

Conformity assessment of CERFOAR against the PEFC Council Requirements

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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. RECOMMENDATION	7
3. SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT FINDINGS	8
4. STRUCTURE OF THE SYSTEM OF THE PROPOSED APPLICANT SCHEME	10
5. STANDARD SETTING PROCEDURES	13
6. STANDARD SETTING PROCESS	17
7. FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD	30
8. GROUP CERTIFICATION MODEL	79
9. CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD	82
10. CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS.....	84
11. ANNEXES	92
ANNEX A: PEFC STANDARD AND SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST	93
PART I: STANDARD AND SYSTEM REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST FOR STANDARD SETTING (PEFC ST 1001:2017)	93
PART II: STANDARD AND SYSTEM REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST FOR GROUP FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION (PEFC ST 1002:2018)	144
PART III: STANDARD AND SYSTEM REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (PEFC ST 1003:2018)	180
PART IV: CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES CHECKLIST	275
PART V: STANDARD AND SYSTEM REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST FOR SYSTEM SPECIFIC CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARDS – COMPLIANCE WITH PEFC ST PEFC 2002:2020	286
ANNEX B. RESULTS OF STAKEHOLDER SURVEY	282
ANNEX C: RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION	283
ANNEX D. INTERNAL REVIEW COMMENTS	284

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CERFOAR	Administration of the Argentine Forest Certification System
CITES	Convention on the Illegal Trade in Endangered Species
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labor Organization
IRAM SD	IRAM Standardization Directorate
IRAM	Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
NGB	National Governing Body
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SSF	Standard Setting Forum
SSWG	Standard Setting Working Group
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

1. INTRODUCTION

The Consultant was invited by the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Council to tender for the conformity assessment of the Argentine Forest Certification System (CERFOAR -- hereafter referred to as the Applicant Scheme), against the requirements of the PEFC Council.

The CERFOAR scheme originated under a project supported by the Inter-American Development Bank, utilising Argentina's national standardizing body, IRAM (Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación). Between 2004 and 2010, 92 working group meetings were held to develop standard setting procedures and the sustainable forest management standard and group certification model.

CERFOAR, as national governing body, joined PEFC as a member in November 2010; the CERFOAR scheme was first endorsed in July 2014.

The original scheduled review date for the system was November 2019. However, the current review date was subsequently linked to the approval date of the revised Sustainable Forest Management standard PEFC ST 1003 (November 2018).

The consultant's report must assess the Applicant Scheme's rules governing the maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests; and assess whether the applicant scheme complied with these requirements in practice. The project tests the conformity of CERFOAR's forest certification standards, standard-setting procedures, scheme implementation procedures, chain of custody standards, and certification and accreditation procedures against the minimum requirements and guidelines of the PEFC Council.

METHODOLOGY

This report assesses the Applicant Scheme's rules governing the maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests; and whether the applicant scheme complies with these requirements in practice.

The consultant has reviewed the content of the Applicant Scheme for technical competence and completeness. The consultant has assessed the Applicant Scheme's conformity with the requirements of the PEFC Council, as stipulated in PEFC GD *Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision*.

SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

The following aspects of the Applicant Scheme have been assessed against the PEFC international standards and technical documents where relevant:

- A general analysis of the structure of the Applicant System's technical documentation.
- An assessment of the standard setting procedures and process against PEFC ST 1001:2017, Standard Setting – Requirements (for the sustainable forest management standard(s) and the chain of custody standard).

- An assessment of standard(s) applicable for forest management certification against PEFC ST 1003:2018, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements.
- An assessment of the group certification requirements against PEFC ST 1002:2018, Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements.
- An assessment of certification and accreditation procedures, for forest management certification as defined in the PEFC Council Technical Document, Annex 6, and for chain of custody certification as defined by PEFC ST 2003:2020, Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard.
- 2.7. A stakeholder survey to check the basic contents of the development report on the standard setting process.
- 2.8. Any other aspects that can affect functions, credibility and efficiency of the submitted system.

The following normative references have been used for this assessment:

- PEFC ST 1001, Standard Setting - Requirements
- PEFC ST 1003, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements.
- PEFC ST 1002, Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements
- PEFC ST 2002, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements
- PEFC ST 2003, Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard
- PEFC GD 1004, Administration of PEFC scheme, chapter 8
- TD Annex 6 (Certification and Accreditation Procedures)
- PEFC ST 2001, PEFC Logo usage rules - Requirements (hereinafter PEFC Logo usage rules)
- PEFC GL7/2007, PEFC Council procedures for the investigation and resolution of complaints and Appeals
- ISO/IEC 17021, Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems
- ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services
- ISO 19011, Guidelines for auditing management systems

2. RECOMMENDATION

The consultant recommends that the PEFC Council maintains the endorsement of the applicant scheme on the condition that three (3) nonconformities in the Sustainable Forest Management standard and one (1) nonconformity in the Group Certification Model shall be corrected within six (6) months after endorsement.

All four nonconformities are considered minor and do not impact the integrity of the applicant scheme.

3. SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT FINDINGS

The following is a summary of findings for the draft report:

STANDARD SETTING PROCEDURES

The applicant system conforms to the PEFC requirements.

STANDARD SETTING PROCESS

The applicant system conforms to the PEFC requirements.

FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

Three minor non-conformities were found at:

8.2.5 The standard requires that the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during forest management operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place

Although both the standard and the national legislation do provide clear restrictions on the disposal of waste, there is no clearly expressed prohibition.

8.2.7. The standard requires that any use of pesticides is documented.

Although the standard requires registration of products used, it does not explicitly require documentation of their use.

8.6.2 The standard requires that adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided, taking into account respect for ownership rights, safety and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.

Public access and recreation are not appropriately considered in the standard. Although consideration of recreational services is considered at the planning stage (as ecosystem services, see definitions and 6.1), they are nonetheless not specifically addressed.

This omission does not necessarily preclude public access completely; there is some overlap with 8.6.1 (d), where negative impacts on local communities must be mitigated. However, this is a clear requirement.

GROUP CERTIFICATION MODEL

There is a minor non-conformity within the Group Certification model at

9.3.1.3 The standard shall define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming which have their own members.

The standard does not define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of existing organisations or group or the members participation. The text could be amended in a manner such as follows, as an example:

In case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, the group entity shall establish additional sampling procedures

Despite this, the non-conformity can be considered minor as it does not impact the integrity of the system.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD

The applicant system has adopted the PEFC standard.

CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS

The applicant system conforms to the PEFC requirements.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE SYSTEM OF THE PROPOSED APPLICANT SCHEME

FORESTS AND THE FOREST SECTOR IN ARGENTINA

Argentina has a total forest area of approximately 34 million hectares, which represents about 10% of its total land area. The country has four main forest regions: the Chaco, the Yungas, the Espinal, and the Andean-Patagonian forests. The Chaco region, located in the northern part of the country, is the largest forested area and includes dense forests, woodlands, and savannas. The Yungas region, located in the northwest, is characterized by subtropical forests and high biodiversity. The Espinal region, located in the central part of the country, is a transitional area between the Chaco and the Pampas grasslands. The Andean-Patagonian forests, located in the southwest, are dominated by deciduous and evergreen forests.

Argentina has experienced significant deforestation in recent years, particularly in the Chaco region, due to agricultural expansion, commercial logging, and urbanization. According to data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Argentina's annual deforestation rate was around 350,000 hectares between 2010 and 2020.

The forest industry is an important sector of the Argentine economy, contributing to rural development and employment. In 2020, the forestry sector generated around 1.5% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), with a total output of approximately USD 3.5 billion. The sector employs around 120,000 people, including both formal and informal workers. The forestry industry is also a major exporter, with wood products accounting for approximately 5% of the country's total exports in 2020. The main export markets for Argentine wood products are China, the United States, and Mexico.

Argentina has a long history of forest policy, dating back to the early 20th century. The country's forest cover has been significantly reduced over the years due to agricultural expansion, commercial logging, and urbanization. The government has responded to this trend by implementing a range of policies aimed at protecting and restoring forest ecosystems. In recent years, there has been an increased focus on forest certification as a way to ensure sustainable forest management.

In 1904, the Argentine government passed the National Forest Law, which established a framework for the management and protection of forest resources. The law designated certain areas as "forest reserves" and created a system for granting concessions for logging and other forest uses. However, the law was poorly enforced and did not prevent widespread deforestation and degradation of forest ecosystems.

In the 1930s, the government began to take a more active role in forest management, establishing the National Forestry Service and initiating programs to reforest degraded areas. These efforts were largely focused on the production of commercial timber and were not necessarily aimed at preserving ecosystem health or biodiversity.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Argentina experienced a significant expansion of agriculture, particularly soybean cultivation. This led to widespread deforestation and fragmentation of forest ecosystems. The government responded by implementing a range of policies to regulate land use, including the

Forests Law of 2007, which strengthened protections for forest ecosystems and established a system for monitoring and enforcing compliance.

One approach that has gained popularity in Argentina and elsewhere is forest certification, a process by which forest managers can demonstrate that they are meeting certain sustainability standards. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and CERFOAR are two of the most widely recognized certification schemes, and several Argentine forestry companies have been certified under these standards.

Forest certification in Argentina has faced some challenges, however. One issue is the high cost of certification, which can be a barrier for small-scale forest owners. Additionally, some critics argue that certification schemes may not necessarily result in better forest management practices and that the certification process may be biased towards large, industrial-scale operations.

Despite these challenges, forest certification continues to be an important tool for promoting sustainable forest management in Argentina. The government has encouraged the adoption of certification schemes and has provided support for forest managers seeking certification. In 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries launched a program to promote sustainable forest management and certification, providing funding and technical assistance to small and medium-sized forest enterprises.

In addition to certification, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of involving local communities and indigenous peoples in forest management. The Forests Law of 2007 requires that forest management plans take into account the interests and rights of local communities, and there have been efforts to promote community-based forest management and conservation.

One example of community-based forest management in Argentina is the Yungas Biosphere Reserve, located in the northwestern province of Jujuy. The reserve is home to several indigenous communities who have been involved in reforestation and conservation efforts. The government has provided support for these efforts through programs such as the National Plan for Indigenous Peoples, which includes funding for sustainable forest management.

THE SCHEME

The *Administration of the Argentine Forest Certification System* (CERFOAR Association) was founded in and registered as a non-profit entity in Argentina in 2010. The CERFOAR Association is the administrator of the applicant scheme (CERFOAR Scheme), and is both the National Governing Body (NGB) and licensing body. The CERFOAR Executive Secretariat coordinates with the Standardization Secretariat of IRAM (Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación) to develop and revise the CERFOAR Scheme, and is ultimately responsible for the administration of the Scheme.

IRAM is the Standardizing Body for the scheme. IRAM is the only standardizing body in Argentina, as determined by national laws. IRAM integrates CERFOAR Association via a reciprocal association agreement. It carries out the elaboration and revision of the SFM standards of the Argentine system in coordination with the Executive Secretariat of the Association. IRAM establishes the Standard Setting Forum (SSF), which controls the revision and standard-setting process.

The CERFOAR Board of Directors is the body that generates consensus and adopts final versions of the standards.

Structure

CERFOAR is a member-based organization and comprises the following bodies:

- General Assembly: Highest governing body
- Board of Directors: directs the administration of the Scheme
- Supervisory Body: controls the correct administration and compliance with the laws, statutes, regulations and commitments assumed
- Executive Secretariat: administrator of the Scheme
- Dispute resolution committee: empowered to deal with those complaints and disputes related to the application of the System or the certification procedure

CERFOAR has developed a number of procedural documents for the Applicant Scheme. They are listed as follows:

Standards

- IRAM 39801:2022. Sustainable forest management. Criteria and indicators of the management unit.
- IRAM 39805:2022. Sustainable forest management. Group Certification

Technical Documents

- PG01:06. CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina notification of certification bodies to certify forest management and/or chain of custody in Argentina;
- PG02:04. Procedure for conducting CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina forest management certification audits that shall be complied with by certification bodies;
- PG03:03. Stakeholders consultation to be implemented by certification bodies during forest management certification;
- PG05:06. Procedure for preparing forest management audit reports to be implemented by certification bodies;
- PG06:03. Procedure for the resolution of disputes of the CERFOAR– PEFC Argentina Association;
- PG07:05. Issuance of licenses for the use of PEFC Trademarks by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association;
- PG08:00. Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System

5. STANDARD SETTING PROCEDURES

This chapter presents a detailed assessment of the standard setting procedures against PEFC ST 1001:2017, Standard Setting, for the development of the forest management standard. It contains a detailed assessment of the standard setting procedures compliance or non-compliance with the PEFC Council requirements as set out in PEFC ST 1001:2017.

Requirement 5.1 The standardising body has written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:

(a) its legal status and organizational structure, including a body responsible for consensus-building (working group, refer to 6.4) and procedures for formal adoption of the standard (refer to 7.1)

The Standardising Body (CERFOAR-PEFC Argentina) has its legal status and organisational structure described in PG08, which also refers to the processes “established by the Rules of standards setting and of the functioning of their technical forums (IRAM REN - 1999) and by any other complementary document established by the Argentine Institute of Standardization and Certification (IRAM).”

The Articles of Association for the organisation describes its legal status; PG08 describes its organisational structure (Executive Secretariat) and the Board of Directors.

