0,5 ha, at planting with vegetative propagation material on an area larger than 0,5 ha, as well as at precautionary ditching.

Submitted notification of felling is a public document which is published at the Forest Agency's website (<https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/sjalvservice/karttjanster/skogliga-grunddata>), which means that external interests have the possibility to express any point of view on a planned felling before the operation takes place.

A permit is required for regeneration felling of forests in the sub-alpine area of northern Sweden. Details of measures planned to secure regeneration and to protect conservation values, cultural heritage, and reindeer herding, must be given. A permit is required for regeneration felling in forests that contain valuable broadleaved species (elm, ash, hornbeam, beech, oak, wild cherry, linden, and maple). Regeneration and conservation measures to be taken must be described. Normally, felled valuable broadleaf stands must be regenerated with new valuable broadleaf tree species.

Every forest owner also has a login on the Swedish Forest Agency website called "*mina sidor*" ["my pages"]. The available data includes maps over the own forest, basic forest data (such as timber volume) important habitats and ancient remains. These data (except the ownership maps) are also publicly available.

The Forestry Act regulates minimum age for regeneration felling. A forest owner is obliged to regenerate the forest after harvesting (§5 Forestry Act) and to establish and manage new forest (§8). For management units larger than 50 ha, the regeneration felling must not be made to such an extent that more than half of the unit's productive forest land will consist of bare forest land and forest younger than 20 years. For management units larger than 1000 and 5000 ha there are further regulations.

#### **7.4.2 The Environmental Code**

The Environmental Code (1998:808) entered into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1999. The objective of the Environmental Code is to foster a sustainable development ensuring a healthy and good environment for present and future generations. All kinds of measures are affected that may be of importance to the interests that the Code aim at protecting. This is irrespective of these being carried out by individuals in their daily lives or in some form of commercial activity.

The larger share of provisions in the Environmental Code is of a general character. To specify the provisions, the Government has issued a large number of ordinances. Forestry is affected by, among others, the ordinance (1998:1252) on area protection according to the Environmental Code, the ordinance (1998:904) on notification of consultation, and the ordinance on environmental supervision (2011:13).

##### **7.4.2.1 The Water Directive**

The water management is the Swedish implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. The work encompasses the larger Swedish water areas for lakes, water courses, coastal water, and ground water.

The water management's work is carried out in six-year management cycles. Responsible for the work are those County Administrative Boards that are assigned the task of being water authorities. The work is based on the Environmental Code, the ordinance on water management, and provisions issued by the Agency for Marine

and Water Management and the Environmental Protection Agency. A large part of the Swedish water courses and lakes are situated in the forest landscape, which means that the forest and forestry play important roles for the quality of water environments. The Forest Agency has, in the report "*Vattenförvaltning i skogen*"<sup>5</sup> ["Water management in the forest"], proposed changes to legislation and other means of control that affect forestry and that are required by reason of the Water Directive.

#### 7.4.2.2 Notification of consultation

Any forestry operation that may affect the natural environment in a significant way shall, according to law (chapter 12, §6 the Environmental Code), be notified to the Forest Agency for consultation at least six weeks in advance of the operation. See the Forest Agency's website for forestry operations that must be notified.

Initiative to the consultation shall be taken by the forest owner or the person that is to perform the operation. This is done by notifying the Forest Agency about the operation. The notification shall be in written form and accompanied by a map as well as a description of the planned operation. The notification shall also describe what protective measures that are to be taken, what restrictions that must be observed, and the precautionary measures needed to limit or counteract any damage to the natural environment. Anyone who has notified the Forest Agency of a felling, extraction of forest fuel, or precautionary ditching according to the provisions of the Forestry Act, has also complied with the requirements for consultation, according to the Environmental Code.

The Forest Agency has also assembled legislation and general advice in a handbook to be consulted at fertilization.

#### 7.4.2.3 Ordinance on species protection

The Government may decide on legal protection of a certain species of flora or fauna if there is a risk of the species going extinct or becoming subject to plundering. The Government's decision on protection of a species of flora or fauna may apply throughout the country, in a single county, or part of a county. The provisions on protection of species are laid down in chapter 8 of the Environmental Code. The EU's Habitats Directive (92/43 EEG) and the Birds Directive are incorporated into the species protection ordinance, which is divided into species protected according to EU-legislation and nationally protected species. More than 300 species of flora and fauna are under legal protection nationally. In addition, there are around 50 species under legal protection in one or several counties. Legal protection most often means that the species is totally protected – it is forbidden to pick, catch, kill or in any other way collect or damage any specimen of the protected species. It is also forbidden to remove or damage any seeds, eggs, roe, or nests of the species.

### 7.4.3 The Timber Regulation

The EU Timber Regulation shall counteract trade in illegally harvested timber and wood products derived from such timber within the EU. The Swedish law on trade in timber and wood products, which complements the Timber Regulation, entered into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2014. In Sweden, the Forest Agency is the authority that shall supervise compliance with the regulation.

### 7.4.4 Protection of private property and the right of public access

The constitution on government form is one of the four constitutional laws. Its fifteen chapters contains the principles for the Swedish constitution, a catalogue on fundamental freedoms and rights, rules for working modalities of the Government, the Parliament, and other authorities, as well as rules for their competence.

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<sup>5</sup> Swedish Forest Agency, *Meddelande 2010*; "*Vattenförvaltningen i skogen*".

Of the civil freedoms and rights, chapter 2, §15 “Protection of private property and the right of public access” is of special importance to forest owners. Here it is stated that each person’s property is secured while no person can be forced to give up their property to the public or to any private entity without compensation. Here, the right of public access is also described, which is a unique possibility for everyone to enjoy any part of nature. With this right also follow the obligation to show consideration for nature and wildlife, for landowners and for other people. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency summarizes the right of public access in the words “not disturb – not destroy”.

#### **7.4.5 The Discrimination Act**

The purpose of this act is to combat discrimination and in other ways promote equal rights and opportunities regardless of sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation, or age. The Equality Ombudsman is assigned the task of supervising compliance with this law.

#### **7.4.6 The Heritage Conservation Act**

The purpose of the provisions of this Act is to secure that present and future generations have access to a diversity of cultural environments. In connection with forest land, the Heritage Conservation Act implies protection for ancient remains, irrespective of these being previously known or not. All known ancient remains are available through the Swedish National Heritage Board’s register of ancient remains (*FMIS*). To ancient remains is coupled a surrounding consideration area, which is also protected. The surrounding consideration area varies from case to case depending on the type and significance on the ancient remains in question. The County Administrative Board is responsible for supervision of ancient remains.

#### **7.4.7 The Work Environment Act**

The purpose of the act is to prevent poor health and accidents at work as well as to achieve a good work environment in general. The Work Environment Act contains provisions on obligations for employers and others responsible for safety and health to prevent poor health and accidents at work. There are also provisions on cooperation between employer and employee, for example rules on activities of safety representatives. The Swedish Work Environment Authority supervises compliance with this act and regulations issued under this act.

#### **7.4.8 The Reindeer Husbandry Act – a right of the Sami, Sweden’s indigenous people**

The Sami have been assigned the status of indigenous people in Sweden through parliamentary decision. The constitution states that the Sami right to pursue reindeer herding is regulated by law. The Reindeer Husbandry Act gives the Sami population the right to use land and water for personal maintenance as well as maintenance of their reindeers – the right of reindeer husbandry. The Reindeer Husbandry Act also stipulates in what areas reindeer husbandry may be pursued, that is, within the area for reindeer husbandry divided into year-round pasture and winter pastureland.

#### **7.4.9 The Code of Land Laws in the forest**

The Land Code (1970:994) lays down provisions for real property. According to the Land Code, land is considered real property and is divided into real property units.

*Lantmäteriet* (Land Registration Division) is a public agency belonging to the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure as of 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023. *Lantmäteriet* is responsible for division of, registration of, and changes



to real property in Sweden. *Lantmäteriets* Real Property Register contains information about Sweden's real property which is fundamental to society and the market economy.

#### **7.4.10 The Act on Protection against Accidents**

The Act on Protection against Accidents (2003:778) defines rescue services as those rescue operations that fall under the responsibility of the state or the municipalities and that aim at preventing or limiting damages made to humans, property, or the environment. The first paragraphs of the Act consist of general provisions, stating that the purpose of the Act is to provide equal protection against accidents to all people. In forestry, as an example, the regulations regarding consultation in connection to burning must be observed.

#### **7.4.11 The Hunting Act and forestry**

The Hunting Act (1987:259) lays down provisions regarding wildlife management, hunting rights, and in what way hunting shall be carried out within Swedish territory. The Hunting Act stipulates that hunting rights holders and landowners have a common responsibility to support the game through active measures. In addition to this act, provisions of other acts are applicable as regards protection and management of the game. According to the Act on wildlife management areas (2000:592), two or more holdings may be joined into one wildlife management area for the purpose of promoting wildlife management through coordination of hunting and measures to protect and support wildlife.

#### **7.4.12 Tax legislation and forestry**

Tax rates, as well what kind of taxes there shall be, are subject to political decisions in the Swedish Parliament, municipalities, and county councils. The Swedish Tax Agency, which is represented throughout the country, is the authority responsible for collecting taxes.

The Tax Agency belong to the Government but is an independent authority. This means that the Government cannot interfere in tax issues concerning individuals or companies.

#### **7.4.13 Competition Act**

The purpose of the Competition Act (2008:579) is to eliminate and counteract obstacles to effective competition in the field of production of and trade in goods, services, and other products. The Swedish Competition Authority is responsible for supervising compliance with the act.