The statutes provide for the IRAM Standardization Directorate (SD), which is the body responsible for consensus building. The SD appoints the SFM Standard setting working group (SFM SSWG) as the body for consensus building.

Procedures for the formal adoption of the standard are described. The adoption of the standard is taken by the Board of Directors, based on consensus of the SSWG and evidence from the SD.

(b) procedures for keeping documented information,

Procedures for keeping documented information are described at PG08 6.2.1.

(c) procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,

Procedures for the balanced representation of stakeholders are described at PG08 7.2.1.

(d) the standard-setting process,

The standard setting process is clearly defined 6.2.1. It contains clear procedures on

- Proposal
- Mapping
- The formation of a standardizing committee
- Draft stage
- Consensus building,
- Enquiry stage

- Consultation
- Public consultation
- Pilot testing
- Consensus
- Formal approval.

(e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and

Procedures for the mechanism for reaching consensus among the SSWG is described at PG08 7.4.5. Reaching consensus requires:

7.4.5 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall verify that the working group's decision to recommend the final draft for formal approval is taken on the basis of consensus, trying to avoid voting. All the decisions of the working group and the way in which they were adopted must be recorded in the corresponding minutes. To determine whether there is consensus or sustained and well-founded opposition, the working group may use the following methods:

a) face-to-face meetings where there is a verbal agreement yes/no, a show of hands for a yes/no agreement; a statement from the SS-WG Coordinator on consensus when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal note, etc.

b) conference call meetings or on another virtual platform where there is a verbal yes/no agreement,

c) email request to the working group for agreement or objection where members provide a formal (written) response, or

d) combinations of these methods, as approved by the working group

In case of doubt about the consensus, the agreement by a simple majority of the members of the SS-WG may be considered sufficient for the final draft to be submitted to the General Standards Council of the IRAM for its subsequent formal approval by the IRAM, and this will be recorded as the decision made by the SS-WG

(f) review and revision of standard(s)/normative document(s).

The review and revision process is described at PG08 9.1.1.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

Requirement 5.1.2 The standardizing body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available and shall review its standard-setting procedures regularly. The review shall consider feedback from stakeholders.

The document is publicly available. The procedures have a clear requirement for public availability of documentation and requirements for the consideration of feedback from stakeholders: PG08 5.1.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

Requirement 5.2.1 The standardizing body shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process. Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardizing body's own procedures includes: a) Standard-setting procedures, b) Stakeholder identification mapping, c) Contacted and/or invited stakeholders, d) Stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each working group meeting, e) Feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed, f) All drafts and final versions of the standard, g) Outcomes from working group considerations, h) Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard(s), i) Evidence relating to the review process, and j) Final approval by the standardizing body.

This is stipulated at PG08 6.2.1. The requirements conform with those in the PEFC requirements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

Requirement 5.2.2 Documented information shall be kept until completion of the next review or revision of the standard to which they refer. Otherwise the documented information must be kept for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard.

Requirement 5.2.3 Documented information shall be available to interested parties upon request

These are both stipulated at PG08 6.2.2 and 6.2.3: The requirements conform with those in the PEFC requirements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

Requirement 5.3.1 The standardizing body shall establish procedure(s) for dealing with any substantial and process complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. It must make procedure(s) accessible to stakeholders. Upon receipt of a complaint or appeal, the standardizing body shall: a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint or appeal to the complainant, b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint or appeal, evaluate the subject matter of the complaint or appeal impartially and objectively, and make a decision regarding the complaint or appeal, and c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint or appeal to the complainant and describe the handling process

The complaints procedures relating to the standard-setting are established in PG08 6.3.1 and 6.3.3. The requirements conform with those in the PEFC requirements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

Requirement 5.3.2 The standardizing body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries, complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be easy to access and readily available

This is stipulated at PG08 6.3.2. The requirements conform with those in the PEFC requirements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS



6. STANDARD SETTING PROCESS

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

The standard setting process has been documented in the “Revision Process Report” (RPP). The RPP is comprehensive, and thoroughly cross-referenced against process documentation is referred to throughout the assessment.

A summary of the standard setting process is included below, followed by an assessment of each requirement.

Summary

The CERFOAR standard required revision as per the requirement of the standards. A proposal was submitted to the Board of Directors that covered the scope of the standard, and it described the stages of the standard development and expected timetable.

The standard revision followed the required procedures for stakeholder identification, stakeholder groups and disadvantaged stakeholders.

Procedures for the announcement of the revision process were followed accordingly, and the convening of working group for the took place appropriately. The standardizing body attempted to balance stakeholder representation within the working group when appropriate representation wasn’t achieved.

The working group undertook a stakeholder consultation on the draft accordingly, took stakeholder comments seriously, and documented the processes accordingly.

Consensus was achieved among the working group according to the required procedures, as were the approval processes and subsequent publication of the standard.

6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, the standardizing body shall develop a proposal including: a) the scope of the standard, b) justification of the need for the standard, c) a clear description of the intended outcomes, d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as; • factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively, • unintended consequences of implementation, • actions to address the identified risks, and e) a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable.

6.1.2 For the revision of a standard the proposal shall cover at least (a) and (e) of clause 6.1.1.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 7.1.1.

The proposal development is described at RPP 3.2. The proposal documentation is contained document 01 DN-FN 013, which contains the scope, and the timetable is at 03_Standard Study Plan 2020 and 2021.

ASSESSMENT DECISION (PROCEDURES): CONFORMS

ASSESSMENT DECISION (PROCESS): CONFORMS

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

The requirements for the identification of stakeholders, including a mapping exercise, are stipulated at PG 08 7.2.1.

The RPP contains a comprehensive stakeholder mapping document that includes key issues, preferred contact details, location, and stakeholder group.

ASSESSMENT DECISION (PROCEDURES): CONFORMS

ASSESSMENT DECISION (PROCESS): CONFORMS

6.2.2 Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping: • forest owners, • business and industry, • indigenous people, • non-government organizations, • scientific and technological community, • workers and trade unions

The requirements are stipulated at PG 08 7.2.2, which is in conformity with the requirements for identification of stakeholder groups.

The Development Report stakeholder mapping document contains identified groups as follows:

“women, industry, forest owners and forest producers, indigenous people, non-government organizations, government organizations, scientific and technological community, workers and trade unions.”

ASSESSMENT DECISION (PROCEDURES): CONFORMS

ASSESSMENT DECISION (PROCESS): CONFORMS

Requirement 6.2.3 The standardizing body shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities.

The requirements for the identification of disadvantaged and key stakeholders are stipulated at PG 08 7.2.3.

There is a description of mapping and identification of disadvantaged stakeholders (DS) and key stakeholders (KS) and affected stakeholders (AS) at RPP 3.3.

ASSESSMENT DECISION (PROCEDURES): CONFORMS

ASSESSMENT DECISION (PROCESS): CONFORMS

Requirement 6.3.1 The standardizing body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement shall be made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions. The announcement and invitation shall include: a) overview of the standard-setting process, b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1), c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process, d) requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the working group (refer to 6.4). The request to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand, e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process, and f) access to the standard-setting procedures

The requirements are stipulated at PG 08 7.3.1

A briefing took place on September 8, 2020. On August 19, 2020, invitations to participate in the briefing were sent and on August 31, 2020, a reminder of the invitation was sent.

The announcement contained an overview of the process, ability to participate in the process, accessibility of the working draft, and an invitation to participate in the standard management committee, as well as a schedule for the revision process.

An email of the invitation and announcement has been provided along with the mailing list of recipients.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 6.4.1 The standardizing body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group or adjust the composition of an already existing working group based on nominations it received. Acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justified in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organization, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.

The requirements for the establishment of the working group – the SSWG (Standard Setting Working Group) are stipulated at PG08 7.3.2

The SSWG was established with open applications, and accepted all 32 applications according to the procedures

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 6.4.2 The working group shall: a) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process, and b) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that affected by the standard, and those that can influence implementation of the standard. The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 7.3.3 and meet the procedural requirements of balanced representation, subject-matter relevance, geographical scope, expertise, affected stakeholders and influence. The requirements also stipulate that no group can dominate.

The membership list has been provided and sighted; the list can be considered balanced, no single group can dominate; there is appropriate expertise; there is suitable representation of affected stakeholders; there is appropriate representation of members that an influence implementation. There was an absence of applications from women, indigenous peoples, and workers and unions. In all cases actions were taken to adjust for under-representation.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 6.4.3 In order to achieve balanced representation, the standardizing body shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.2) represented. The standardizing body shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc. Note: When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standardizing body may consider alternative options.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 7.4.3. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

See note above regarding measures to address imbalances; the standardizing body did reach out proactively to these groups using a number of measures, but were unable to encourage participation to the extent preferred.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 6.4.4 Activities of the working group shall be organized in an open and transparent manner where: a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group, b) all members of the working group shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and to provide feedback on working drafts, and c) feedback and views given by any member of the working group shall be considered in an open and transparent way where the outcome of these considerations is recorded.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 7.4.4. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

Working drafts were provided, as indicated in the development report and have been cited. A comprehensive feedback mechanism was incorporated with all records retained; suggestions and feedback compiled confirm that the feedback was taken seriously in the different draft versions.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 6.4.5 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the working group can utilize the following methods: a) face-to face meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote, a show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal ballot, etc., b) telephone conference meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote, c) e-mail request to the working group for agreement or objection where the members provide a formal (written) response (vote), or d) combinations of these methods.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 7.4.5. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

It has been recorded in meeting minutes that consensus processes were undertaken on different aspects of the standard, before final consensus on the standard on August 25, 2021.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 6.4.6 Where a vote is used in decision-making, the standard-setting procedures shall determine and include decision-making thresholds that quantifies consensus. The threshold must be consistent with the consensus definition (refer to 3.1). However, a majority vote cannot override sustained opposition in order to achieve consensus.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 7.4.6. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

There were no dissenting votes.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 6.4.7 When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following methods: a) finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group, b) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue, c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. The standardizing body determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 7.4.7. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

See above; there were no dissenting votes.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 6.4.8 When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, the standardizing body shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action. PEFC ST 1001:2017 — Standard Setting – Requirements 14 6.5 Public consultation

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 7.4.8. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

There were no dissenting votes.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 6.5.1 The standardizing body shall organize public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that: a) the start and the end dates of public consultation are announced in a timely manner through suitable media, Note: In a timely manner means (at the latest) the day before the start of public consultation. b) a direct invitation to comment on the enquiry draft is sent to each stakeholder identified by stakeholder identification mapping (refer to 6.2) aiming for a balanced participation of stakeholder groups, c) invitations are sent to disadvantaged and key stakeholders by methods that ensure they reach recipients and are easy to understand, d) the enquiry draft is made publicly available, e) public consultation is for at least 60 days, f) all feedback is considered by the working group in an objective manner, and g) a synopsis of feedback is compiled for each material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue. The synopsis is made publicly available (e.g. on a website) and is sent to each stakeholder/party that gave feedback.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 7.5.1. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

The public consultation periods were as follows:

IRAM 39801 Sustainable forest management -- 17/09/2021 to 16/11/2021

IRAM 39805 Sustainable forest management. Group Certification -- 14/09/2021 to 13/11/2021

For IRAM 39801, an announcement was made via both a web announcement and an email invitation on 17/09/2021.

For IRAM 39805, an announcement was made via both a web announcement and an email invitation on 14/09/2021.

Records of the email distribution and website announcement have been cited accordingly.

Invitations were sent to stakeholders and the methods for contacting disadvantaged stakeholders can be considered suitable on account of previous engagement with indigenous groups. Feedback was considered and compiled. This is recorded at RPP 3.7, with documents sighted.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 6.5.2 For new standards the standardizing body shall organize a second round of public consultation lasting at least 30 days. 6.6 Pilot testing The standardizing body shall organize pilot testing of new standard(s) to assess the clarity, auditability and feasibility of the requirements. The working group shall consider the outcome of pilot testing. Note: Pilot testing is not required for revision of an existing standard when experience from its usage can substitute for pilot testing.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 7.5.2. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: NOT APPLICABLE (PROCESS)

Requirement 7.1 Formal approval of standards The standardizing body shall approve the standard(s)/normative document(s) formally when there is evidence of consensus among the working group.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 8.1. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

Consensus was reached by the SSWG on November 24 and 26 for IRAM 39801 and 39805. On April 28, 2022, the IRAM General Standards Committee approved IRAM Standards Projects 1 39801 and 39805 as IRAM standards. On May 5, 2022, the IRAM General Directorate formally approves the IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 7.2.1 The formally approved standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be published and made publicly available at no cost within 14 days of approval, or as otherwise defined by the standardizing body.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 8.2.1. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

On May 5, 2022, the IRAM General Directorate formally approves the IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805, publishes them and makes them available to interested parties at the IRAM Documentation Center located at Perú N° 552/6, (C1068AAB) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires
<https://iram.org.ar/centrode-documentacion/>

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 7.2.2 Standard(s) shall include: a) identification and contact information for the standardizing body, b) official language of the standard, c) a note that when there is inconsistency between versions, the English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference. d) The approval date and the date of next periodic review
Note: The date of next periodic review may be within a shorter period than five years based on (for example) stakeholder expectations or other foreseen developments.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 8.2.2. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

Contact information is included on the first page of all versions of the documentation, as are notes of the official language and statements relating to language versions. Approval dates are noted on all documentation. As is the review date.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 7.2.3 Printed copies shall be made available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs (if any).

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 8.2.3. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

This is confirmed via the CERFOAR and IRAM website.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 7.2.4 The standardizing body shall make the development report (refer to PEFC GD 1007) publicly available.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 8.2.4. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

The standard development report is available at
https://pefc.org.ar/documents/rev2020/2022_Reporte_de_la_revision_CERFOAR-PEFC_Arg.pdf.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 8.1 General The standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard's implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organized to obtain further feedback and input.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 9.1.1. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

As noted in the development report, the review was based primarily on gap analysis rather than on feedback received during implementation.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 8.2.1 The standardizing body shall establish and maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the website of the standardizing body and/or PEFC National Governing Body with clear directions for providing feedback. Note: Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 9.2.1. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

A feedback mechanism is provided at <https://iram.org.ar/normalizacion/que-son-las-normas/>.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 8.2.2 All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded and considered.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 9.2.2. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

No feedback was received during the non-revision period.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 8.3.1 At the start of a review, the standardizing body shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard.

Requirement 8.3.2 The standardizing body shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 9.3.1 and 9.3.2. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

During the months of February to October 2019, the Executive Secretary CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina collected information, basic documentation and needs analysis, including consulting key people on difficulties in the implementation and evaluation of IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805 (technicians of certified companies, forest auditors, technical experts who make up audit teams, forestry technicians, managers of certification groups) With this background and the gap analyses between IRAM 39801 and PEFC ST 1003:2018 and between IRAM 39805 and PEFC ST 1002:2018, it developed the draft IRAM SFM revised Standards.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 8.4.1 Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, the standardizing body shall organize stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. The standardizing body shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 9.4.1. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

Gap analysis identified a need to revise the standard; this has been documented.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 8.4.2 At the start of a review, the standardizing body shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (refer to clause 6.2).

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 9.4.2. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

The updated stakeholder mapping was included in the RRP.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 8.4.3 The standardizing body shall organize: a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.5.1) and/or, b) stakeholder meetings.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 9.4.3. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

CERFOAR announced the commencement of the review process on 9/8/2020. Stakeholder meetings took place on 8/9/2020 and thereafter.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 8.4.4 The standardizing body shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.3).

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 9.4.4. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

The review was announced in a timely manner, with a 30-day period between announcement and commencement.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 8.5.1 Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, the standardizing body shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.

Requirement 8.5.2 The decision shall be made at the highest decision-making level of the standardizing body

Requirement 8.5.3 Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, the standardizing body shall provide a justification for the decision and make the justification publicly available.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 9.5.1, 9.5.2 and 9.5.3. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

The standardising body determined that a revision was necessary; that decision was affirmed at a meeting of the Board of Directors on June on 8/11/2019. A

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 8.5.4 Where the decision is to revise the standard, the standardizing body shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision).

The requirements are stipulated at PG 08 9.5.4. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

The decision did not indicate the type of revision undertaken, as it was part of the review and revision process.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 9.1 Normal revision Procedures for revision of standard(s)/normative document(s) shall conform to those stated in section 6. A normal revision can occur at the periodic review, or between periodic reviews, but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions.

The requirements are stipulated at PG 08 10.1.1. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

The revision does not include time-critical or editorial revisions.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 9.2 Editorial revision Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. The standardizing body shall approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard.

Requirement 9.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process.

Requirement 9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations: a) Change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements b) Instruction by PEFC International to comply with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision.

Requirement 9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps: a) The standardizing body shall draft the revised standard, b) The standardizing body may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory, c) The revised standard shall be approved formally at the highest appropriate decision-making level of the standardizing body, d) The standardizing body shall explain the justification for the urgent change(s) and make the justification publicly available.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 10.2.1 and 10.3.2 10.3.3. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: NOT APPLICABLE (PROCESS)

Requirement 9.4.1 A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standard(s)/ normative document(s).

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 10.4.1. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

Issue dates and review dates have been stated clearly on all documents and defined accordingly.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 9.4.2 An application date shall not be more than one year after the publication of the standard. This allows time for endorsement of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s), introduction of change(s), information dissemination and training.

The requirements are stipulated at PG08 10.4.2. They conform with the PEFC requirements.

No application dates issues dates on any standards and normative documents exceed one year.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

Requirement 9.4.3 The transition period shall not exceed one year. The standardizing body may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances

The requirements for the transition period may not exceed one year as determined at 10.4.1.

The transition period is greater than one year; the exceptional circumstances are because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been noted by CERFOAR that the BoD approved an extension of the transition period to 18 months for the entry into force of both IRAM Standards; this was specified more clearly by the BoD as delays in the calendars established for certification and accreditation.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCEDURES)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS (PROCESS)

7. FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

This section assesses of the forest certification standard(s) against PEFC ST 1003, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements. The main forest management standard document is IRAM 39801 Document 3.

The standard has been structured to meet the requirements of PEFC ST 1003. The structure comprises requirements in the main section of the standard that effectively replicate PEFC ST 1003.

This has the effect of being quite prescriptive under some requirements of the standard (particularly related to forest management planning and implementation), but less prescriptive in other areas.

The Scope of the standard specified planning requirements, criteria and performance indicators for both native forests and for plantations within Argentina. It is notable that the standard does not apply Appendix 1 of PEFC ST 1003 “Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of forest plantations” within the standard, i.e. all requirements are applied to both native forests and plantation forests.

REQUIREMENT 4.1 GENERAL:

The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall:

a) include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the forest management unit level, or at another level as appropriate, to ensure that the intent of all requirements is achieved at the forest management unit level;

IRAM 39801. 1. SCOPE conforms with the requirement. Management and performance requirements are included, and include requirements for a comprehensive management system, e.g. planning, monitoring, evaluation, training, etc. that are applicable at a level consistent with the requirements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

b) be clear, performance based and auditable;

The documentation IRAM 39801 is clear, performance-based and auditable.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements;

IRAM 39801 1. Scope:

“The requirements of this standard are applicable to the forest management unit and cover the full range of forest management objectives defined for it, including the provision of wood

and non-wood forest products and other ecosystem services, and to all activities implemented in the forest management unit to achieve those objectives.”

The standard meets the requirement for application to forest operators in the defined forest area.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards;

IRAM 39801 7.5: Documented information:

“7.5.6 The organization shall identify and maintain records that provide evidence of compliance with the requirements of this sustainable forest management standard.”

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

e) specify “100% PEFC certified”, or another system specific claim, as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody; f) require that where owners/managers of forests are selling products from areas other than covered by the standard, only products from areas covered by the standard are sold with the claim “100% PEFC-certified” or a system specific claim; g) require that claims on the origin of products in an area covered by the standard are only made by forest owners/managers covered by a PEFC recognised certificate issued against the standard; h) specify requirements concerning the information which need to be provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer;

IRAM 39801 Annex A replicates the PEFC requirements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

i) include an overview of applicable legislation, if requirements of this benchmark are not reflected in the regional, national or sub-national standard, because they are already addressed through the legislation.

An overview is included at IRAM 39801 Annex B.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders. The standard requires that the organisation shall determine: a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to the sustainable forest management; b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.

Requirements for definitions for affected stakeholders are determined at IRAM 39801 4.1.1 a); requirements for needs and expectations are defined at 4.1.1 b), replicating the PEFC requirement.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

4.3 Determining the scope of the management system

4.3.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the management system to establish its scope

In application, IRAM 39801 4.2 and 4.3:

4.2 Determining the scope of the forest management system

4.2.1 The organization shall determine the limits and applicability of the forest management system to establish its scope. To determine this scope, the organization shall consider:

a) the objectives defined for the forest management system: production of goods, wood and non-wood, and/or other services; and

b) the forest management unit(s) and their physical limits.

4.2.2 The organization shall implement all the requirements of this standard, where applicable, within the given scope of its forest management system.

4.2.3 The organization shall document the scope of its forest management system and make it available to stakeholders

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

4.3.2 The standard requires that forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management practices. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement

In application, inventory and mapping requirements are stipulated at 4.3.1 and 4.3.2:

4.3.1 To achieve the defined objectives, including the improvement of its performance, the organization shall establish, implement, maintain and continuously improve a forest management system, including the necessary processes, their interactions and the level of performance required, in accordance with the requirements of this standard.

4.3.2 The organization's forest management system shall comprise at a minimum the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation of planned activities, monitoring and evaluation, including an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management. This forms the basis of a cycle of continuous improvement.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

5. LEADERSHIP

5.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall provide a commitment: a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of

the certification system; b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.

Requirements are determined at IRAM 39801 5.1:

5.1 The organization shall demonstrate leadership and make a long-term commitment to the forest management system:

a) complying with the criteria and requirements of this sustainable forest management standard; and b) b) contributing to the continuous improvement of the sustainable forest management system.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

5.2 The standard requires that this commitment shall be publicly available.

IRAM 39801 5.2 conforms to the PEFC requirement.

5.2 The organization shall document and make public its long-term commitment to comply with the criteria and requirements of this sustainable forest management standard.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.

IRAM 39801 5.4 replicates the PEFC requirement.

5.4 The organization shall define, document and assign responsibilities for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6. PLANNING

6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities

6.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest management. Size and scale of the operations of the organisation shall be considered.

IRAM 39801 6.1.6 replicates the PEFC requirement.

6.1.6 The organization shall consider in planning the risks and opportunities related to meeting the requirements for sustainable forest management, taking into account the size and scale of the organization's operations.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.1.2 The standard requires that inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described in this international benchmark standard.

IRAM 39801 meets the PEFC requirement at 4.3.2 and elaborates in its application at 6.2.3:

4.3.2 The organization's forest management system shall comprise at a minimum the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation of planned activities, monitoring and evaluation, including an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management. This forms the basis of a cycle of continuous improvement.

6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least:

a) description of the forest management unit including the type of rights to tenure and/or use of land and forest resources, the continuous inventory, the characterization of forest types and the identification and characterization of priority conservation sites present therein;

j) cartography appropriate to the size and use of the forest management unit;

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.2 Management plan

6.2.1 The standard requires that management plans shall be: a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted; b) appropriate to the size and use of the forest area; c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and d) adequately covering forest resources.

IRAM 39801 meets the PEFC requirement at 6.2.1.

6.2.1 The organization shall develop and document a sustainable forest management plan that: a) is periodically updated and adjusted; b) is appropriate to the size and uses of the forest management unit; c) is based on applicable local, national and international legislation, as well as on the use, tenure and/or ownership of the land of the forest management unit; and d) includes all types of forest present in the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.2.2 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.

IRAM 39801 6.2.2 replicates the PEFC requirement.

6.2.2 Forest management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.2.3 The standard requires that management plans shall include at least a description of the current forest management unit, long-term objectives, and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification.

IRAM 39801 6.2.3 replicates the PEFC requirement.

6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least:

a) description of the forest management unit including the type of rights to tenure and/or use of land and forest resources, the continuous inventory, the characterization of forest types and the identification and characterization of priority conservation sites present therein;

b) long-term management objectives;

f) the average annual rate of harvest of all wood and/or non-wood forest products and their technical justification;

NOTE: The average annual harvest or extraction rate does not exceed the possibility of the forest so that its vitality and productivity are maintained or improved.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.2.4 The standard requires that the annually allowable use of non-wood forest products shall be included in the management plan where forest management covers commercial use of non-wood forest products at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability

See above (f).

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.2.5 The standard requires that management plans specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.

IRAM 39801 elaborates on the PEFC requirements at 6.2.3:

6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least:

g) specifications, technical requirements and environmental and watershed protection measures necessary to protect soil, watercourses and bodies of water, flora and fauna;

h) protective measures to prevent damage by harmful biological agents, fires, and other disturbances;

NOTE: pests, weeds, pathogens and livestock (overgrazing and ramoneo) are considered harmful biological agents, when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources.

i) identification and assessment of the relevant aspects and impacts of activities in the forest management unit;

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.

IRAM 39801 6.2.6 replicates the PEFC requirement.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.2.7 The standard requires that a summary of the management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information on the general objectives and forest management principles.

6.2.8 The standard requires that the publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.

IRAM 39801 6.2.9 reproduces both requirements:

6.2.9 A summary of the sustainable forest management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of sustainable forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information on the general objectives and criteria for sustainable forest management.

NOTE: The publicly available summary of the sustainable forest management plan excludes confidential commercial and personal information and other information that has been made confidential by applicable law or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive features of natural resources.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3 Compliance requirements

6.3.1 Legal compliance

6.3.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. Note: For a country which has signed a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union and the producing country, the “legislation applicable to forest management” is defined by the VPA agreement.

The requirement is met at IRAM 39801 6.3.1.1 It is elaborated as follows:

“NOTE. The legislation identified includes, but is not limited to, forest management practices; protection of nature and the environment; protected and endangered species; property rights and use of the land and resources of the forest management unit; land tenure and use of indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, work and safety issues; anti-corruption and payment of royalties and applicable taxes”

IRAM 39801 Annex B National Legal Framework applicable to the Forest Management Unit contains an extensive list of applicable laws and regulations that cites specific articles and clauses within said laws and regulations where appropriate.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.1.2 The standard requires that the organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest management, including but not limited to forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.

The requirement is met at IRAM 39801 6.3.1.2 and 6.3.1.1 (above) and further elaborated at 6.3.1.9:

6.3.1.9 Forest service providers shall comply with the laws and regulations applicable to their activity and the policies, procedures, instructions and codes of good practice subscribed to or defined for the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.1.3 The standard requires that where no anti-corruption legislation exists, the organisation must take alternative anti-corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption.