#### **7.4.14 The criminal code**

The Swedish Criminal Code contains legislation regarding embezzlement, disloyalty, and bribery.

#### **7.4.15 Human rights**

In Sweden human rights are protected via the constitution and other laws and regulations. In addition, the European convention on protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are implemented as law since 1995.

## 7.5 Public agencies

The Swedish society is generally characterized by a high level of legislation with appointed public agencies for supervision a legal- and provisional requirements (Figure 2). There are several public agencies that are responsible for, within their respective areas, applying the regulations and perform the activities that the Government and the Parliament have decided on. Below is provided an overall description of those agencies that are most important to the forestry sector in Sweden.

### 7.5.1 Swedish Forest Agency

The Forest Agency is an administrative authority responsible for issues concerning forestry and is assigned the task of working for a management of the country's forests which fulfils the forest policy objectives decided by the Parliament. The Forest Agency exercise supervision and ensures that the forestry sector is familiar with, and complies with, current laws and provisions and that these are applied under the rule of law. The Forest Agency is assigned the task of further regulating, through provisions, certain things that are more generally regulated in the Forestry Act and the ordinance on forest management, as well as in certain parts of the Environmental Code and its ordinances.

### 7.5.2 Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protections Agency works on commission from the Government and is the authority in Sweden which overviews the state of the environment and progress in environmental work. The authority is also assigned the task of coordinating, following-up and evaluating the work with Sweden's environmental objectives. The Environmental Protection Agency may issue provisions and general advice to the Environmental Code, and these are published in the statute book of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Agency is also commissioned to work for preservation and development of the conditions for outdoor life.

### 7.5.3 Swedish Work Environment Authority

The Work Environment Authority is commissioned by the Government and the Parliament to ensure that work environment- and working hours regulations are complied with, as well as the Environmental Code as regards genetic engineering and pesticides. The objective is to reduce risks of ill-health and accidents in work life and to improve the work environment from a holistic perspective, that is, both from physical, psychological, social, and organizational points of view. By virtue of the Work Environment Act and to certain extent also the Working Hours Act, the Work Environment Authority issues legally binding provisions, for example AFS 2012:01 "The usage of chainsaws and brush saws". The Authority performs inspections at workplaces.

### 7.5.4 The Equality Ombudsman (DO)

The Equality Ombudsman (DO) is a public authority working against discrimination and for equal rights and possibilities for all people. It does so above all by ensuring that the Discrimination Act is complied with.

The objective for the work is a society where the equal rights and possibilities of all people are respected regardless of sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation, or age.

### 7.5.5 Swedac

Swedac is the national accreditation body in Sweden and the authority that accredits companies and organizations like laboratories, certification bodies, and inspection bodies, according to international standards

and regulations. The agency also has commissions within market surveillance, measurement techniques, and in international cooperation bodies.

The purpose of accreditation is to ensure that those persons performing inspections do so in a reliable and uniform way, that they have the adequate technical competence and are independent. This is revised by Swedac at regular visits of inspection.

#### **7.5.6 Swedish Competition Authority**

The Swedish Competition Authority is the public management authority for competition issues and works by means of law enforcement and supervision as well as preventive measures. Its task is to promote an efficient competition in the private and public sectors for the benefit of the public and the market stakeholders. Significant weight is attached to fighting cartels and to act against private and public actors that abuse a dominant position in the market.

#### **7.5.7 National Agency for Public Procurement**

The Agency for Public Procurement is commissioned with supporting, but also proactively develop, the public procurement. The Agency for Public Procurement wants to foster efficient, innovative, and sustainable public business and provides support throughout the procurement process. The agency develops sustainability criteria that may be used as support at procurement.

#### **7.5.8 County Administrative Board**

The County Administrative Board is a government agency that works closely to citizens in each county. The County Administrative Board is responsible for implementing parliamentary and governmental decisions in each county, and to coordinate governmental activities. There are 21 County Administrative Boards in Sweden, and they are all assigned the task of working towards a development where environment, growth, and good living-conditions go hand in hand. Their fields of expertise span over a wide range of public issues, from rural development and biological diversity to integration issues and protection of cultural environments.

#### **7.5.9 Municipalities**

The municipalities are responsible for a large part of community service. Among the most important tasks are preschool, school, social services, and elderly care. Among the municipalities' obligatory commissions are also planning and building issues, environment- and health protection, rescue services and emergency preparedness, as well as civil defense.

#### **7.5.10 Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency**

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is responsible for issues around protection against accidents, crises preparedness, and civil defense, when there is no other responsible agency. The responsibility concerns action before, during, and after an accident, crises, war, or danger of war. MSB is responsible for provisions on transports of dangerous goods on road and railway.

#### **7.5.11 Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management**

The Agency for Marine and Water Management is a Swedish government agency in the environmental field for issues on preservation, restoration and sustainable management of lakes, watercourses, seas, and fishing resources.

### 7.5.12 Water Authorities

The Water Authorities have the overall responsibility to ensure that the EU Water Framework Directive is implemented in Sweden. Sweden is divided into five water districts and the County Administrative Board in each district is appointed water authority with responsibility for management of water environments' quality in each district. The role of the Water Authorities is above all coordinative within their own districts. A national cooperation between the Water Authorities secretariats and with the Agency for Marine and Water Management shall see to it that all the actors work towards the same goal.

### 7.5.13 Sami Parliament

The Sami Parliament in Sweden is both a government agency and an elected Sami parliament. The organization of the Sami Parliament resembles that of the Municipalities, where there is also politicians and civil servants. The overall objective of the Sami Parliament, according to the Swedish Sami Parliament Act, is to work for a thriving Sami culture and to initiate activities and propose measures that foster this culture.

## 7.6 Quality of governance

One measure of the quality of governance is shown in the graphics below from the World Bank which is based on information and experiences from citizens, entrepreneurs, and experts within the public and private sectors as well as non-governmental organizations all over the world. "Percentile" shows Sweden's ranking among all countries in the world. 0 means lowest ranking and 100 is the highest ranking.

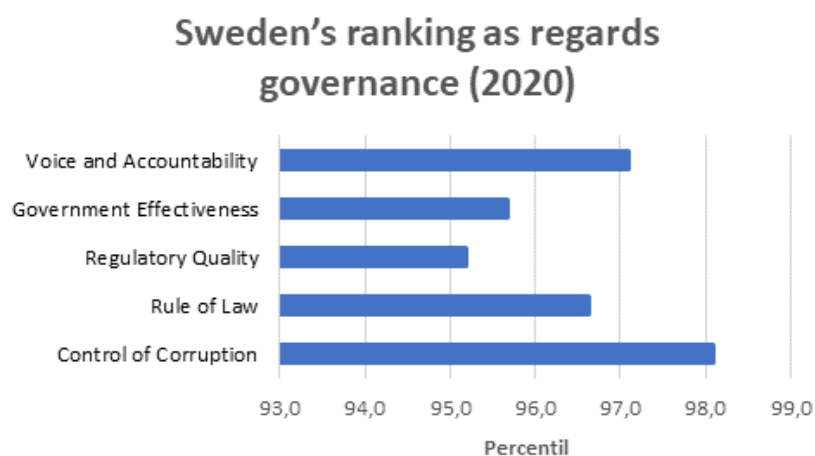


Figure 5. Sweden's ranking as regards governance. Source: [www.govindicators.org](http://www.govindicators.org)

## 7.7 Monitoring

There are 29 agencies responsible for public statistics in Sweden. One of the main reasons to have several responsible agencies is to improve user influence on the statistics. Several agencies collect statistics on forests, forestry, and forest industry, among others the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the Forest Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, Statistics Sweden, and the Swedish Energy Agency.

### 7.7.1 State of and changes in forests

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SUAS) is responsible for official statistics on current state of and changes in Sweden's forests. The basis for this is the annual inventory work made by SUAS through the National Forest Inventory and the Swedish Forest Soil Survey. The main purpose of the National Forest Inventory is to describe the state of and changes in Sweden's forests, including their health and vitality (see Figures 1 – 4). The information collected is used, for example, for follow-up and assessment of current forest-, environmental, and energy policy. The National Forest Inventory has been carried out since 1923. The Swedish Forest Soil Survey is a detailed inventory of the status of forest soils.

NILS (National Inventory of Landscapes in Sweden) is an umbrella for national environmental monitoring programs. The purpose of the inventories is to collect, analyze, and present data on what landscapes and habitat types look like in Sweden and change over time by means of field inventories and aerial photo interpretation of permanent sample plots in all types of terrestrial environments in the Swedish landscape. NILS is run by SUAS since 2003 on commission by the Environmental Protection Agency.

### 7.7.2 Environment, social issues, and production in forestry

The Forest Agency is responsible for official statistics in the fields of “production in forestry”, “employment in forestry”, and “environment and social issues in forestry”. The agency performs inventories as well as questionnaires and interviews to collect data regarding the forestry sector.

The system for follow-up of shown consideration is undergoing development. The purpose is to reduce the risk of subjective assessments being made and to build on the work of the forest sector's target scenarios for conservation action in forest management. During 2015 and 2017 field inventories were carried out according to a new method and in 2019 an evaluation was made that shows the need for further development.

The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for the environmental quality objectives “Thriving Wetlands”, “A Rich Diversity of Plant and Animal Life”, “Reduced Climate Impact”, as well as for follow-up of objectives regarding outdoor life.

### 7.7.3 Other areas of statistics

Statistics Sweden (SCB) is responsible for statistics on land use and nature protection. The statistic's purpose is to present nationwide information on land use for different purposes and how this has changed over time. Statistics on protected areas concerns, among other things, national parks, nature reserves, and areas under habitat protection. SCB also collect statistics on the industry's goods production and on foreign trade.