The requirement is replicated at IRAM 39810 6.3.1.5: “6.3.1.5 The organization shall take effective anti-corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption.”

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.1.4 The standard requires that measures shall be implemented to address protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.

The requirement is replicated at IRAM 39810 SD 3 6.3.1.6: “6.3.1.6 The organization shall take effective measures to protect the forest from unauthorized activities such as hunting, fishing and illegal logging; illegal use of land; unauthorized or illegal settlements; illegally started fires and other illegal activities.”

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.2 Legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land

6.3.2.1 The standard requires that property rights, tree ownership and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.

The requirement is met at 6.3.2.1 and further elaborated at 8.6.2:

6.3.2.1 The organization shall have a suitable and up-to-date document attesting to its right to use the land or forest resources of the forest management unit and the right of use is for a period consistent with the long term planning of the sustainable forest management plan. The boundaries of the forest management unit shall be legally determined and clearly documented in the mapping of the forest management plan.

NOTE. Accreditation is carried out through one of the titles recognized by Argentine legislation (property title; lease or concession contract; real right of surface; recognition of traditional rights; customary rights, etc.)

8.6.2 The organisation shall know and respect the rights of possession and management of the lands and resources of the indigenous people who inhabit the area of influence of the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.2.2 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall be conducted in recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon without the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of the rights, including the provision of compensation where applicable. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved, or is in dispute, there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such cases forest managers shall, in the interim, provide meaningful opportunities for parties to be engaged in forest management decisions whilst respecting the processes and roles and responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.

The requirement is replicated at 6.3.2.2 and 6.3.2.3, and applied at 8.6.2:

6.3.2.2 The organization shall conduct forestry practices and operations in recognition of the established framework of legal and traditional rights, as described in Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

NOTE 1: Convention 169 was ratified by Law No. 24.071/92

NOTE 2: Argentina adheres to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on September 13, 2007.

6.3.2.3. When the scope of the legal and traditional rights of indigenous peoples is not resolved or is in dispute, the organization shall implement processes for a fair and equitable resolution and in such cases, the organization shall, in the meantime, provide significant opportunities for the parties to engage in forest management decisions, respecting the processes, roles and responsibilities established in the policies and laws where the certification is carried out.

In addition, its application at 8.6.2 notes:

8.6.2 The organisation shall know and respect the rights of possession and management of the lands and resources of the indigenous people who inhabit the area of influence of the forest management unit.

a) the organisation knows and respects the rights of indigenous people living in the area of influence of the forest management unit;

b) the organisation recognizes the lands and territories achieved by the rights of the indigenous people and these are clearly demarcated in the mapping of the management plan and in the field;

c) identification and measures of protection, agreed between the parties, of the places of special cultural, religious and economic significance of the indigenous people and these are clearly delimited in mapping and in the field;

d) the organisation identifies and respects the traditional knowledge of indigenous people;

e) the organisation only uses the knowledge identified in paragraph 8.6 2.1d) when the recognized owners of the traditional knowledge, having gone through a process of consultation and participation, have given their free, prior and informed consent formalized through a documented binding agreement;

f) the organization adequately compensates the indigenous peoples for any use of this knowledge in accordance with the provisions of previous binding agreements;

g) the organisation allows access to the lands of the forest management unit to indigenous people and other members of the local community, when they have traditionally had access to the same, for their traditional and subsistence activities;

h) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous people and other members of the local community are agreed upon and take into account respect for the organisation's property rights, the security and rights of individuals, the effects on forest and non-forest resources and ecosystems; as well as compatibility with the other functions of the forest.

i) the organisation implements procedures to avoid and resolve conflicts with the indigenous people where the particular negotiating characteristics of the parties involved are respected.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.2.3 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

The requirement is replicated at 6.3.2.4, with additional elaboration on the national context:

6.3.2.4 The organization shall implement forestry practices and operations in compliance with human rights as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. NOTE. The Argentine Republic has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights since 1948 and in 1994 incorporated into the National Constitution (in article 75, paragraph 22), all declarations, treaties and International Covenants on human rights, consequently, in Argentina, the Human Rights Treaty System has the force of law.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.3 Fundamental ILO conventions

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

The requirement is replicated at 6.3.3.1, noting that “NOTE. The Argentine Republic ratified the eight fundamental labour Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO).”

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions

6.3.4.1 The standard requires that forest operations shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.

The requirement is replicated at 6.3.4.1.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.4.2 The standard requires that working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations. Working hours and leave shall comply with national laws or applicable collective agreements.

The requirement is met at 6.3.4.3 and 6.3.4.7:

6.3.4.3 The organization shall ensure and verify that working conditions are safe and shall provide first aid and transfer in the event of a health emergency and occupational accidents.

6.3.4.7 The organization shall ensure and verify that the salaries of permanent and temporary forest workers, as well as of forest service providers operating in the forest management unit, meet or exceed the legal standards of the forest sector or, where appropriate, collective labour agreements.

In practice it is further elaborated at 7.2.1 and 7.2.2:

7.2.1 The organization shall ensure that all forest workers, including forest service providers, receive sufficient information and are kept up to date with ongoing training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all planning and implementation of the management practices set out in this standard.

7.2.2 The organization shall document, implement and keep up to date an effective training programme for forest workers, according to their roles and responsibilities, covering at least the following topics:

c) proper implementation of the tasks it performs and of the forestry operations, the occupational risks to which they are exposed and the preventive measures to preserve the health and safety of forestry workers in the performance of their activities;

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.4.3 The standard requires that wages of local and migrant forest workers as well as of contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas shall meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards or, where applicable, collective bargaining agreements.

The requirement is replicated at 6.3.4.7:

6.3.4.7 The organization shall ensure and verify that the salaries of permanent and temporary forest workers, as well as of forest service providers operating in the forest management unit, meet or exceed the legal standards of the forest sector or, where appropriate, collective labour agreements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6.3.4.4 The standard requires that the organisation is committed to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and freedom from workplace harassment. Gender equality shall be promoted.

The requirement is replicated at 6.3.4.9.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

7. SUPPORT

7.1 Resources

7.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.

The requirement is replicated at 7.1.1.

7.1.1 The organization shall determine and provide the necessary resources for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continuous improvement of the forest management system.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

7.2 Competence

7.2.1 The standard requires that forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and kept up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this benchmark.

The requirement is replicated at 7.2.1. In application it is further elaborated at 7.2.2, which stipulates clear prescriptions on the nature of training and the topics to be covered and the allocation of different types of training for different workers.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

7.3 Communication

7.3.1 The standard requires that effective communication and consultation with local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management shall be provided.

The requirement is replicated at 7.3.1.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

7.4 Complaints

7.4.1 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.

The requirement is replicated at 7.4.1, with additional guidance on application:

7.4.1 The organization shall establish and implement an appropriate procedure for resolving complaints and disputes related to forest management operations, land use rights and

working conditions. The organization shall keep records of the management of complaints and disputes.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

7.5 Documented Information

7.5.1 The standard requires that the organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.

The requirement is replicated at 7.5.1 and elaborated at 7.5.2:

7.5.1 The organization's forest management system shall include the documented information required by this standard and determined by the organization itself as necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.

7.5.2 Documented information from the forest management unit shall include: a) the sustainable forest management plan; b) the procedures and other documents necessary to carry out sustainable forest management; c) the records.

7.5.2 The standard requires that the documented information is relevant, and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.

The requirement is replicated at 7.5.3 with additional elaboration:

7.5.3 Documented information shall be relevant and updated as appropriate to the activities of the organization.

7.5.4 The organization shall establish a procedure that allows the updating and approval of documents when necessary.

7.5.5 All documentation necessary for forest management shall be available at the places of use.

7.5.6 The organization shall identify and maintain records that provide evidence of compliance with the requirements of this sustainable forest management standard.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8. OPERATION

8.1 Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle

8.1.1 The standard requires that management shall aim to maintain or increase forests and their ecosystem services and maintain or enhance the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources.

The requirement is met at 6.1.1 and 6.1.2:

6.1.1 The organization shall plan and implement forest management in a sustainable manner, to maintain or increase the forests of the forest management unit and to maintain or increase its capacity to produce a variety of wood and non-wood forest goods and other ecosystem services, in accordance with a long-term forest management plan, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and applicable to the forest management unit.

6.1.2 The organization shall plan and implement forest management while maintaining and/or improving the economic, ecological, cultural and/or social functions and values of the forests of the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.1.2 The standard requires that the quantity and quality of the forest resources and the capacity of the forest to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources.

The requirement is met at 8.1.2 and 8.1.6

8.1.1 The organization shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources of the forest management unit and their ability to store and sequester carbon in the medium and long term, using appropriate silvicultural treatment.

Indicators:

a) the silvicultural treatments applied are based on the ecology of each site and on information obtained through the forest inventories of the forest management unit and ensure the productivity of the forest and its capacity to store and sequester carbon;

b) in the absence of sufficient technical information on the ecology of the site, silvicultural treatments are defined on the basis of the precautionary principle and these promote that forest resources are sustainable in the long term.

8.1.6 The organization shall ensure adequate regeneration and/or reforestation in any area of forest harvested from the forest management unit in order to maintain the quality and quantity of forest resources.

Indicators:

a) adequate regeneration, or adequate reforestation or adequate regeneration and reforestation is ensured throughout the area of forest harvested in the forest management unit;

NOTE. It is considered appropriate when it is verified that the regeneration of native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and timely.

b) the regeneration and/or reforestation of the harvested area is carried out at the appropriate time in such a way as to protect the environmental values of the area affected by the harvest;

c) the species composition and density of regeneration of native forests and the degree of establishment of forest plantations are assessed and corrective measures are taken, when necessary, to ensure effective regeneration, or effective establishment or regeneration and establishments;

NOTE. Planted forests are also called forest plantations or afforestation.

d) where appropriate, adequate measures are implemented to control livestock pressure on the re-generation of native forests and/or establishment of forest planting.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.1.3 The standard requires that climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions and efficient use of resources shall be encouraged

The requirement is met at 8.1.2.

8.1.2 The organization shall promote positive environmental practices in forestry operations, which aim at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and efficient use of resources.

Indicators:

a) program implemented to prevent, detect and control early the occurrence of forest fires;

NOTE: A program involves an orderly series of actions aimed at achieving objectives. It shall specify roles, responsibilities, processes, resources, timelines, and priorities.

b) avoidance of the use of fire for the treatment of forest residues;

c) maintenance procedures of the vehicle fleet and all types of machinery used in the management of the forest that minimize the risks of environmental pollution

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion: a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with affected stakeholders; and b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or

other protected areas; and d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.

The requirement is met at 8.1.3.

8.1.3 The organization shall not carry out forest conversion unless it is carried out in justified and verified circumstances in which the forest conversion:

a) complies with provincial and national legislation applicable to land use and forest land use, including consultation with stakeholders; and

b) involves a small proportion (not exceeding 5%) of forest type within the certified area; and

c) has no direct or indirect negative impacts on priority conservation sites or other protected areas; and

d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stocks; and

e) makes a long-term contribution to economic, social and conservation benefits.

Indicators:

a) planted forests established on a forest conversion carried out after 31 December 2010 in circumstances other than those set out in paragraph 8.1.3 as "justified and verified circumstances" are not eligible for certification;

b) no forest conversion is carried out except where such forest conversion takes place in justified circumstances in which it is verified that

i. the organisation holds a land-use change authorisation granted by the enforcement authority which included consultation of stakeholders; and

ii. implies a small proportion (not exceeding 5%) of forest type within the certified area, and

iii. no direct and indirect negative impacts are identified in forest areas of ecological importance,

areas of cultural and social importance or other protected areas; and

iv. no destruction of significantly high carbon stock areas is identified; and

v. a contribution to long-term conservation with economic, social and sustainable forest management benefits is identified.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.1.5 The standard requires that afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:

a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) nonforest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.

The requirement is met at 8.1.5.

8.1.5 The organisation shall not carry out afforestation at priority conservation sites unless it is in justified and verified circumstances where the conversion:

a) complies with local, provincial and national legislation applicable to land use; and

b) is established on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and

c) has no negative impacts on other threatened non-forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare or endangered), culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and

d) involves a small proportion of the existing priority conservation site within the forest management unit; and

e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stocks; and

f) makes a long-term contribution to economic, social and conservation benefits.

Indicators:

a) planted forests established on a conversion of priority sites for conservation carried out after 31 December 2010 in circumstances other than those set out in paragraph 8.1.5 as "justified and verified circumstances" are not eligible for certification;

b) the conversion of priority conservation sites to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:

i. holds, if applicable, a land-use change authorisation granted by the implementing authority which included consultation of stakeholders; and IRAM 39801:2022 25

ii. involves a small proportion of the existing priority conservation site within the management unit; and

iii. there are records of consultations with affected stakeholders where it is verified that they had opportunities to contribute to decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and

iv. no negative impacts are identified on other threatened non-forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare or endangered ones), culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and

v. the conversion of significantly high carbon stock areas is not identified; and vi. identifies a contribution to long-term conservation with economic, social and sustainable forest management benefits.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion: a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and d) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and f) safeguards socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and g) has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices; and h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.