The Swedish Energy Agency is responsible for energy statistics, including use of bioenergy. Transport Analysis is the agency responsible for transport statistics. The Swedish Chemicals Agency collects statistics on quantity of pesticides being used in forestry and the forest industry. Statistics Sweden also collects statistics on the industrial production of goods and external trade. The Swedish Work Environment Authority collects information on occupational accidents and injuries.

## 7.8 Research and development

There is a long tradition of cooperation regarding research and development between public agencies and the forest sector. Research is carried out at several universities, colleges, and sector research bodies, often in collaboration with companies and organizations. Results and scientific findings are gradually implemented in the forestry sector.

## 8. The Swedish PEFC certification system

### 8.1 Organization

#### 8.1.1 PEFC Sweden economic association

PEFC Sweden is an economic association which organization is described in Figure 6. PEFC Sweden is, in accordance with its statutes, responsible for the development and operation of the certification scheme. To that end, the Board has adopted a standard setting procedure, including review of the Swedish PEFC-system (Appendix D). The PEFC-system shall be reviewed every fifth year.

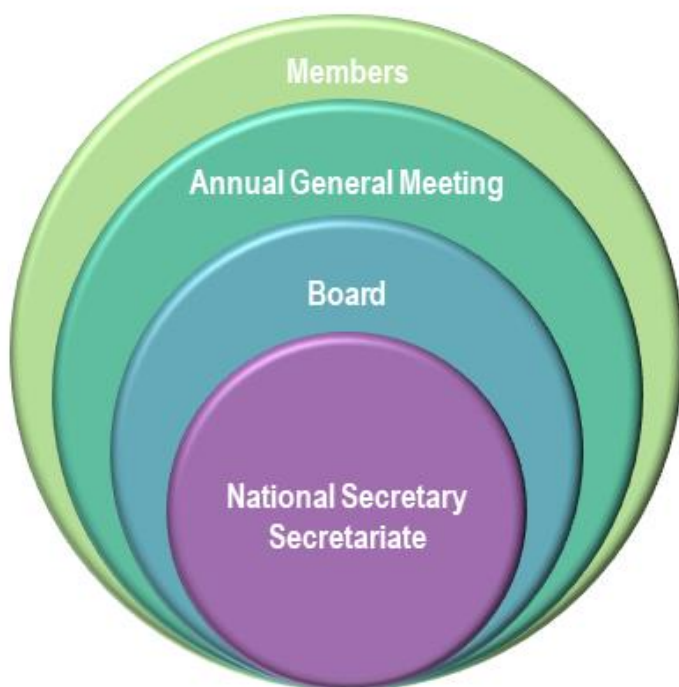


Figure 6. Organization of the PEFC Sweden economic association

#### 8.1.2 Accreditation

Certification bodies carrying out forestry, contractor -, or chain of custody certification shall be accredited by an internationally recognized accreditation body. Accreditation implies that the certification body's competence and procedures are verified. Swedac (agency belonging to the Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation) is the official accreditation body in Sweden.

#### 8.1.3 Certification bodies

PEFC is based on independent systems for accreditation and certification. Compliance with the PEFC-standard shall be audited by a third party, i.e., an independent, accredited certification body. At group certification, the certification body audits both the umbrella organization's own work and the implementation of the standard by the participants. Certification bodies shall be accredited by an acknowledged accreditation body and



notified by PEFC Sweden in accordance with *PEFC SWE 006 Notification of Certification Bodies*. Certification bodies issue certificates. The requirements that apply to certification bodies are described in *PEFC SWE 005 Certification Bodies*. Certification bodies may not participate in development of the PEFC-standard.

## 8.2 Implementation

The Swedish PEFC-system is based upon all stakeholders taking their share of the responsibility for application of the PEFC-standard. This means that forest owners, wood procurement organizations, and contractors are covered by applicable parts of the system. Subsequent chain-of-custody certification ensures that information about the PEFC-certification accompany through the entire value chain.



Figure 7. Overview of the PEFC-system from forest owner to market

### 8.2.1 Forestry certification

Forestry certification includes the requirements in *PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard* and applicable parts of *PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard*.

#### 8.2.1.1 Forestry certification of forest owners

The core of the Swedish PEFC certification system is *PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard* which specifies the requirements on forestry operations; how to ensure a long-term sustainable forest production, what type of environmental consideration that is to be shown, and what social considerations that are required from a PEFC-certified forestry. It falls upon the forest owner to comply with the requirements of the forestry standard.

#### 8.2.1.2 Forestry certification of wood procurement organizations

PEFC Sweden requires forestry certification of companies that, within the PEFC-system, are planning, leading, and implementing forestry measures, establishing forest management plans, and trading wood. For the trading of wood, a chain of custody certificate is also required.

### 8.2.2 Contractor certification

To facilitate for forest owners and wood procurement organizations to comply with the standard's requirements, PEFC Sweden requires contractor certification of forestry contractors. This means that the implementation of individual activities within the forest management may be delegated to certified contractors. Certification of forestry contractors is made in accordance with *PEFC SWE 003 Forestry Contractor Standard*.

### 8.2.3 Direct certification or group certification

Larger organizations are normally certified directly by a certification body. For forest owners, wood procurement organizations, and contractors, there is the possibility to associate with a group certification, where a central body, an umbrella organization, assists with expertise, administration, control, and follow-up of participants. A difference between a group-certificate and a direct-certificate is that the group consists of several actors and that the forest land is not under the same ownership. Depending on the type of certification, different requirements apply to management system and organization. Requirements on management system and organization are specified in *PEFC SWE 004 Direct Certification and Group Certification*.

PEFC Sweden's certification system is based on the application of management systems and therefore includes requirements for internal audits, which are the organization's own assessment of its compliance with specified requirements and handling of nonconformities.

### 8.2.4 Chain of custody certification

The PEFC-system includes a chain of custody standard to secure information on the origin of raw material. The chain of custody standard also specifies requirements for the certified company's management system and for working conditions for employees. Chain of custody certification within the framework of the PEFC Sweden's certification system is conducted in accordance with requirements specified in the international PEFC-standard *PEFC ST 2002:2020: Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements*<sup>6</sup>.

### 8.2.5 Trademark usage licenses

PEFC-certification together with trademark usage license provides the possibility to use PEFC's trademark and logotype on products, invoices, educational material, annual reports, brochures, etc. In Sweden, application for a trademark usage license is made to PEFC Sweden. Rules for how to use the trademark are described in the international PEFC-standard *PEFC ST 2001:2020 PEFC Trademark Usage Rules – Requirements*.

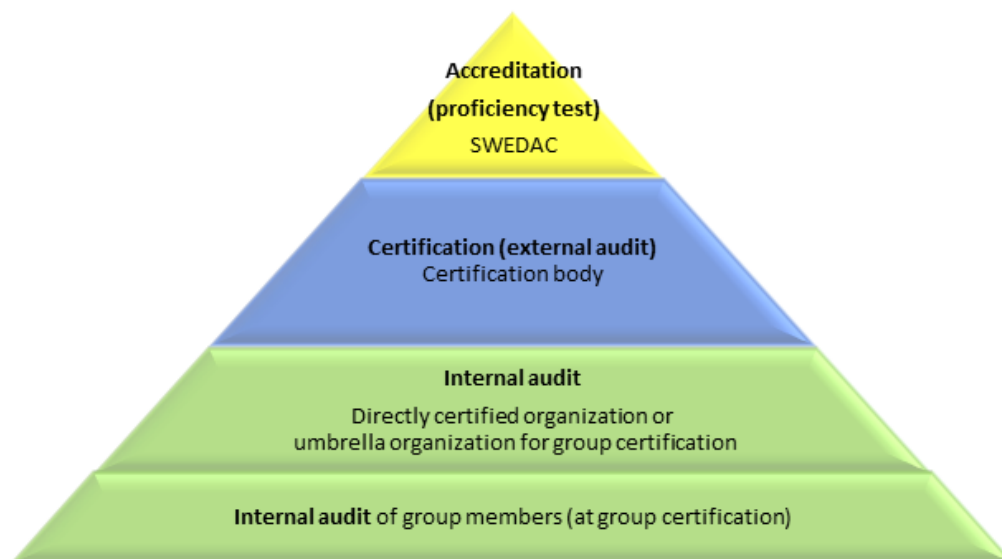


Figure 8. Auditing hierarchy for compliance with the PEFC-standard

<sup>6</sup> Applicable edition at the time of writing of this standard, for current edition is referred to [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

## 9. Exemptions from standard requirements

Any exemptions from the requirements specified in the Swedish PEFC-standard shall be examined by the Board of PEFC Sweden. Exemptions can only be allowed under special circumstances that severely obstruct the application of the standard. Exemptions decided upon shall be noted on PEFC Sweden's website ([www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se)).

## 10. Changed preconditions

New scientific knowledge or changed preconditions for the forestry sector may make certain elements of the standard outdated during the standard's period of validity. The Board of PEFC Sweden shall in that case evaluate the certification system and decide on appropriate action.

## 11. Swedish legislation

The PEFC-standard presupposes that applicable Swedish legislation is complied with. Appointed government agencies are responsible for supervision of law compliance. The PEFC-standard reproduces the contents of certain laws and provisions that are critical to certification, and which shall be part of auditing of compliance with the PEFC-system.

## 12. Publicity

PEFC Sweden supports the principle of making public all information that may be of interest to the forestry sector's external interests, where publicity of such information cannot negatively affect the business activities of the certified organization or forest owner. Information on issued certificates is searchable on PEFC International's website.

Certified organizations shall account for issued certificates, results from audits and, upon request, provide information on voluntary set-asides and, at group certification, on associated forest owners and contractors in accordance with the specifications in *PEFC SWE 004 Direct Certification and Group Certification*.

## 13. External views, complaints, and disputes

Improvements and identification of nonconformities to current requirements are two cornerstones of the Swedish PEFC-standard.

Certified companies/organizations, certification bodies and the accreditation body (Swedac) have routines in place to receive and handle external feedback and complaints. The PEFC Sweden economic association has the overall responsibility for correct and impartial handling of matters of dispute in connection with certification according to the Swedish PEFC-standard. Disputes that cannot be settled by the certification body or by Swedac are addressed to PEFC Sweden.

The decisions made by the accreditation body (Swedac), certification bodies or PEFC Sweden's dispute panel concerning complaints and/or settlement of disputes, must be observed by the PEFC Sweden economic association and by certified actors concerned.

### **13.1 Complaints on certified actors**

Complaints regarding issued certificates or usage of the PEFC-logotype are addressed to the holder of the certificate and/or concerned certification body.

### **13.2 Complaints on certification bodies**

Complaints regarding certification bodies, their competence or working modalities, are addressed to the accreditation body (Swedac).

### **13.3 Disputes**

Disputes concerning interpretation of PEFC-standard requirements and that cannot be settled by the certification body or accreditation body, are handled by a dispute panel which is established by the Board of PEFC Sweden.

The Board may transfer the matter of dispute to PEFC International when the issue concerns interpretation of documents established by PEFC International.

#### **13.3.1 Application for settlement of a dispute**

Disputes concerning interpretation of PEFC-requirements for forestry-, forestry contractor-, or chain of custody certification are addressed to the chairman of PEFC Sweden, which organizes a dispute panel in consultation with the disputing parties.

Before the matter may be subject to formal handling, the parties concerned shall demonstrate that they have tried to settle the dispute by themselves, with the help of appropriate external support if necessary. Request for help in dispute settlement shall be addressed to the chairman of PEFC Sweden in written form and include relevant documentation.

#### **13.3.2 Organization of PEFC Sweden's dispute panel**

PEFC's dispute panel shall be constituted by an independent chairman and two additional members with appropriate qualifications. The Board of PEFC Sweden economic association appoints as chairman of the dispute panel an independent lawyer with the appropriate qualifications. The disputing parties appoint one member each. The respective party bears the costs concerning his/her member and PEFC Sweden bears the costs concerning the chairman, unless otherwise agreed.

#### **13.3.3 The work of the dispute panel**

The chairman of the dispute panel is independently responsible for the panel's working modalities. If needed, expert opinions may be obtained from the PEFC's task forces, or other appropriate experts. The chairman of the dispute panel may, in consultation with the National Secretary of PEFC Sweden, and within reasonable limits, decide on costs for the work of the dispute panel as well as for any contributions by impartial experts.

Decisions made concerning such costs shall be notified to the Board of PEFC Sweden. Decisions made by the dispute panel may not be appealed against.

## Appendix A. ILO-conventions and recommendations

No. 87, Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention

No. 90, Equal Remuneration Recommendation

No. 98, Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention

No. 100, Equal Remuneration Convention

No. 105, Abolition of Forced Labour Convention

No. 111, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention

No. 135, Workers' Representatives Convention

No. 138, Minimum Age Convention

No. 146, Minimum Age Recommendation

No. 154, Collective Bargaining Convention

No. 155, Occupational Safety and Health Convention

No. 163, Collective Bargaining Recommendation



## Appendix B. Terms and definitions

<b>Accreditation</b> <i>(Sw. Ackreditering)</i>	Accreditation is a test of competence carried out in accordance with European and international standards. <b>Accreditation body</b> is the organization that performs the accreditation by continuously controlling that the accredited organization is qualified to conduct the tests, certification, and inspections for which it is accredited. An <b>accredited certification body</b> has routines and competence to carry out certification.
<b>Adaptive forest management</b> <i>(Sw. Adaptiv skogsskötsel)</i>	Adaptive forest management means that a selection of forest management measures may be tested and evaluated against both productive- and environmental aspects. Through collaboration, follow-up, and analysis, practical and experimental activities are combined. Based on achieved results, further management may be adapted and evaluated anew. Through this successive learning, new sustainable forest management methods are developed. This should be made in the long-term with respect to the long rotation- and response periods in forests. (Swedish Forest Agency, Meddelande 2013-3). See also <a href="#">Adaptivt skogsbruk – Skogforsk</a> .
<b>Ancient remain</b> <i>(Sw. Fornlämning)</i>	Remain from human activity in past times and that is permanently abandoned. The remain shall have come about before the year 1850.
<b>Biodiversity</b> <i>(Sw. Biodiversitet)</i>	Biological diversity. The total variation of life-forms within species, between species, between natural habitats and between ecosystems. Biodiversity can be reckoned in several different ways.
<b>Boreal zone</b> <i>(Sw. Boreal zon)</i>	The northern coniferous forest biome.
<b>Buffer zone</b> <i>(Sw. Skyddszon)</i>	Zone that is established in order to protect consideration-demanding habitats or to protect edge zones from e.g. incoming light.
<b>Certificate</b> <i>(Sw. Certifikat)</i>	A certificate that a product or service is produced or performed according to a specified standard. <b>Certification</b> is the process whereby an independent body examines that a product or service meets the requirements of a specified standard.
<b>Certification body</b> <i>(Sw. Certifieringsorganisation)</i>	Certification bodies audit companies and issue certificates.
<b>Chain of Custody</b> <i>(Sw. Chain of Custody)</i>	An organization's routines for handling of forest and tree-based products and information that relates to their material

	category, and to make correct and verifiable PEFC-claims ( <i>PEFC ST 2002 Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products</i> ). All steps in the value chain from forest to customer must be covered for the wood/product to be traded with PEFC-claims.
<b>Chain of Custody certificate</b> (Sw. <i>Spårbarhetscertifikat</i> )	See Chain of Custody
<b>Client</b> (Sw. <i>Beställare</i> )	Purchaser of forestry contractor services.
<b>Climate benefit</b> (Sw. <i>Klimatnytta</i> )	Forest and forestry may contribute to climate benefit in three ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through uptake and sequestering of carbon dioxide in growing forest,</li> <li>• through storage of carbon in wood-based products, and</li> <li>• through an increased use of wood-based products contribute to reduced use of fossil intensive products (substitution)</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation burning</b> (Sw. <i>Naturvårdsbränning</i> )	Burning on forest land – with a certain proportion of standing forest - for the purpose of creating suitable living conditions for fire-dependent species.
<b>Conservation tree</b> (Sw. <i>Naturvärdesträd</i> )	Trees with present, high conservation values that are retained at felling to become a part of the coming stand.
<b>Conservation values</b> (Sw. <i>Naturvärden</i> )	Conservation values consist of biologically valuable substrates, structures, and habitats as well as occurrence of species or groups of species that have been identified or are previously identified. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest with very high conservation values consists of areas obtaining the highest classification at conservation value assessment.</li> <li>• Forest with high conservation values have certain substrates, structures, or habitats, but do not qualify for the highest classification at conservation value assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation value assessment</b> (Sw. <i>Naturvärdesbedömning</i> )	Methodology to assess the area's prerequisites for biological diversity, as it is reflected in the occurrence of habitat characteristics and habitats important to the organisms.
<b>Continuous cover forestry</b> Sw. <i>Hyggesfritt</i>	National Forest Agency's definition, 2021: Continuous cover forestry on forest land with production goals means that the

	forest is managed so that the land is continuously tree-covered without the arising of any larger clear-felled areas.
<b>Contractor</b> (Sw. <i>Entreprenör</i> )	See Forestry contractor
<b>Controlled burning</b> (Sw. <i>Hyggesbränning</i> )	Burning after harvesting with the purpose to establish suitable conditions for regeneration or nature conservation.
<b>Cultural heritage stump</b> (Sw. <i>Kulturstubbe</i> )	Tree that are felled at breast height (1,3 m) to indicate cultural values or values for outdoor life and recreation.
<b>Dead wood</b> (Sw. <i>Död ved</i> )	Part of stems whose life-functions have ceased. Specified in the PEFC-standard as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older dead wood, wood from trees where no transportation of nutrients has taken place for at least one year</li> <li>• Fresh dead wood, wood from trees which still transport nutrients, or which has done so during the last year.</li> </ul>
<b>Dominance</b> (Sw. <i>Dominans</i> )	Dominance by one species or only a few species at a certain site. A stand is considered dominated by one tree species if that species constitutes more than 50% of the volume.
<b>Ecological landscape planning</b> (Sw. <i>Ekologisk landskapsplanering</i> )	Planning of activities and measures in a landscape with the objective to preserve and enhance the biological diversity in the landscape. A way to plan natural resource use to achieve certain ecological goals. Ecological landscape planning may particularly benefit species that migrate over a larger area than that of a typical stand. Applying a landscape ecological perspective implies that structures and habitats are preserved and created in the landscape in a sufficiently large number and with sufficient connectivity (reduced distance for spreading) so that organisms can survive and spread.
<b>Edge zone</b> (Sw. <i>Kantzön</i> )	Forested zone which borders adjacent land use classes. An edge zone may have a value in itself and also fill the function of a buffer zone.
<b>Enhanced consideration</b> (Sw. <i>Förstärkt hänsyn</i> )	Forest where timber production is an important objective but where high conservation values (>10 % of the area) requires more consideration than in PG-stands. Appropriate measures and conservation values worth protection shall be described in the certification-adapted forest management plan.