The requirement is met at 8.1.4

8.1.4 The organization, in considering the conversion of degraded forests to planted forests, shall verify that such conversion adds economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. It is a precondition for the addition of this value that the following circumstances in which the conversion is verified:

a) complies with local, provincial and national legislation applicable to land use and territorial planning of forests; and

b) is established on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to decision-making on this conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and

c) has a positive impact on the long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and

d) has no negative impacts on priority conservation sites; and

e) safeguards the socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and

f) has a land use history of the forest management unit that has evidence that degradation is not the result of deliberate forest management malpractice; and

g) is based on verifiable evidence showing that the area is not recovered or in the process of recovery. Indicators a) the conversion of degraded native forests to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:

i. holds a land-use change authorisation granted by the enforcement authority which included consultation of stakeholders; and IRAM 39801:2022 24

ii. there are records of consultations with affected stakeholders where it is verified that they had opportunities to contribute to decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and

iii. there is a positive impact on the long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and

iv. no negative impacts are verified on priority conservation sites; and

v. the protective functions of forests for society and other regulatory or ecosystem support services are safeguarded; and

vi. the socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services, are safeguarded; and vii. there is evidence that degradation is not the consequence of deliberate forest management mal-practices by the organization; and viii. there is credible evidence showing that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.2 Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality

8.2.1 The standard requires that health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be maintained or enhanced and degraded forest ecosystems shall be rehabilitated wherever and as far as economically feasible, by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures.

The requirement is met at 8.2.1.

8.2.1 The organization shall maintain or improve the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and should recover or restore degraded forests where and when technically possible and economically feasible, making the best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures.

Indicators:

a) identification of the different forests present in the forest management unit, and their state of health and vitality;

b) definition and implementation of actions to restore degraded forests, and to maintain the health and vitality of those that are not degraded.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.2.2 The standard requires that adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.

The requirement is met at 8.2.2.

8.2.2 The organization shall promote or maintain genetic, species and structural diversity appropriate to improve the stability, vitality and resistance of forests to adverse biotic and abiotic factors and strengthen natural regulatory mechanisms.

Indicators:

a) planning and management promote the diversity of genotypes, species and ecosystems;

b) management planning and implementation includes a diverse patchwork of ages, areas and/or cycles of regeneration or reforestation, appropriate to the size and uses of the forest management unit and the objectives set out in the forest management plan.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.2.3 The standard requires that use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for regeneration, wildfire protection and habitat management or a recognized practice of indigenous peoples. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken.

The requirement is met at 8.2.3.

8.2.3 The use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for re-generation, protection against forest fires and habitat management or a recognized practice of indigenous people. In these cases the organization shall implement all appropriate management and control measures for the use of fire.

Indicators:

- a) authorisation of the use of fire by the enforcement authority;*
- b) documented and implemented procedure for the use of fire as a forest management tool that includes at least the technical justification, control measures, safety measures of workers assigned to this activity, identification and verification of compliance with applicable legal requirements and monitoring of affected areas;*
- c) prior communication to the affected stakeholders concerned*

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.2.4 The standard requires that appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied.

The requirement is replicated at 8.2.4.

8.2.4 The organization shall implement forestry practices appropriate to local and justified peculiarities throughout management that ensure the health and vitality of forest resources.

Indicators:

- a) the definition of the silvicultural system used is based on the results of studies and research carried out under conditions similar to those of the forest management unit and ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources;*
- b) documented, updated and implemented procedures for forest production processes that include measures to minimize damage to the remaining forest and/or soil;*
- c) the equipment, machinery and inputs used are appropriate to the local conditions of topography, soil, climate and characteristics of the forest resources managed and ensure the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources*

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.2.5 The standard requires that the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during forest management operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place.

The reference provided for the requirement is 8.2.5.

8.2.5 The organization shall implement a program for the reduction, reuse or proper treatment of waste of all kinds.

Indicators

a) documented and implemented waste management procedure of all kinds including identification, sorting, transport and final disposal;

b) hazardous waste, and other waste, including liquid effluents, generated by management, are treated in accordance with current legislation.

Although this may meet the requirements as an ‘umbrella requirement’ and is implied, there are quite specific areas covered in the requirement that need to be explicitly addressed either via regulatory requirements or other references.

In practice, the legislative and regulatory framework delivers additional assurance for the requirements as follows:

- **[Law 25.916/04](#). Minimum specifications for environmental protection for the comprehensive management of household waste**; this law also applies to commercial waste through [Decree 779/2022 \(Last update of the regulatory decree of Law 25916/04\)](#) and requires the prevention and minimization of any waste products, regardless of the context.
 - o This law effectively delivers compliance on strictly avoiding indiscriminate disposal of waste and the prevention of spillage of oil in forest management operations.
- **[Law N° 24.051/92](#). Hazardous Waste Law**; this law regulates the handling, transport, treatment and final disposal of hazardous waste and implementing regulation via [Decree No. 831/93](#).
 - o It delivers compliance on the collection, storage and removal of non-organic waste and litter.

With regards to emergency procedures, within IRAM 39801, management procedures deliver compliance as follows:

- 8.5.2 e) response procedures to soil pollution emergencies resulting from forestry operations, which provide for mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts.
- 8.5.3 g) response procedures to water pollution emergencies resulting from forestry operations, which provide for mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts

However, on balance, the standard does not deliver compliance; the risks to the integrity of the SFM standard are nonetheless low.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: MINOR NON-CONFORMITY

8.2.6 The standard requires that integrated pest management, appropriate silviculture alternatives and other biological measures shall be preferred to minimise the use of pesticides.

The requirement is met at 8.2.6.

8.2.6 The organization shall plan and carry out the management of harmful biological agents following the guidelines of an integrated management, in order to evaluate and prefer appropriate forestry alternatives and other cultural and/or biological management measures, seeking to minimize the use of phytosanitary products.

Indicators:

a) Identification of present and/or potential harmful biological agents that require management actions in the forest management unit.

NOTE. In the identification of potential harmful biological agents, pests, diseases and livestock (overgrazing and ramoneo) are considered when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources.

b) documented and implemented procedure for the monitoring, prevention and management and control of harmful biological agents that considers the best available practices and ensures the maintenance of health and vitality of forest resources;

NOTE: The best practices available for the prevention and control of harmful biological agents include, but are not limited to giving preference, biological control measures, selection of forestry or mechanical systems / practices, compared to the use of phytosanitary products, according to the regulations established by the regulatory body of sanitary protection.

c) actions and strategies to minimise the risks of introduction of harmful biological agents into the forest management unit and to prevent the increase in the incidence of existing ones;

NOTE. Strategies to minimize the risk of introduction of harmful biological agents may include but are not limited to the active participation of the organization in local and regional monitoring programs together with other forest producers and/or the enforcement authority, early communication to the enforcement authority when harmful biological agents are detected, etc.

d) the use of phytosanitary products is limited to situations where there is no other economically and technically viable and effective management alternative.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.2.7 The standard requires that any use of pesticides is documented.

The reference supplied is at 8.2.7.

8.2.7 The organization shall adopt a program of responsible use of phytosanitary products that ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources.

c) up-to-date registration of all phytosanitary products purchased, stored and used in the forest management unit including the product safety sheet;

The standard indicates that the products must be registered but this does not mean documentation of use. This may be implied, but it is not a clear requirement in application. In terms of interpreting the “used”, it is not clear enough that each and any use of pesticides will be documented.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: MINOR NON-CONFORMITY

8.2.8 The standard requires that the WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.

The requirement is met at 8.2.7.

8.2.7 The organization shall adopt a program of responsible use of phytosanitary products that ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources.

Indicators:

a) No WHO Type 1A and 1B phytosanitary products and other highly toxic phytosanitary products are used;

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.2.9 The standard requires that pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.

Note: "Pesticides banned by international agreements" are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

The requirement is met at 8.2.7.

8.2.7 The organization shall adopt a program of responsible use of phytosanitary products that ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources.

Indicators:

b) no phytosanitary products, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, the derivatives of which remain bio-logically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any other phytosanitary products prohibited by international agreement;

NOTE: "Phytosanitary products prohibited by international agreements" are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to which Argentina is a signatory, ratified by Law No. 26,011.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.2.10 The standard requires that the use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment by trained personnel.

The requirement is met at 8.2.7.

8.2.7 The organization shall adopt a program of responsible use of phytosanitary products that ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources.

Indicators:

c) up-to-date registration of all phytosanitary products purchased, stored and used in the forest management unit including the product safety sheet;

d) documented and implemented procedure for the transport, handling, use and appropriate storage of phytosanitary products and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force and the manufacturer's instructions, which ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources;

NOTE: The organization may use as reference documentation for the development of this procedure the ILO Guide "Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work" for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for the cleaning of active spills.

e) the procedures implemented for the use of phytosanitary products consider the climatic, edaphic and topographic conditions and include actions to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts caused by their use.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.2.11 The standard requires that where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment. Fertilizer use shall not be an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.

The requirement is met at 8.2.8.

8.2.8 When the use of fertilisers is justified, the organisation shall apply them in a controlled manner and with due regard for the environment. The use of fertilizers shall not be an alternative to the proper management of soil nutrients.

Indicators:

a) the use of fertilisers is limited to situations where there is no other economically and technically viable and effective alternative;

b) up-to-date record of fertilisers purchased, stored and used in the forest management unit.

NOTE. The record includes at least the following information: brand name, active ingredient, place of application and total area under application, total dose and quantity used, date of application, and frequency of use.

c) documented and implemented procedure for the transport, handling, use and proper storage of fertilisers and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force, which ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources;

NOTE: The organisation may use as reference documentation for the development of this procedure the ILO Guide "Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work" for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for the cleaning of active spills.

d) the procedures implemented for the use of fertilisers consider the climatic, edaphic and topographic conditions and include actions to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts caused by their use

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.3 Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)

8.3.1 The standard requires that the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis shall be maintained.

The requirement is met at 8.3.1.

8.3.1 The organization shall maintain the capacity of forests to produce a variety of products and other services in a sustainable manner.

Indicators:

a) identification of the products and other services generated by the forests present in the forest management unit.

b) the management plan, based on the range of products and other services existing in the forest management unit, considers and foresees for mechanisms for their diversification;

c) planning and implementation of actions aimed at maintaining or increasing the future value of the products and other services of the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.3.2 The standard requires that sound economic performance shall be pursued, taking into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.

The requirement is met at 6.1.3

6.1.3 The organization shall plan and implement forest management in such a way as to achieve sound economic performance, taking into account the possibilities of new markets and economic activities in relation to all existing goods and services in the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.3.3 The standard requires that management, harvesting and regeneration operations shall be carried out at a time, and in a way, that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to soil and retained stands and trees.

The requirement is met at 8.3.2.

8.3.2 The organisation shall implement forestry operations, including harvesting and forestry, reforestation and/or regeneration at a time and in a manner that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site.

Indicators:

- a) updated and implemented procedures for forest production processes, including harvesting and afforestation, reforestation and/or regeneration, which ensure the maintenance of the productiveness of the site;*
- b) the equipment, machinery and inputs used are appropriate to the local conditions of topography, edaphic, climate and characteristics of the forest resources produced and ensure the maintenance of the productivity of the site;*
- c) implementation of techniques and/or actions to minimize damage from forestry operations to the remaining forest;*
- d) on-site harvest and processing residues are disposed of in the forest in such a way as to facilitate the natural cycling of nutrients, prevent erosion and maintain the productivity of the site.*

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.3.4 The standard requires that harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested products.

The requirement is met at 8.3.3.

8.3.3 The organisation shall establish levels of harvest or extraction of both wood and non-wood forest products that do not exceed a rate that can be maintained in the long term, and optimal use shall be made of the harvested products.

Indicators:

- a) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods (wood and non wood);*

NOTE. The rate of harvest or extraction does not exceed the possibility of the forest, so that its quality and productivity are maintained or improved.

- b) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and periodic inventory records;*

- c) documented and implemented procedure for carrying out forest inventories;*
- d) adoption of techniques to minimise residues of forest products associated with on-site harvesting and processing operations and to prevent losses.*

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.3.5 The standard requires that adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.

The requirement is met at 6.1.5 and 8.4.7

6.1.5 The organization shall plan, establish, and maintain adequate infrastructure, such as the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, collection areas and roads work, to ensure the efficient delivery of goods and services.

8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and/or adequate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems

8.4.7 The organization must plan and build infrastructure in a way that minimizes damage to priority sites for conservation, native ecosystems and forest resources present in the forest management unit.

Indicators

a) in the planning and building of the infrastructure, such as the road network, the irrigation network, the drainage network, the storage areas, the buildings and works of art, prescriptions are adopted to minimize the damage to the priority sites for the conservation, native ecosystems and forest resources present in the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems

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

The requirement is met at 6.1.4.

6.1.4. The organization shall plan and implement forest management to maintain, conserve or improve biodiversity in the landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.2 The standard requires that inventory, mapping and planning of forest resources shall identify, protect, conserve or set aside ecologically important forest areas. Note: This does

not prohibit forest management activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.

The requirement is met at 8.4.1 and 8.4.2.

8.4.1 The organization shall identify the priority sites for conservation present in the forest management unit.

Indicators:

a) documented and implemented procedure for the identification of priority sites for conservation in the forest management unit;

NOTE: When the identification of priority sites for conservation is carried out, the protected areas already established, of any domain or jurisdiction, adjacent or that include in part or in whole the forest management unit are also considered.

b) identification of sites defined as priorities for conservation in the mapping of the management plan and in the field.