<b>Environmental classification</b> (Sw. <i>Miljöklass</i> )	The National Road Administration's environmental classification system for vehicle fuels: classes 1, 2 and 3 for diesel, and 1 and 2 for petrol. Lower classes are the more environmentally friendly.
<b>Environmental consideration</b> (Sw. <i>Miljöhänsyn</i> )	All consideration to conservation values, soil, water, cultural environment, outdoor life, and recreation in connection to forest management.
<b>Exotic tree species</b> (Sw. <i>Främmande trädarter</i> )	Tree species considered native species are defined by the Forest Agency. All others are considered exotic species.
<b>External audit</b> (Sw. <i>Extern revision</i> )	See Third party audit
<b>External view</b> (Sw. <i>Extern synpunkt</i> )	View from an external stakeholder. Also includes communication on presumed nonconformities and possible other observations from another certified actor.
<b>Fire scars</b> (Sw. <i>Brandlyror</i> )	Fire-induced injury on tree stem that has survived previous forest fire.
<b>Forest Agency</b> (Sw. <i>Skogsstyrelsen, SKS</i> )	Public authority assigned the task of implementing the forest policy as laid down by the Swedish Parliament and Government. Important tasks are forestry advisory services, surveillance according to the Forestry Act and parts of the Environmental Code, certain forestry services, support in the field of nature conservation, as well as inventorial activities.
<b>Forest and forest land</b> (Sw. <i>Skog och skogsmark</i> )	Land within a continuous area where the trees have a height of more than five meters and where trees have a canopy cover of more than 10 percent or have the prerequisites to reach this height and canopy cover without any actions to increase productivity being taken. (Definition by the Swedish Forest Agency.)
<b>Forest management plan</b> (Sw. <i>Skogsbruksplan</i> )	A detailed description of a forest holding as a whole, as well as for each compartment of the holding and its structures. Each compartment shall be assigned a "forestry objective", indicating the future development of the compartment. As a forest management plan, the standard also counts differently labelled documents or registers which fulfill equivalent functions.
<b>Forest sector target scenarios</b> (Sw. <i>Skogssektorns målbilder</i> )	The forest sector's descriptive target scenarios for conservation actions in forest management.

<b>Forestry Act</b> (Sw. SVL)	The Swedish Forestry Act
<b>Forestry business</b> (Sw. Skogsbruksverksamhet)	Company/business, or part of company/business, that with own personnel is planning, leading, and/or performing forestry operations and/or planning.
<b>Forest certification</b> (Sw. Skogscertifiering)	System to ensure that forestry is practiced in accordance with a given standard.
<b>Forestry contractor</b> (Sw. Skogsentreprenör)	<p>Registered company which independently performs forestry-related commissions on behalf of forest owners and/or wood procurement organizations in accordance with a contract.</p> <p><b>Felling operations contractor</b> refers to a registered company which performs forest-related felling operations, e.g. thinning, final felling, and extraction of forest fuel, on forest land.</p> <p><b>Silvicultural contractor</b> refers to a registered company that performs silvicultural commissions, e.g. soil scarification, planting, pre-commercial thinning, or ditching, on forest land.</p> <p><b>Forest management planning contractor</b> refers to a registered company that performs forest management planning, planning, inventories, advice services, and/or other forestry measures of significance for compliance with PEFC requirements.</p>
<b>Forestry objective</b> (Sw. Målklass)	<p>Concept used in forest management planning. For each forest compartment, a forestry objective is assigned to guide the future development of that compartment. The following forestry objectives are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>PG</i> – production with general consideration</li> <li>• <i>K/PF</i> – multiple objectives, production with enhanced consideration</li> <li>• <i>NS</i> – area set aside for nature conservation where management is needed to preserve conservation values</li> <li>• <i>NO</i> – area set aside for nature conservation where no interventions are made</li> </ul> <p>See also Forest management plan</p>
<b>Forestry planner</b> (Sw. Skogsbruksplanläggare)	Personnel or contractor that establishes/updates forest management plans or perform fieldwork as a basis for forest management plans. The notion forestry planner does not cover personnel or contractor that are responsible for administration/up-dating of plan programs or existing plans

	(e.g. personnel with work tasks connected to own forest holding or contracted forest managers).
<b>Formally protected areas</b> (Sw. <i>Områden med formellt skydd</i> )	Formally protected areas are nature reserves, habitat protection, nature conservation agreements, and Natura 2000.
<b>GMO</b> (Sw. <i>GMO</i> )	Organism with genetically modified genes.
<b>Group certification</b> (Sw. <i>Gruppcertifiering</i> )	Certification of a group of forest owners/wood procurement organizations or forestry contractors through a so-called umbrella organization.
<b>Habitat protection areas</b> (Sw. <i>Biotopskyddsområden</i> )	An area set aside by the Swedish Forest Agency on private land for the purpose of protecting the natural habitat of threatened species of plants or animals. The area is referred to one of 18 nature types, listed by the Forest Agency. The landowner is economically compensated.
<b>Hemi boreal zone</b> (Sw. <i>Hemiboreal zon</i> )	The southern coniferous forest biome.
<b>High conservation values</b> (Sw. <i>Höga naturvärden</i> )	See conservation values
<b>High stumps</b> (Sw. <i>Högstubbar</i> )	High tree stumps retained deliberately at felling for conservation purposes. High stumps are created from trees that are not conservation trees and shall be at least 3 m of height.
<b>ILO</b> (Sw. <i>ILO</i> )	International Labour Organization. Independent body within the UN-system.
<b>Internal audit</b> (Sw. <i>Intern revision</i> )	The organization's own examination of compliance with the standard (first party audit). May be carried out by own personnel or contracted resource. The organization defines criteria and scope for the audit, appoints auditors, and conducts the audit in a way that ensures objectivity and independence of the auditing process.
<b>K/PF</b> (Sw. <i>K/PF</i> )	See Forestry objectives
<b>Key habitat</b> (Sw. <i>Nyckelbiotop</i> )	A key habitat is a forest area which, based on a comprehensive assessment of the habitat's structures, content of species, history, and physical environment today is of great significance to the forest's flora and fauna. It contains, or may be expected

	to contain, red-listed species. The concept is the highest conservation value classification according to the Forest Agency's methodology for assessing conservation values.
<b>Landscape ecological perspective</b> (Sw. <i>Landskapsekologiskt perspektiv</i> )	See Ecological landscape planning
<b>Landscape ecological planning</b> (Sw. <i>Landskapsekologisk planering</i> )	See Ecological landscape planning
<b>Larger forest owner</b> (Sw. <i>Större skogsägare</i> )	Larger forest owner refers in this standard to forest owners with $\geq 5\,000$ hectares of productive forest land. Smaller forest owners refer to forest owners with less than 5 000 hectares of productive forest land.
<b>Logging</b> (Sw. <i>Drivning</i> )	Felling and extraction of roundwood.
<b>Low-productive land</b> (Sw. <i>Impediment</i> )	Forest land with a timber-productive capacity of less than one forest cubic meter per hectare and year.
<b>Low-productive forest land</b> (Sw. <i>Skoglga impediment</i> )	See low-productive land
<b>Management system</b> (Sw. <i>Ledningssystem</i> )	A system of routines to govern the activities of an organization.
<b>Map/map material</b> (Sw. <i>Karta/kartmaterial</i> )	Geographic information with for the purpose necessary information, may be in different forms and media e.g. paper map or in electronic form.
<b>Melampsora rust</b> (Sw. <i>Knäckesjuka</i> )	A disease affecting pine trees caused by a fungus that is hosted alternately by aspen and pine. The annual shoots of the pine tree become deformed or break off.
<b>Mesic forest soil</b> (Sw. <i>Frisk skogsmark</i> )	Forest land with a good supply of water, groundwater at a depth of 1-2 m below the ground.
<b>Moist forest soils</b> (Sw. <i>Fuktig skogsmark</i> )	Forest land having an abundant supply of water, groundwater at a depth of less than 1 m below the ground.
<b>Natural regeneration</b> (Sw. <i>Naturlig föryngring</i> )	Regeneration by natural seeding (or sprouting).



<b>Nature conservation agreement</b> (Sw. <i>Naturvårdsavtal</i> )	Civil agreement between the Swedish Forest Agency and a forest owner concerning nature conservation in forest.
<b>Nemoral zone</b> (Sw. <i>Nemoral zon</i> )	The deciduous forest region.
<b>NO</b> (Sw. <i>NO</i> )	See forestry objective
<b>NS</b> (Sw. <i>NS</i> )	See forestry objective
<b>Other cultural heritage site</b> (Sw. <i>Övrig kulturhistorisk lämning</i> )	Relic from human activity in past times and that is permanently abandoned. The relic has come about after the year 1850. Other cultural heritage sites are encompassed by the rules on consideration of §30 Forestry Act, and its general advice.
<b>Participant</b> Sw. <i>Gruppmedlem</i> <i>Note to translation: Is also referred to as affiliated members or just affiliates</i>	Refers to forest owner/contractor or wood procurement organization affiliated to a group certificate. Affiliated members have, by agreement with the umbrella organization, the responsibility to observe the requirements of the PEFC-standard and to undergo audits in accordance with routines described by the umbrella organization.
<b>“Pearls of the forest”</b> (Sw. <i>“Skogens pärlor”</i> )	A geographical record, available on the Forest Agency’s website, on valuable natural- and cultural environments, for example those other cultural heritage sites that have been registered during the so called “Forest- and history” inventories.
<b>PEFC</b> (Sw. <i>PEFC</i> )	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (formerly, the Pan-European Forest Certification). An international forest-certification scheme with the objective of, allowing for appropriate national adjustments, developing a sustainable forestry that strikes a balance between timber production, environment, and social interests. The scheme shall guarantee a buyer of wood products that the products are derived from forestry that is, and will continue to be, economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable.
<b>PEFC Sweden</b> (Sw. <i>Svenska PEFC</i> )	Economic association that manages the Swedish PEFC-standard.
<b>Permanent employment</b> (Sw. <i>Tillsvidareanställning</i> )	Form of employment according to existing collective agreement.

<b>PF</b> (Sw. PF)	See Forestry objective
<b>PG</b> (Sw. PF)	See Forestry objective
<b>Potential conservation tree</b> (Sw. Utvecklingsträd)	Potential conservation trees are living ordinary trees, representative of the stand, which are retained at harvesting to develop into conservation trees during the coming rotation period.
<b>Precautionary ditching</b> (Sw. Skyddsdikning)	Ditching after final felling to prevent an unacceptable increase in the groundwater level.
<b>Producer of forest management plans</b> (Sw. Planproducent)	Company which delivers a complete forest management plan to the client.
<b>Productive forest land</b> (Sw. Produktiv skogsmark)	Forest land with a productive capacity of more than one forest cubic metre per hectare and year.
<b>Record of cultural remains (FMIS)</b> (Sw. FMIS)	The Swedish National Heritage Board's record of ancient and historical remains (available via <i>Fornsök</i> )
<b>Red-listed species</b> (Sw. Rödlistade arter)	Species categorized as threatened or near threatened on the National Environment Protection Agency's official list (the Swedish Red List).
<b>Regelrätt skogsbruk</b> (Sw. Regelrätt skogsbruk)	A web-based service which provides a compilation of the laws and regulations affecting forestry.
<b>Regeneration felling</b> (Sw. Föryngringsavverkning)	Felling of trees in order to establish new forest by means of artificial- or natural regeneration.
<b>Regeneration material</b> (Sw. Föryngringsmaterial)	Seeds and plants for new establishment of forest.
<b>Self-assessment</b> (Sw. Egenkontroll)	Self-assessment implies that operators shall check on their own that their business comply with stipulated requirements, and if needed, correct any identified shortcomings.
<b>Site with conservation values</b>	Site with structures and substates judged to provide a good basis for valuable biodiversity.

<i>(Sw. Objekt med naturvärden)</i>	
<b>Site-adapted</b> <i>(Sw. Ståndortsanpassad)</i>	Methods and selection of tree species that are adapted to variations in soil conditions, also within smaller areas.
<b>Site-specific work instruction</b> <i>(Sw. Traktdirektiv)</i>	Working instruction handed over to the forestry contractor or employee in connection to commissions regarding operations on forest land.
<b>Social consideration</b> <i>(Sw. Social hänsyn)</i>	Requirements for work environment and skills development of staff in the forest, requirements for public access to forest land and promotion of rural development, as well as cultural environment values.
<b>Soil scarification</b> <i>(Sw. Markberedning)</i>	Treatment of the soil with the purpose to expose mineral soil prior to regeneration with seeds or plants.
<b>SS 155434:2020</b>	Full name: SS 155434:2020 Hydraulic fluids – Technical requirements, environmental properties, and test methods ( <i>Sw: Hydraulvätskor – Tekniska krav, miljöegenskaper och provningsmetoder</i> )
<b>SS 155461:2017</b>	Full name: SS 155461:2017 Motor fuels - Special gasoline for powered implements ( <i>Sw: Motorbränslen – specialbensin för motordrivna arbetsredskap</i> )
<b>SS 155470:2020</b>	Full name: SS 155470:2020 Lubricants, industrial oils and related products – Class L – Specifications for family X (Greases) ( <i>Sw: Smörjmedel, industrioljor och liknande produkter - Klass L – Specifikationer för familj X (Smörjfett)</i> )
<b>Sub-contractor</b> <i>(Sw. Underentreprenör)</i>	Forestry contractor that is hired by another forestry contractor.
<b>Substrate</b> <i>(Sw. Substrat)</i>	The material in which organisms grow.
<b>Swedac</b> <i>(Sw. Swedac)</i>	The board for accreditation and technical control. Public authority reporting to the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.
<b>SYN</b> <i>(Sw. SYN)</i>	<i>Skogsbrukets yrkesnämnd</i> (Commission for forest sector vocational training). A joint committee responsible for further education of employees in the forest sector.

<b>TD</b> (Sw. TD)	Technical Document. The present complete Swedish PEFC-standard is referred to as TD V since it is the fifth revised standard since the start.
<b>Temporary employment</b> (Sw. Visstidsanställning)	An employment running between fixed dates for start and ending or during one season (according to current collective agreement).
<b>Third party audit</b> (Sw. Tredjepartsrevision)	Control of certified organizations' compliance with the standard by an accredited independent auditor.
<b>Third party certification</b> (Sw. Tredjepartscertifiering)	Certification conducted by an external independent certification body.
<b>Tree-covered low-productive land</b> (Sw. Trädbeklätt impediment)	Forest land producing less than 1 forest cubic metre per hectare and year but where the trees may reach more than 5 meters height and have a crown density of 10% or more.
<b>Umbrella organization</b> (Sw. Paraplyorganisation) <i>Note to translation:</i> Corresponds to "group entity"	Certified organization that concludes a certification contract with forest owners, contractors, and wood procurement organizations in group. The term "umbrella organization" refers in this standard to the organization that administers the group certification. When referring to both the administration and its affiliated members, the notion "umbrella organization and its members" is used.
<b>Under the same ownership</b> (Sw. Enhetligt ägande)	Forest holding that has the same ownership structure, independent of ownership shares.
<b>Very high conservation values</b> (Sw. Mycket höga naturvärden)	See conservation values
<b>Wetland</b> (Sw. Våtmark)	Land that is water-saturated during a major part of the year.
<b>Wood procurement organization</b> (Sw. Avverkningsorganisation)	Company which trades roundwood, and on behalf of forest owners plans or implements operations of significance for compliance with the PEFC-standard. The commissions include e.g. establishment of forest management plans, planning, and implementation of forest management measures.

## Appendix C. Policy for balancing the interests of forestry and reindeer husbandry

### 1. Background

PEFC is based on the Rio Declaration/principles (UNCED 1992) for sustainable forest management (SFM) with balance between economic, environmental, and social interests. These principles have been further elaborated by the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), now Forest Europe, and by similar processes in other parts of the world, which constitute the platform for all national PEFC systems. Reindeer husbandry shall, in the context of sustainable forest management, be defined as an important sector for the interior of northern Sweden regarding the overall goals for economic, environmental, and social interests.

In Sweden, forestry and reindeer husbandry are practiced on the same land. Both sectors are, in different ways, of great importance to the regional and local development in the northern parts of Sweden. The reindeer herding area encompasses around 40% of Sweden's land surface, independent of landowner category. Forestry is practiced within the reindeer herding area both by privately and publicly owned companies and others (large scale forestry), and by approximately 50 000 individual smaller private forest owners (family forestry). Reindeer herding is practiced by 51 Sami communities within the reindeer herding area.

### 2. Purpose

This policy defines how dialogue and collaboration between the parties involved shall take place, according to the PEFC Sweden, to maintain a sound balance between forestry and reindeer husbandry. The different considerations made in Sweden regarding the legal, customary, and traditional rights, as specified in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, have guided the elaboration of this policy. The purpose is to develop procedures for appropriate consideration in sustainable forest management to meet the interests of reindeer husbandry, including free and informed consent through regional and local dialogue and collaboration based on mutual respect. This policy does not deal with issues relating to hunting and fishing rights on the forest property. All forest owners who are certified in accordance with the Swedish PEFC system shall observe this policy.

### 3. Boundaries and areas for reindeer herding in wintertime

The boundaries that apply to year-round pastureland are defined in the Swedish Reindeer Herding Act. The boundaries for winter-time pasture areas are based on Swedish common law. In some areas of the counties Dalarna, Härjedalen and Norrbotten, the boundaries for reindeer herding rights have been determined by means of judicial decisions.

In February 2006, a Government Commission for determining the boundaries for reindeer herding presented a proposal for different kinds of boundaries entitled "The Sami people's common law grounds" (*Samernas sedvanemarker*, SOU 2006:14). The Swedish PEFC system has taken the proposed boundaries for wintertime grazing into account. However, both parties shall have the right to call for judicial review of these boundaries. In areas with "less probable right of reindeer herding", the Swedish PEFC system does not lay down specific certification requirements for forest management regarding reindeer herding.

Practical rules for interpretation and application in the Swedish PEFC system are provided in 3.1 - 3.2 below, in line with boundary proposal in SOU 2006:14.

### **3.1 Areas with proven or probable reindeer herding rights (SOU 2006:14)**

Within areas with proven or probable reindeer herding rights all rules and criteria in this policy shall apply in all respects.

If such areas are converted by judicial decisions or changed by parliamentary resolutions into the category without reindeer herding rights, the certified forest owner shall be open to observe the rules and criteria in this policy within the framework of herding agreements. Such herding agreements presuppose that the forest owner will be fully compensated by the affected Sami community or by the State for land use and for any damages made to the forest.

### **3.2 Areas without reindeer herding rights (SOU 2006:14)**

In the counties of Dalarna, Härjedalen and Norrbotten there are areas that have been determined by judicial decision to be without reindeer herding rights. In these areas, certified forest owners shall be open to sign reindeer herding agreements including the right to agreed compensation for land use and forest damages. Such compensation shall be paid by the affected Sami community or by the State.