8.4.2 For the identified priority conservation sites, the organisation shall define the conservation objectives and implement specific requirements, included in the management plan and based on the precautionary approach, that ensure the maintenance or increase of their values.

Indicators

a) each priority site for conservation has specific management objectives that ensure the maintenance or increase of its values;

b) buffer areas adjacent to priority conservation sites in the forest management unit;

c) the presence of invasive tree and shrub species is monitored at priority conservation sites;

d) the presence of livestock and invasive animal species is monitored at priority conservation sites.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.3 The standard requires that protected, threatened and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population. Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements.

The requirement is met at 8.4.3.

8.4.3 The organisation shall define and implement specific non-harvesting measures for commercial purposes and protection for rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically

endangered species, as well as their habitats, that contribute to their conservation. NOTE: The requirement does not preclude trade in accordance with CITES requirements.

Indicators:

a) procedures in place for the identification and registration of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species and their habitats present in the forest management unit;

NOTE. In the identification of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species for conservation, what is indicated by the red books or what is declared by the competent authority, among others, is taken into account.

b) identification in the mapping of the management plan of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species for conservation and their habitats;

c) adoption of practices for the protection of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species and their habitats during forestry operations;

d) the extraction, cutting, hunting of any rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species for conservation is controlled;

e) implemented procedure of registration and reporting to the competent authority, of the presence of unauthorized hunters, fishermen or gatherers within the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.4 The standard requires that successful regeneration shall be ensured through natural regeneration or planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.

The requirement is met at 8.1.6.

8.1.6 The organization shall ensure adequate regeneration and/or reforestation in any area of forest harvested from the forest management unit in order to maintain the quality and quantity of forest resources.

Indicators:

a) adequate regeneration, or adequate reforestation or adequate regeneration and reforestation is ensured throughout the area of forest harvested in the forest management unit;

NOTE. It is considered appropriate when it is verified that the regeneration of native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and timely.

b) the regeneration and/or reforestation of the harvested area is carried out at the appropriate time in such a way as to protect the environmental values of the area affected by the harvest;

c) the species composition and density of regeneration of native forests and the degree of establishment of forest plantations are assessed and corrective measures are taken, when necessary, to ensure effective regeneration, or effective establishment or regeneration and establishments;

NOTE. Planted forests are also called forest plantations or afforestation.

d) where appropriate, adequate measures are implemented to control livestock pressure on the re-generation of native forests and/or establishment of forest planting.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.5 The standard requires that for reforestation and afforestation origins of native species that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.

Note: CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction, and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species are recognised as guidance for avoidance of invasive species.

The requirement is met at 8.4.4.

8.4.4 The organisation shall use for afforestation and reforestation native or introduced species that are adapted to the conditions of the site. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local origins have been scientifically assessed shall be used, and whether the negative impacts can be avoided.

NOTE: The guiding principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of the impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species can be used as a guide to avoid invasive species.

Indicators:

a) records of experience in the locality or region that the genetic material used for afforestation and reforestation is well adapted to the site and has not presented significant negative environmental impacts;

b) records of all genetic material used in the forest management unit;

c) updated and implemented procedure to monitor and evaluate the productive potential and possible environmental and economic impacts of the introduced genetic material;

d) the use of genetically modified trees is expressly prohibited.

NOTE 1. The genetically modified tree is included in the definition of genetically modified organism (see 3.23)

NOTE 2. The restriction on the use of genetically modified trees has been adopted by the General Assembly of the PEFC Council based on the Precautionary Principle. Until there is sufficient scientific data on genetically modified trees to indicate that the impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to or more positive than those of genetically improved trees using traditional methods, genetically modified trees shall not be used.

NOTE 3. PEFC is the English acronym for the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.6 The standard requires that afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.

The requirement is met at 8.4.5.

8.4.5 The organisation shall plan and execute afforestation, reforestation and other activities of the forest management unit in a manner that contributes to the maintenance, improvement and/or restoration of ecological connectivity.

Indicators:

a) the planning and execution of planted forests and infrastructure works and services identify and respect the areas suitable for each use;

b) the planning, design and management of planted forests and infrastructure works and services contributing to the maintenance, improvement and/or restoration of the connectivity of the natural systems of the forest management unit and the areas adjacent to it;

NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through adequately sized (functional) corridors that communicate patches remnants of the original native system and protected areas or priority sites for conservation, among themselves.

c) in areas under management, the maintenance of native forest attributes is promoted, such as the presence of dead wood standing and falling, hollow trees, old groves and / or with rare tree species, as a habitat and refuge of biodiversity.

NOTE. These native forest attributes are called and known as legacy elements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.7 The standard requires that genetically-modified trees shall not be used.

The requirement is met at 8.4.4.

8.4.4 The organisation shall use for afforestation and reforestation native or introduced species that are adapted to the conditions of the site. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local origins have been scientifically assessed shall be used, and whether the negative impacts can be avoided.

NOTE: The guiding principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of the impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species can be used as a guide to avoid invasive species.

Indicators:

d) the use of genetically modified trees is expressly prohibited.

NOTE 1. The genetically modified tree is included in the definition of genetically modified organism (see 3.23)

NOTE 2. The restriction on the use of genetically modified trees has been adopted by the General Assembly of the PEFC Council based on the Precautionary Principle. Until there is sufficient scientific data on genetically modified trees to indicate that the impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to or more positive than those of genetically improved trees using traditional methods, genetically modified trees shall not be used.

NOTE 3. PEFC is the English acronym for the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.8 The standard requires that a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures and the diversity of species such as mixed stands shall be promoted, where appropriate. The practices shall also aim to maintain or restore landscape diversity.

The requirement is met at 6.1.4 and 8.2.2.

6.1.4. The organization shall plan and implement forest management to maintain, conserve or improve biodiversity in the landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.

8 OPERATION

8.2 Criterion 2: Maintaining the health and vitality of forest ecosystems

8.2.2 The organization shall promote or maintain genetic, species and structural diversity appropriate to improve the stability, vitality and resistance of forests to adverse biotic and abiotic factors and strengthen natural regulatory mechanisms.

Indicators:

- a) planning and management promote the diversity of genotypes, species and ecosystems;*
- b) management planning and implementation includes a diverse patchwork of ages, areas and/or cycles of regeneration or reforestation, appropriate to the size and uses of the forest management unit and the objectives set out in the forest management plan.*

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.9 The standard requires that traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems on appropriate sites shall be supported, where appropriate.

The requirement is met at 6.2.7.

6.2.7 The sustainable forest management plan shall consider the socio-cultural context, taking as a reference the experience and traditional knowledge related to the forest of local communities, indigenous people and other stakeholders. Where appropriate, traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems at suitable forest management unit sites shall be supported.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.10 The standard requires that tending and harvesting operations shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to maintain or improve biological diversity.

The requirement is met at 8.4.6.

8.4.6 The organisation shall carry out forest operations in such a way as to minimize damage to the ecosystems present in the forest management unit and when technically and economically feasible practical measures are taken to maintain or improve biological diversity.

Indicators:

- a) procedures implemented for forestry operations including actions to minimise damage to biodiversity and ecosystems present in the forest management unit;*
- b) evidence that areas bordering those covered by the management plan are not adversely affected by forestry operations.*

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.11 The standard requires that infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.

The requirement is met 8.4.7.

8.4.7 The organization must plan and build infrastructure in a way that minimizes damage to priority sites for conservation, native ecosystems and forest resources present in the forest management unit.

Indicators

a) in the planning and building of the infrastructure, such as the road network, the irrigation network, the drainage network, the storage areas, the buildings and works of art, prescriptions are adopted to minimize the damage to the priority sites for the conservation, native ecosystems and forest resources present in the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.12 The standard requires that, with due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to control the pressure of animal populations on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.

The requirement is replicated at 8.1.6 and 8.4.2.

8.1.6 The organization shall ensure adequate regeneration and/or reforestation in any area of forest harvested from the forest management unit in order to maintain the quality and quantity of forest resources.

Indicators:

d) where appropriate, adequate measures are implemented to control livestock pressure on the re-generation of native forests and/or establishment of forest planting.

8.4.2 For the identified priority conservation sites, the organisation shall define the conservation objectives and implement specific requirements, included in the management plan and based on the precautionary approach, that ensure the maintenance or increase of their values.

Indicators

d) the presence of livestock and invasive animal species is monitored at priority conservation sites.

OBSERVATION: In practice, this refers only to livestock and invasive animal species rather than animal populations more broadly; this could potentially exclude management practices that may be necessary for the control of native species.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.4.13 The standard requires that standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard

biological diversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding ecosystems.

The requirement is met at 8.4.5.

8.4.5 The organisation shall plan and execute afforestation, reforestation and other activities of the forest management unit in a manner that contributes to the maintenance, improvement and/or restoration of ecological connectivity.

Indicators

c) in areas under management, the maintenance of native forest attributes is promoted, such as the presence of dead wood standing and falling, hollow trees, old groves and / or with rare tree species, as a habitat and refuge of biodiversity.

NOTE. These native forest attributes are called and known as legacy elements.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.5 Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)

8.5.1 The standard requires that protective functions of forests for society, such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.

The requirement is met at 8.5.1

8.5.1 The organisation shall identify and maintain or improve the forest protective functions of the forest management unit.

Indicators:

a) identification in the mapping of areas of the forest management unit that perform specific protection functions;

NOTE 1: Among the protective functions of forests can be identified among others, their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulatory or supportive ecosystem services.

NOTE 2: The scale and level of detail of the cartography is appropriate to the size and use of the forest management unit.

b) forestry operations are planned and implemented to maintain or improve the identified protective functions.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.5.2 The standard requires that areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be mapped, and forest management plans and operations shall ensure the maintenance or enhancement of these functions.

The requirement is replicated at 6.2.3 and 8.5.1

6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least:

g) specifications, technical requirements and environmental and watershed protection measures necessary to protect soil, watercourses and bodies of water, flora and fauna;

8. OPERATION

8.5 Criterion 5: Adequate maintenance or improvement of the protective functions of forests in forest management, in particular soil and water

8.5.1 The organisation shall identify and maintain or improve the forest protective functions of the forest management unit.

Indicators:

8.5.1 The organization shall identify and maintain or improve the forest protective functions of the forest management unit.

Indicators:

a) identification in the mapping of areas of the forest management unit that perform specific protection functions;

NOTE 1: Among the protective functions of forests can be identified among others, their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulatory or supportive ecosystem services.

NOTE 2: The scale and level of detail of the cartography is appropriate to the size and use of the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.5.3 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Techniques applied and the machinery used shall be suitable for such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations on these areas.

The requirement is met at 8.5.2

8.5.2 The organization shall adopt effective measures to maintain and/or improve the soil quality of the forest management unit.

Indicators:

a) adoption of techniques that consider the maintenance and / or improvement of soil quality;

b) forestry operations are planned and equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of slope, soil fragility and rainfall are planned and selected in order to minimise soil erosion and compaction and maintain its quality;

c) damage to the ground caused by forestry operations that shall lead to erosion is mitigated or re-paired prior to the closure of the task;

d) taking measures to minimize livestock pressure on sensitive soils and areas prone to erosion and compaction;

d) in the use of chemical products, measures are taken to minimize soil contamination;

NOTE. Chemical products include, but are not limited to, the variety of phytosanitary products, herbicides, fuel and lubricants that are used in the forest management unit.

e) response procedures to soil pollution emergencies resulting from forestry operations, which provide for mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts.

In addition, this is addressed at the planning stage:

6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least

g) specifications, technical requirements and environmental and watershed protection measures necessary to protect soil, watercourses and bodies of water, flora and fauna; which occurs at the planning stage

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.5.4 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided. Downstream water balance and water quality shall not be significantly affected by the operations.

The requirement is met at 8.5.4

8.5.4 Special care shall be given to forestry operations in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided. Downstream water balance and water quality shall not be significantly affected by the operations.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.5.5 The standard requires that construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.

The requirement is met at 8.5.3

8.5.3 The organization shall plan and implement forestry operations to maintain the quality and availability of water resources.

Indicators:

a) the organization knows and considers in the planning of forestry operations the water uses of local communities in the area of influence of the forest management unit;

b) the planning, construction and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage net-work, roadworks and any works involving significant earth and water movements, including, where appropriate, requirements for:

i. minimize exposure to bare soil,

ii. minimize erosion and sediment entrainment into streams and bodies of water, and

iii. preserve the natural level and function of water courses and their beds;

c) installation and maintenance of energy dissipaters and/or other facilities for the proper drainage of forest roads;

d) buffer strips on the banks of water courses or bodies of water which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;

e) procedures to prevent or mitigate the fall of crop waste into streams or bodies of water that contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;

f) in the use of chemicals products, measures are taken to minimize contamination of water re-sources;

NOTE. Chemical products include, but are not limited to, the variety of pesticides, herbicides, fuels and lubricants that are used in the forest management unit.

g) response procedures to water pollution emergencies resulting from forestry operations, which provide for mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions

8.6.1 The standard requires that forest management planning shall aim to respect all socio-economic functions of forests.

The requirement is met at 6.1.2

6.1.2 The organization shall plan and implement forest management while maintaining and/or improving the economic, ecological, cultural and/or social functions and values of the forests of the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.6.2 The standard requires that adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided, taking into account respect for ownership rights, safety and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.