## **4. Consideration to the interests of reindeer husbandry**

In areas defined under paragraph 3.1, consideration is shown which, as far as possible, is based on the priorities laid down in reindeer herding plans from the Sami communities concerned.

Consideration for Sami cultural values applies in all its aspects according to the general rules and criteria for conservation of and consideration for cultural remains etc.

The following consideration shall be shown, object by object, where applicable (requirements according to *PEFC SWE 002 Forestry Standard*):

- 3.8.1 Consultation within the year-round pastureland shall be made in accordance with the forestry legislation.
- 3.8.2 In areas with proven or probable right of reindeer herding (according to SOU 2006:14), the following consideration shall be shown, object by object.
  - On lichen and lichen-rich vegetation types, gentle soil scarification techniques shall be carried out in such a way that forest regeneration is secured while soil impact is minimized.
  - In forest stands with important occurrence of hanging lichens, site adapted regeneration felling shall be practiced and edge zones rich in hanging lichens shall be preserved along water courses and mires as well as groups of trees with hanging lichens.
  - Forest fertilization shall not be carried out in stands of lichen, lichen-rich, and dry dwarf shrubs with strains of lichen, if not otherwise agreed in connection to consultation in accordance with §20 and §31 the Forestry Act.

- Prescribed burning shall not be carried out on land of the types lichen and lichen-rich and which are important from the point of view of reindeer herding, if not otherwise agreed in connection to consultation in accordance with §20 and §31 the Forestry Act.
- Special consideration at felling shall be shown to migration tracks, places for rounding up and sorting of reindeer herds, and sites used for grazing reindeers during migration, so that the function of these sites are not unnecessarily impaired.
- The above consideration shall be shown without current land use being substantially impeded in the affected part of the forest holding (stand or equivalent).

## 5. Regional and local dialogue and collaboration

The Swedish PEFC system supports the principle of regional and local dialogue and collaboration between the sectors of reindeer husbandry and forestry, with the purpose of developing appropriate consideration in a sustainable forest management. This means to overall deliberate and seek consensus on principles and strategies, where consideration to the needs and prerequisites of each sector, as well as the different conditions of large-scale forestry and family forestry, form an important basis.

The Swedish PEFC system has identified long-term regional and local dialogue and collaboration as key to achieving a sound balance between the forestry and reindeer husbandry interests. The family forestry through the Swedish Federation of Forest Owners (Federation of Swedish Farmers, *Norra Skogsägarna*, *Skogsägarna Norrskog*, and *Skogsägarna Mellanskog*) and the reindeer husbandry sector through the Swedish Sami National Association, work on basis of the principle of mutual respect and a common holistic view on the relation between the sectors. The model for regional and local collaboration between family forestry and reindeer herding is founded on the jointly gained experiences from previous agreements on contact and collaboration, the dialogue project jointly implemented during 2001-04 where the main purpose was to increase knowledge about each other's sectors, the pilot project on method development implemented in Jämtland during 2013-14, and the letter of intent signed in 2016-04-29 by the Swedish Federation of Forest Owners and the Swedish Sami National Association. The ongoing work aims at promoting a positive development for both sectors regarding the usage of the same land areas, by continuously developing the methods for dialogue between the sectors. Collaboration between reindeer husbandry and family forestry is also important to employment and infrastructure as well as the development of both sectors in the interior of northern Sweden.

The directly certified forest owners concerned and umbrella organizations within the Swedish PEFC are responsible for jointly inviting to dialogue and collaboration and then act in accordance with the agreements reached.

## 6. Disputes

The Swedish PEFC shall handle any disputes between the forestry and reindeer husbandry interests after receiving notice from either party or from the two parties jointly. This shall be done in accordance with established rules in PEFC SWE 001.



## Appendix D. Swedish PEFC standard-setting procedures

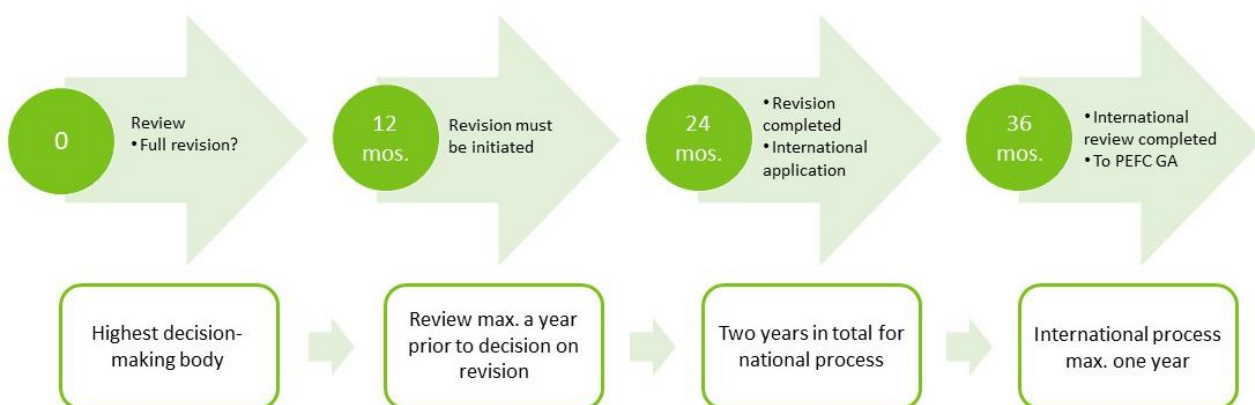
Stakeholders may at any time provide feedback on this Appendix to the secretariate of the PEFC Sweden.

### 1. Introduction

PEFC's national standard-setting process is guided by the international reference standard PEFC ST 1001:2017 Standard-setting. PEFC ST 1001 is based on ISO/IEC Guide 59 and ISO/IEC Guide 2 and includes, i.a., the requirement that the national organizations responsible for development of PEFC's forestry- and chain-of-custody standards shall develop their own written procedures in accordance with the reference standard. This procedure shall be publicly available and in the standard revision process, anyone shall have the possibility to give feedback on the procedure and the process.

### 2. Review

The PEFC Sweden general assembly is responsible for initiating the review of the forest standard within 5 years from the approval of the previous standard (as of the date of decision by the Swedish board). At review of the standard, the stakeholder identification mapping shall be updated. The review shall include a GAP-analysis against any new PEFC-standards, other regulations, and legislation. The owner of the standard shall consider new research and knowledge and relevant emerging issues. Received feedback on applicable standard that have been collected via meetings and through the feedback mechanism on the website shall be considered in the review. The review may result in a need for revision (of greater or lesser scope) or that the standard is not in need of revision. If the conclusion is that the standard is not in need of revision, the stakeholders shall be consulted to capture other needs of revision of the standard. This consultation may be either through public consultation at [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se) for at least 30 days, and/or through stakeholder meetings. Stakeholders shall be given a reasonable time to be able to either provide feedback in the public consultation or participate in meeting. Figure 9 provides an overview of the complete review- and revision process. It is possible to take a decision on revision directly without a separate review process.



**Figure 9.** Overview of the process for review and revision of a national PEFC-system.

## 2.1 Editorial and time-critical revisions

Editorial and time-critical revisions shall follow the requirements in PEFC international benchmark standard PEFC ST 1001:2017. If needed the requirements are implemented taking into account the conditions in Sweden and the revision at hand.

## 3. Mechanism for collection of feedback

To enable collection of feedback on the standard, both during implementation and in connection with review and revision, a permanent feedback mechanism for this purpose shall be set up at the PEFC Sweden's website.

Feedback on the standard that is received during its period of validity at meetings, trainings, and contacts, is collected and recorded by the PEFC-secretariate.

## 4. Revision of the standard

### 4.1 Stakeholder identification mapping

Members and non-members, as defined in §4 in the statutes of the PEFC Sweden, with an interest in promoting forest certification according to the PEFC-system, shall have the possibility to participate in the Standard Working group:

- I. Forestry including transports of roundwood to industry/terminal
- II. Wood processing including distribution and trade in forest products in the value chain up to consumer
- III. Organizations for social, environmental, and cultural interests, linked to sustainable forest management

The nine different stakeholder groups that are identified in Agenda 21 shall be considered in the stakeholder identification mapping. As a minimum, the following shall be included:

- Forest owners
- Business and industry
- Indigenous peoples
- Non-governmental organizations
- Scientific- and technological community
- Workers and trade unions

A stakeholder identification mapping shall be made that identifies the sectors that are relevant and why, likely key-issues for each sector shall be defined as well as which means of communication would be best to reach them. The mapping shall also identify if any stakeholder is disadvantaged.

### 4.2 Invitation to standard revision

A general invitation to identified organized stakeholders shall be published on the web: [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se). The members of PEFC Sweden shall be invited by mail/e-mail. Invitation letter/e-mail shall also be sent to stakeholders with specific interests/competencies for the standard revision, including national environmental- and Sami organizations. The invitations shall be made at least three weeks in advance of the first meeting with

the Standard Working group. The invitation shall include information on the possibilities for stakeholders to participate in the process, purpose, scope, time-plan, and the different steps in the standard revision process. The invitation shall also include the standard revision procedure (or a link to it) and information on the possibility to provide feedback on the procedure, the scope, and the process. The invitation shall also include an invitation to the stakeholders to nominate representatives. The information and the invitations shall be publicly available on the website of the standard revision. PEFC Sweden shall identify any barriers or constraints to stakeholders to participate in the revision and work to remedy those constraints.

PEFC Sweden shall establish goals for participation in the standard-setting process.

Apart from the general and the specific invitations – at least three weeks in advance of the establishment of the Standard Working group – day, time, and location for the first Standard Working group shall be announced on the internet: [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se).

In addition to the stakeholders mentioned above, experts (scientists and other experts) shall be invited to contribute with their expertise.

### **4.3 The work of the Standard Working group**

The Standard Working group shall invite the stakeholders to open seminars to discuss the standard-setting process as well as offer interested parties to take part in the task forces.

The Standard Working group shall arrange a series of seminars (either in connection with the Standard Working group's regular meetings or under separate arrangements) where invited scientists and other experts give presentations on research areas of relevance to the standard.

#### **4.3.1 Establishment of a Standard Working group**

In an open seminar, the proposed procedures and preconditions provided by the board of PEFC Sweden shall be presented and discussed.

The first task for the Working group is to constitute and appoint a board for the Working group, consisting of 9 individuals including a chairperson.

The Working group shall appoint task forces responsible for handling parts of the standard or specific subject matters. The task forces shall develop proposals that are submitted to the Working group. When appointing members of task forces, a single stakeholder should not be represented by more than one person. The size of the task forces should be limited to 8 - 12 participants. Acceptance or denial of nominations shall be possible to motivate in relation to the requirement for balanced representation in the working group/committee and available resources for standard-setting.

The proposal below on task forces may serve as a point of departure.

- Production & environment for the forest- and environmental standard
- Social issues and the contractor standard
- Overall structural issues and other parts of the standard

#### **4.3.2 First draft and general consultation**

The Working group shall organize an open seminar to present and discuss the first standard draft which shall be published on the web [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se) for general consultation.

#### **4.3.3 Outcome of general consultation**

The Working group shall organize an open seminar to present and discuss the outcome of the general consultation on the web.

#### **4.3.4 Hearing with public agencies**

The Working group shall, towards the end of its work, organize a special hearing with relevant public agencies (e.g. the Forest Agency, the National Heritage Board, the Civil Contingencies Agency, the Agency for Marine and Water Management, and the Work Environment Authority) in order to value the final draft vis-à-vis policies, laws and ordinances.

#### **4.3.5 Public consultation**

The Working group shall arrange an open seminar to agree on the proposal for forest standard. The proposal for forest standard shall be clearly announced and be available on [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se) for at least 60 days together with an invitation to provide feedback and suggestions for improvements. The start and end dates of the consultation shall be clearly specified in the announcement. It is also of special importance that key-stakeholders and stakeholders that have chosen not to participate, are informed about the consultation.

#### **4.3.6 Approval of standard proposal**

A synopsis of received comments regarding substantial issues shall be addressed by the Working group. The received feedback and the outcome of their treatment in the Working group shall be made available on [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se). Those who provided feedback shall be informed about how their feedback was addressed.

Once the Working group has reached consensus, the standard is formally handed over to the Board of PEFC Sweden for further handling within the PEFC system.

#### **4.3.7 The approved standard**

When the Board has received the standard proposal approved by the Working group, the documents shall be published in an appropriate way and be made publicly available. This shall be made on the date of application at the latest.

The Board of PEFC Sweden shall decide on date of application and date for end of transition period for the revised standard.

- The period from publication of the standard until application date shall not exceed one year. This period is needed for approval of revised standards, to introduce changes, and for information dissemination and training.
- The transition period shall not exceed one year, except from during justified exceptional circumstances when implementation of revised standards requires a longer period.

#### 4.4 Rules of procedure for task forces

The task forces shall be organized in an open and transparent manner where:

- Working drafts shall be available to all members of the task force
- All members of the task force shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the working drafts
- Comments and views from all members of the task force/working group shall be considered in an open and transparent manner and decisions as well as proposed changes shall be recorded
- The task force appoints a chairperson in common within the task force
- The task force is responsible for planning the work so that the common schedules for completion of drafts and proposal for final standard are respected
- The task force shall in good time before the working group meeting inform the board of the working group about any problems with meeting the schedule or if there are issues where consensus cannot be reached within the group.

#### 4.5 Balanced representation and decision-making procedures

The standard revision and formation of task forces and working group shall strive for balance regarding gender and organization. No interest shall dominate or be dominated in the Working group.

The stakeholders of the Working group shall reach consensus on the decision to recommend the final proposal for formal approval. To reach consensus, the Working group may use the following alternative procedures to find out whether there are any differences of opinion:

- discussions and negotiations
- a face-to-face meeting with verbal yes/no voting, show of hands for yes/no voting; a statement on consensus from the chairperson where no dissenting opinions are announced (verbally or by show of hands); a formal closed voting procedure, etc.
- a meeting via telephone conference with verbal yes/no voting,
- a meeting via e-mail where request for agreement or objection are addressed to the members and where members provide a written response (instead of voting), or
- combinations of these.

If consensus cannot be reached among all individual Working group participants, the stakeholder organizations shall be grouped in the following three categories and appoint one spokes-person per organization:

**I. Forestry:** e.g., Forest owners, Forest owners' associations, The Federation of Swedish Forest Owners, Larger forest owners, a joint committee for the Church's forests, and Forestry contractor organizations.

**II. Wood processing:** e.g., Regional sawmill associations, The Swedish Sawmill Federation, the Association of Swedish Forest Industries, Large forest or forest industry companies which are not represented by any trade organization, National trade organizations involved in wood processing and sale of wood, other national trade associations with operations in primary wood processing and forest energy.

**III. Organizations representing social-, environmental-, and cultural interests linked to sustainable forest management:** e.g., National environmental organizations, Swedish trade unions representing forestry and forest industries, National organizations connected to forests and forestry in hunting, recreation, outdoor life,

sports, local folklore and the cultural history, The Swedish Association of Local Authorities, and the Association of Country Councils, and others.

- The Board of the PEFC Sweden shall decide which category a Working group organization belongs to. The stakeholder organization shall appoint its own spokesperson.
- The decision-making process shall reach consensus, including the appeal and complaint procedures under paragraph 8.
- To enable a broad participation of experts and scientists, and respect their independence and integrity, these shall not belong to any of the I-III categories or decide/vote on the standard proposal but shall contribute to the standard-setting by giving advice.

#### **4.6 Adjustment Covid-pandemic**

Due to the prevailing situation/situation that will prevail, at least during the initial phase of the revision, the following workflow shall apply:

- When registering for participation in the standard-setting process, each organization is requested to report which issues it considers important in the revision.
- PEFC's secretariate and Board propose, based on the registrations for the Working group, a board of 8 persons (9 including the chairman appointed by the Working group).
- PEFC's secretariate and Board propose themes for task forces at the first Working group. Participating organizations are given one week to register participants to the groups. The size of the working-groups is limited to a maximum of one participant per organization and a total of maximum 10 persons. Appointment of groups are confirmed by the Working group's board.

## **5. Pilot testing**

New elements of the standard that are taken into consideration by the Working group, and that are not well known and up to now practiced, shall be practically tested in the field. Criteria and indicators that the Working group preliminarily agrees on and wishes to include, but which are new and difficult to define to certified organizations/ companies or certifiers, shall also be tested in the field. Such practical tests shall be documented at [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se) and experiences gained shall be included in the final standard.

## **6. Documentation**

The Working group meetings shall be documented and published on the web [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se). Received comments during the standard setting process - before and after the draft is presented - shall be documented. Received letters and verbal comments by phone or live shall be summarized. All comments shall be presented to the Working group, discussed, and taken into consideration. When such proposals improve the criteria or indicators, they shall be included in the standard. All received comments shall be documented. Other documentation to retain is the GAP analysis, invited stakeholders, participants in the Working group and task forces and draft standards.

All documentation shall be kept until after the next-coming revision of the standard.

A development report shall be published on the website along with the approved standard.

## 7. Openness and transparency

The Working group's activities shall be currently documented at [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se), in Swedish. The drafts to Forest standard shall be translated into English and documented on the web, [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se).

The Working group shall make the procedures for the standard-setting process publicly available via [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se). This includes information on objectives, scope, and the different stages of the standard-setting process and its schedule. The Working group shall before and during the process consider feedback from the stakeholders and be prepared to review the standard-setting procedures.

The complete standard-setting process shall be summarized in a public report in English and published on [www.pefc.se](http://www.pefc.se) and is part of the documentation that is submitted in the international application.

## 8. Appeal and complaint procedures

During the standard-setting process, the Working group shall, via its board, aim for total consensus of the entire group. The group may however initially disagree. This may be the case for in the Working group internally raised matters, or for external ideas and proposals. In such cases, the appeal- and complaint procedure shall be initiated by the board of the Working group.

When a complaint has been received, the Working group shall, via its board:

- a) confirm receipt of the complaint to the complainant
- b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint, evaluate the subject matter of the complaint in an impartial and objective manner, and decide on the complaint, and
- c) formally, within three months, inform the complainant about the decision made on the complaint and its handling.

The first step in the appeal process shall be to appoint an independent person from outside the Working group, well informed on the matter under dispute. Such a person shall bring in the necessary external expertise and together with the disagreeing in the Working group, form a working group to settle the dispute. In case the working group proposal for settlement is not reaching consensus in the Working group, it shall vote by category (I-III), one vote per organization. The majority in each category (I-III) shall form the opinion of the category. If all three categories agree, the result is the Working group's agreement. If two categories agree and one disagrees, the board of the Working group shall appoint an arbitration board of three persons which shall consider whether prerequisites for PEFC interpretation of consensus (ISO) have been met and settle the dispute or send it back to the Working group.

If the character of the subject matter motivates it, a public consultation may be used as a help to settle the dispute.

## 9. Evaluation

PEFC Sweden shall evaluate the revision process. In the evaluation, participating organizations shall have the possibility to provide feedback, e.g., via a questionnaire. The evaluation shall be available at the next review of the standard.