The requirement is *partially* met at 8.6.2.

8.6.2 The organisation shall know and respect the rights of possession and management of the lands and resources of the indigenous people who inhabit the area of influence of the forest management unit.

Indicators

h) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous people and other members of the local community are agreed upon and take into account respect for the organisation's property rights, the security and rights of individuals, the effects on forest and non-forest resources and ecosystems; as well as compatibility with the other functions of the forest.

i) the organisation implements procedures to avoid and resolve conflicts with the indigenous people where the particular negotiating characteristics of the parties involved are respected.

Public access and recreation are not appropriately considered in the standard. Although consideration of recreational services is considered at the planning stage (as ecosystem services, see definitions and 6.1), they are nonetheless not specifically addressed.

This omission does not necessarily preclude public access completely; there is some overlap with 8.6.1 (d), where negative impacts on local communities must be mitigated. However, this is a clear requirement.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: MINOR NON-CONFORMITY

8.6.3 The standard requires that sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.

The requirement is met at 8.6.1

8.6.1 The organisation shall know and respect the uses, customs and rights of the local community and/or the indigenous people where the forest management unit is inserted and shall seek to improve the quality of life of forest workers, the local community and indigenous people.

Indicators:

a) the organization is aware of the social situation of local communities and/or indigenous people and respects their customs and rights;

b) the organization identifies, respects and protects sites of special cultural, spiritual and/or historical significance for local communities and/or indigenous people;

c) the organisation identifies and evaluates the social aspects and impacts associated with the activities of the forest management unit;

d) the organisation implements procedures to prevent and mitigate negative impacts on the local community and/or indigenous people, associated with the activities of the forest management unit;

e) the organisation implements a procedure for compensation for direct damages to individuals, local communities and/or indigenous people resulting from the activities of the forest management unit;

f) the organisation implements a procedure for communicating to the local community and/or the indigenous people about the realization and risks associated with forestry operations;

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.6.4 The standard requires that management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area, where appropriate supported by engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples.

The requirement is met at 8.6.3

8.6.3 The organisation shall promote actions that lead to the development of local communities and/or indigenous people.

Indicators:

a) actions that promote or support development enterprises, health programs and education in forestry and environmental issues together with local communities and / or indigenous people;

b) members of the local community and/or indigenous people, under equal conditions of suitability, have priority in recruitment and employment and opportunities for promotion and training;

c) the organisation supports the maintenance and improvement of local infrastructure;

d) on equal market terms, priority is given to the sale of forest products from the forest management unit to local processing industries, where this does not affect the commercial objectives of the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.6.5 The standard requires that the best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples. Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be encouraged.

The requirement is met at 6.2.7 and 8.6.2

6.2.7 The sustainable forest management plan shall consider the socio-cultural context, taking as a reference the experience and traditional knowledge related to the forest of local communities, indigenous people and other stakeholders. Where appropriate, traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems at suitable forest management unit sites shall be supported.

8. OPERATION

8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or adequate improvement of socio-economic functions and conditions

8.6.2 The organisation shall know and respect the rights of possession and management of the lands and resources of the indigenous people who inhabit the area of influence of the forest management unit.

Indicators

d) the organization identifies and respects the traditional knowledge of indigenous people;

e) the organization only uses the knowledge identified in paragraph 8.6 2.1d) when the recognized owners of the traditional knowledge, having gone through a process of consultation and participation, have given their free, prior and informed consent formalized through a documented binding agreement;

f) the organization adequately compensates the indigenous peoples for any use of this knowledge in accordance with the provisions of previous binding agreements;

Although the use of any traditional knowledge is conditional, this conditionality is in line with Argentina's Law Nº 23.302/85, which gives statutory rights to indigenous people with regards to socio-economic processes and is aimed at ensuring that their intellectual property is protected.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.6.6 The standard requires that management shall give due regard to the role of forestry in local economies. Special consideration shall be given to new opportunities for training and employment of local people, including indigenous peoples.

The requirement is met at 8.6.3

8.6.3 The organisation shall promote actions that lead to the development of local communities and/or indigenous people.

Indicators:

b) members of the local community and/or indigenous people, under equal conditions of suitability, have priority in recruitment and employment and opportunities for promotion and training;

d) on equal market terms, priority is given to the sale of forest products from the forest management unit to local processing industries, where this does not affect the commercial objectives of the forest management unit.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8.6.7 The standard requires that forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.

The requirement is met at 8.6.4

8.6.4 The organization shall contribute to and/or support research activities and data collection necessary for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organizations, as appropriate.

Indicators

a) registration of actions to support and/or support research activities

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation

9.1.1 The standard requires that monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.

The requirement is met at 9.1.1 and 9.1.2

9.1.1 The organization shall implement a program of periodic monitoring of the forest resources of the forest management unit and its management, which includes at least the following elements:

- a) compliance with the applicable legal requirements and with the policies, procedures, instructions and codes of good practice subscribed or defined for the forest management unit;*
- b) compliance with the management plan and its objectives;*
- c) the yield of all forest products (wood and non-wood) harvested and/or produced;*
- d) the health and vitality of forests, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overpopulation, fires and climate damage;*
- e) the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects and impacts of forestry operations;*
- f) the priority sites for conservation and the specific protective functions identified for the forests of the forest management unit;*
- g) working conditions and the training plan;*
- h) the performance of forest service providers, including compliance with legal requirements and policies, procedures, instructions and codes of good practice subscribed to or defined for the forest management unit;*
- i) economic and financial performance.*

9.1.2 The organization shall evaluate and use the results of the monitoring program to adjust the planning process.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9.1.2 The standard requires that health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.

The requirement is met at 9.1.1d)

9.1.1 The organization shall implement a program of periodic monitoring of the forest resources of the forest management unit and its management, which includes at least the following elements:

d) the health and vitality of forests, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overpopulation, fires and climate damage;

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9.1.3 The standard requires that where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.

The requirement is met at 9.1.1 and 9.1.3

9.1.1 The organization shall implement a program of periodic monitoring of the forest resources of the forest management unit and its management, which includes at least the following elements:

c) the yield of all forest products (wood and non-wood) harvested and/or produced;

9.1.3 The organization shall implement a procedure for the traceability and quantification of all forest products from their origin, whether from the organization's own forests or from third parties, which includes at least:

a) the unique and precise identification and recording of the identity, quantity and origin of all forest products (wood and non-wood) harvested and/or produced;

NOTE: The register includes the description of the products, the quantity, the origin of the material used (forest and forest management unit) and the date of harvest or production.

b) verification of origin and volume in proportion to planned annual production;

the tracking of forest products from their point of harvest to their place of sale or destination;

d) the registration of transport and/or sales documents.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9.1.4 The standard requires that working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.

The requirement is met at 9.1.1 and 9.1.2

9.1.1 The organization shall implement a program of periodic monitoring of the forest resources of the forest management unit and its management, which includes at least the following elements:

g) working conditions and the training plan;

h) the performance of forest service providers, including compliance with legal requirements and policies, procedures, instructions and codes of good practice subscribed to or defined for the forest management unit;

9.1.2 The organization shall evaluate and use the results of the monitoring program to adjust the planning process.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9.2 Internal audit

9.2.1 Objectives

The standard requires that an internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system a) conforms to • the organisation's requirements for its management system; • the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard b) is effectively implemented and maintained.

The requirement is met at 9.2.1

9.2.1.1 The organization shall establish and implement an internal audit program at planned intervals that provides information on whether the forest management system:

a) is in accordance with:

i. the organization's requirements for its forest management system, and

ii. the requirements of this sustainable forest management standard; and

b) is effectively implemented and maintained.

9.2.1.2 The organization that integrates a forest management certification group may comply with the requirements defined in 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 with the internal audit program established and implemented for that forest management certification group

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9.2.2 Organisation

The standard requires that the organisation shall: a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits; b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit; c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process; d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management; e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.

The requirement is replicated at 9.2.2

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9.3 Management review

9.3.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include a) the status of actions from previous management reviews; b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system; c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in: • nonconformities and corrective actions; • monitoring and measurement results; • audit results; d) opportunities for continual improvement.

The requirement is replicated at 9.3.1

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9.3.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.

The requirement is met at 9.3.2

9.3.2 The organisation shall include in the results of the management review decisions related to opportunities for continuous improvement and any need for changes in the forest management system.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained

The requirement is met at 9.3.3

9.3.3 The organisation shall record and retain the information resulting from the reviews by the management.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

10. IMPROVEMENT

10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action

10.1.1 The standard requires that when a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall: a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences; b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur; c) implement any action needed; d)

review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken; e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.

The requirement is replicated at 10.1.1

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.

The requirement is met at 10.1.2

10.1.2 The organization shall implement corrective actions that are appropriate for the purposes of the nonconformities found

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

10.1.3 The standard requires that the organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of: a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken; b) the results of any corrective action.

The requirement is replicated at 10.1.3

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

10.2 Continual improvement

The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved

The requirement is met at 10.2

The organization shall continuously improve the adequacy, adequacy and effectiveness of the forest management system and sustainable forest management.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8. GROUP CERTIFICATION MODEL

GENERAL

The following is a summary of the assessment against the requirements.

4.1 Understanding the group organisation and its context

The standard provides the appropriate context as follows:

The standard provides a framework for group organisations at IRAM 39805 4.1 as follows:

4.1.1 The forest certification group shall establish and document the criteria for its formation. The criteria shall consider:

a) regional group: the composition of the forest certification group is determined by regional jurisdictional, eco-regional or basin limits;

b) other groups: the formation of the forest certification group is determined by other specific circumstances that influence the implementation of the group's management system.

As (b) above

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders

The standard clearly requires that groups organisations identify a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant for the group management system and b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders at IRAM 39805 4.1.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

4.3 Determining the scope of the group management system

The definitions used by the group model are in conformity with the terms presented in PEFC 1002:2018 Chapter 3. The definitions are contained in IRAM 39805 Chapter 3.

The scope of the group management system is determined at 4.3.1 and 4.3.2. The procedure requires that group management:

4.3.1 In order to achieve the defined objectives, including the improvement of its performance, the forest certification group shall establish, implement, maintain and continuously improve a management system, which includes the necessary processes, their interactions and the level of performance required, in accordance with the requirements of this standard.

4.3.2 The forest certification group shall determine the limits and applicability of its management system to establish its scope. To determine this scope, the forest certification group shall consider:

- a) the objectives of the management system of the forest certification group,*
- b) the entity of the forest certification group,*
- c) the members of the forest certification group, and*
- d) certified area.*

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

4.4 Group Management System

Group entities are required to be subjected to internal monitoring and internal audits (9.1 and 9.2) and that a certified PEFC chain of custody system shall be in place if a group entity acts as a trader of forest based material not covered by group certificate (4.3).

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

5.1 Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities

The standard adopts the language of PEFCT ST 1002 5.1.1 with some exceptions that are elaborations on that language that are specific references to the CERFOAR sustainable forest management standard.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

5.2 Commitment and policy

Commitment and policy commitments have been adapted with very similar language, with additional references to the CERFOAR SFM standard.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6. Planning

The standard adopts the language of PEFCT ST 1002 6.1 with additional requirements on the establishment of a group management plan.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

7. Support

Requirements for 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 have been adopted in an almost identical manner.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8. Operations

Requirements for Requirement 8 have been adopted almost identically.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation

The monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation requirements have been adopted with identical language.

9.2 Internal Audit

The internal audit requirements have been adopted with identical language.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9.3 Selection of participants

The requirements have been adopted with almost identical language.

However, an omission exists in the case of pre-existing organisations. The PEFC Standard requires that in the case of pre-existing organisations, additional sampling methods shall be defined (9.3.1.3 in PEFC ST 1002:2018). This remains unaddressed in the standard.

Text that could be used in place of such a requirement could read as follows:

In case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, the group entity shall establish additional sampling procedures.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: MINOR NON CONFORMITY

9.4 Management Review

The requirements have been adopted with almost identical language.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

10. Improvement

The requirements have been adopted with almost identical language

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9. CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD

GENERAL

CERFOAR has fully adopted PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS



10. CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Does the scheme documentation require that certification shall be carried out by impartial, independent third parties that cannot be involved in the standard setting process as governing or decision making body, or in the forest management and are independent of the certified entity?

PG 02 1.1 This Procedure establishes the additional requirements to those established by ISO/IEC 17021: in force and specific to CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina that Certification Bodies (hereinafter CB) shall comply with in order to carry out audits and CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) of an organization or a group of organizations managed under the requirements of group certification.

NOTE: ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies performing management system auditing and certification — Part 1: Requirements contains principles and requirements regarding the competence, consistency and impartiality of auditing and certification of management systems of all kinds

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

2. Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021?

See above

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

3. Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest certification shall have the technical competence in forest management on its economic, social and environmental impacts, and on the forest certification criteria?

6.3 Competence of personnel involved in forest management certification activities CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina 6.3.1 The CB shall ensure that the people who carry out the activities related to the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina forest management certification have technical competence in forest management and its environmental, social and economic impacts and on the forest certification criteria in accordance with the standards of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

4. Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have a good understanding of the national PEFC system against which they carry out forest management certification?

6.3.2 Forest auditors B.- Training in forest management CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina. The CB shall ensure that the forest auditors, in the last two years, have participated in a training

course recognized by CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina on the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina sustainable management system and standards, including the PEFC ST 2001 Trademarks standard.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

5. Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies have the responsibility to use competent auditors and who have adequate technical know-how on the certification process and issues related to forest management certification?

F.- Competence The certification body shall ensure that forest auditors demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge and skills in the following areas: a) The objectives and fundamental processes of the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina system; b) The requirements contained in the in force IRAM 39801, IRAM 39805 and ST 2001 Standards; c) Knowledge of the socio-cultural aspects of the region where the forest management standards are implemented; 2022 05 06 | PG 02:04 | SFM Audit Procedure Página 5 de 21 d) Audit principles, procedures and techniques: that allow the auditor to apply them correctly in the different audits and ensure that they are carried out in a consistent and systematic manner; e) Characteristics of the organization to be audited, including scale, structure, functions and relationships with other organizations and the community, aspects of the forestry business, terminology, social and cultural customs, working language: that allow the auditor to understand the operational context of the organization; f) Legislation, regulations and other pertinent requirements that allow the auditor to operate in the adequate legal framework and to be aware of the legal requirements applicable to the organization that is the object of the audit; g) The principles of forest management based on techniques that include forest management planning, inventories, forest crops, protection and management of forest ecosystems: that allow the auditor to evaluate the forest management system and decide whether to properly implements; h) Environmental techniques and the economic principles applicable to forest management: that allow the auditor an understanding of the fundamental relationships between human activities and sustainable forest management; i) Technical aspects associated with forest operations: that allow the auditor to understand the activities of the audited organization and its effects on the management of its forest resources and the territory involved. In turn, the CB shall ensure that the responsible or lead forest auditors have additional knowledge and skills in audit leadership to facilitate the efficient and effective conduct of the audit. The CB shall ensure that the person in charge or leader of the audit team has the capacity to: - plan the audit and make effective use of resources during the audit; - represent the audit team in communications with the client; - organize and direct the members of the audit team; - provide direction and guidance to trainee auditors; - lead the audit team to reach the audit conclusions; - prevent and resolve conflicts; - prepare and complete the audit report. The CB shall provide evidence of annual monitoring by forest management auditors, applying methods such as witness audits, review of audit reports or comment from client organisations, etc., based on the frequency of their use and the level of risk associated with their activities. In particular, OC shall review the competence of its staff in light of its results obtained in order to identify training needs. Annex 1 presents a summary of the competency requirements established by CERFOAR –

PEFC Argentina for personnel involved in certification activities and that shall be met by CBs authorized to work with CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina forest management certification.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

6. Does the scheme documentation require that the auditors must fulfil the general criteria of ISO 19011 for Quality Management Systems auditors or for Environmental Management Systems auditors?

4.2 The CB shall implement its audit procedures in accordance with the guidelines established in the in force ISO 19011 standard. NOTE: The ISO 19011: in force. Guidelines for auditing management systems provides guidance on auditing management systems, including the principles of auditing, managing an audit programme and conducting management system audits, as well as guidance on the evaluation of competence of individuals involved in the audit process. These activities include the individual(s) managing the audit programme, auditors and audit teams.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

7. Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management audits?

Competence: i) Technical aspects associated with forest operations: that allow the auditor to understand the activities of the audited organization and its effects on the management of its forest resources and the territory involved. In turn, the CB shall ensure that the responsible or lead forest auditors have additional knowledge and skills in audit leadership to facilitate the efficient and effective conduct of the audit. The CB shall ensure that the person in charge or leader of the audit team has the capacity to: - plan the audit and make effective use of resources during the audit; - represent the audit team in communications with the client; - organize and direct the members of the audit team; - provide direction and guidance to trainee auditors; - lead the audit team to reach the audit conclusions; - prevent and resolve conflicts; - prepare and complete the audit report.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

8. Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management certification?

4.1 To carry out the audits and the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of SFM, the CB shall develop and implement procedures that meet the requirements defined by the in force ISO/IEC 17021 Standard and with the requirements defined by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina General Procedure PG 02 in force.

4.2 The CB shall implement its audit procedures in accordance with the guidelines established in the in force ISO 19011 standard. NOTE: The ISO 19011: in force. Guidelines for auditing management systems provides guidance on auditing management systems, including the

principles of auditing, managing an audit programme and conducting management system audits, as well as guidance on the evaluation of competence of individuals involved in the audit process. These activities include the individual(s) managing the audit programme, auditors and audit teams. It is applicable to all organizations that need to plan and conduct internal or external audits of management systems or manage an audit programme. The application of this document to other types of audits is possible, provided that special consideration is given to the specific competence needed

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

9. Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification procedures for forest management certification shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO 17021?

4.1 To carry out the audits and the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of SFM, the CB shall develop and implement procedures that meet the requirements defined by the in force ISO/IEC 17021 Standard and with the requirements defined by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina General Procedure PG 02 in force.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

10. Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?

4.2 The CB shall implement its audit procedures in accordance with the guidelines established in the in force ISO 19011 standard. NOTE: The ISO 19011: in force. Guidelines for auditing management systems provides guidance on auditing management systems, including the principles of auditing, managing an audit programme and conducting management system audits, as well as guidance on the evaluation of competence of individuals involved in the audit process. These activities include the individual(s) managing the audit programme, auditors and audit teams. It is applicable to all organizations that need to plan and conduct internal or external audits of management systems or manage an audit programme. The application of this document to other types of audits is possible, provided that special consideration is given to the specific competence needed

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

11. Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest management certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?

8.2.4.4 The CB shall communicate to the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association the initial decision of certification or recertification within a period of time not exceeding 10 days from the decision making. Attached to the communication, the CB shall send a copy of the issued certificate, a copy of the audit report and the completed CERFOAR – PEFC Argentine certification report form.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

12. Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall carry out controls of PEFC logo usage if the certified entity is a PEFC logo user?

8.2.2.1 h) The evaluation of the organization's conformity with the rules of use of PEFC Marks and their effective application, including the use of sub-licenses in the case of group certification

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

13. Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?

8.1.1.2 The audit program shall include an initial certification audit in two stages, two (2) annual surveillances audits, and a certification renewal audit in the last year of the certification cycle, before the expiration of the certification. The period between audits should not exceed one year.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

14. Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for forest management certifications? Annex

8.4.7 The CB shall prepare a forest management recertification audit report that has the same characteristics as the certification audit report, including the part that is public and available to interested parties and the accompanying documentation of a nature confidential in accordance with the General Procedure CERFOAR _ PEFC Argentina PG 05 in force.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

15. Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?

8.4.7 The CB shall prepare a forest management recertification audit report that has the same characteristics as the certification audit report, including the part that is public and available to interested parties and the accompanying documentation of a nature confidential in accordance with the General Procedure CERFOAR _ PEFC Argentina PG 05 in force.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

16. Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?

E.- Interested parties and enforcement authorities The CB shall identify and make a list of individuals and organizations that can be contacted as interested parties during the certification audit. If possible, the CB shall obtain the contact details of those interested parties and should define the appropriate

mechanisms to contact them. The CB shall identify all local and national enforcement authorities that shall be contacted during the certification audit. The CB shall initiate, during the preparation of the Stage 2 audit, the consultation process with the interested parties in accordance with the General Procedure CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina PG 03: in force. Stakeholder's consultation to be implemented by certification bodies during forest management certification

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

17. Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures?

4.3 The CB shall use the audit criteria established in IRAM 39801 standards for forest management audits of the certification client organization (hereinafter the client) and IRAM 39805, PEFC ST 2001 and all other specific criteria established for it by CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina.

18. Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest management certification shall be accredited by a national accreditation body?

PG01 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina certification shall be carried out by impartial and independent third-party certification bodies. These certification bodies shall be accredited by the Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA) that is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), or by another equivalent accreditation body member of the IAF, to demonstrate their competence and independence

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

19. Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?

7.2 Certification documents

7.2.1 The CB shall provide the certification documents (certificate) to the certified client.

7.2.2 The CB shall include in the certificate at least the following information: a) The identification data of the certificate holder (certified client), including trade name or business name and address; b) The IRAM 39801 and/or IRAM 39805 in force standards used to audit the certified client; c) The international standard PEFC ST 200 in force, used to audit the use of PEFC Trademarks by the certified client; d) The scope of the certificate; e) The mark and registration number of the accreditation as determined by the Argentine Accreditation Body (or equivalent accreditation body)

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

20. Does the scheme documentation require that the accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body which is a part of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella or a member of IAF's special recognition regional groups and which implement procedures

described in ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?

PG01 4.1 The CB requesting the notification of the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina shall: a) be a legally constituted entity; b) agree to be included in the PEFC Registry System and in the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina registry that will be publicly available on the web, including the identification data of the CB and/or other data specified by the PEFC Council and/or by the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina; c) have a valid accreditation for the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of sustainable forest management issued by the Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA) that is a signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) for certification of IAF management systems, or issued by another equivalent IAF member accreditation body. The accreditation shall be issued in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 17021 standard and in accordance with the additional specific requirements established by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina system (see Annex 4). The scope of accreditation will explicitly include the in force IRAM 39801, IRAM 39805 and PEFC ST 2001 standards; and/or d) have a valid accreditation for PEFC chain of custody certification issued by the OAA that is a signatory to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for IAF product certification, or issued by another equivalent IAF member accreditation body. The accreditation shall be issued in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 17065 standard and with the additional requirements specifically defined by the PEFC Council in PEFC ST 2003: current. The scope of the accreditation will explicitly include the current international standards PEFC ST 2002 and PEFC 2001;

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

21. Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management certification as “accredited certification” based on ISO 17021 and the relevant forest management standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?

4. Conditions for notification CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina. 4.1 The CB requesting the notification of the a) be a legally constituted entity; b) agree to be included in the PEFC Registry System and in the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina registry that will be publicly available on the web, including the identification data of the CB and/or other data specified by the PEFC Council and/or by the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina; c) have a valid accreditation for the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of sustainable forest management issued by the Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA) that is a signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) for certification of IAF management systems, or issued by another equivalent IAF member accreditation body. The accreditation shall be issued in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 17021 standard and in accordance with the additional specific requirements established by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina system (see Annex 4). The scope of accreditation will explicitly include the in force IRAM 39801, IRAM 39805 and PEFC ST 2001 standards; and/o

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

22. Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?

PG01 Chapter 5: 5. Procedure for issuing the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina notification.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

23. Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?

1.2 The requirements for the issuance of the notification of the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina only cover administrative conditions such as communication or transfer of information, financial conditions and compliance with this procedure, verified through the accreditation of the OC. The notification conditions of the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina do not discriminate against CBs nor will they create trade barriers.

ASSESSMENT DECISION: CONFORMS

11. ANNEXES

ANNEX A: PEFC STANDARD AND SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

PART I: STANDARD AND SYSTEM REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST FOR STANDARD SETTING (PEFC ST 1001:2017)

PEFC benchmark requirement	Assess. basis*	Application checklist reference	Quotation of relevant text	Additional references	Decision
Standardising Body					
5.1.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:					
(a) its legal status and organisational structure, including a body responsible for consensus-building (working group, refer to 6.4) and procedures for formal adoption of the standard (refer to 7.1),	Procedures	PG08 1	<p>CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association PG 08:00 - Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System.</p> <p>1. Object</p> <p>This procedure defines the specific requirements of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina, in addition to those established by the Rules of standards setting and of the functioning of their technical forums (IRAM REN - 1999) and by any other complementary document established by the Argentine Institute of Standardization and Certification (IRAM), which shall be met by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina</p>	<p>Argentine Institute for Standardization (IRAM)</p> <p>Rules of standards setting and of the functioning of their technical forums (REN)</p>	Conforms

			<p>Executive Secretariat in the development and revision process of the IRAM standards of the 39800 Series of Sustainable Forest Management, the basis of the Argentine Forest Certification System (CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina).</p> <p>NOTE 1: The IRAM standards of the 39800 Series of Sustainable Forest Management, basis of the Argentine Forest Certification System (CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina) are IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805</p> <p>NOTE 2: The IRAM REN establishes the general procedures for the constitution of the technical forum involved in the study of standards, their form of integration, functional dependency and operating guidelines. It also establishes the basic principles for the development of studies of standards, revision or annulment, and the mechanisms for the adoption of regional and international standards.</p> <p>NOTE 3: IRAM has a quality management system that includes the standardization process within its scope. This quality management system is certified in accordance with the ISO 9001:2015 standard (Certificate No.ER-1255/2003)</p> <p>NOTE 4: In this procedure, we refer to the standards study forum as the standards setting working group (SS-WG).</p> <p>6. Executive Secretariat of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina activities</p> <p>6.1 Development and revision of standards</p>		
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			<p>6.1.1 The CERFOAR – PEFC Executive Secretariat shall coordinate the development and revision of SFM standards with the Argentine Institute for Standardization IRAM, in accordance with this PG 08 procedure, with the REN and any other complementary document established by the IRAM, including the formation of WG for the study of CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina SFM standards, responsible for the creation of consensus (see 7.4)</p> <p>7.4 SFM standard setting working group requirements</p> <p>7.4.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall organize a SFM standard setting working group (SFM SS-WG) based on the nominations received. The acceptance and rejection of the nominations will be justified in relation to the requirements established for a balanced representation of the interest groups within the SS-WG, the considerations of an appropriate gender balance, the relevance of the organization, the competence of an individual, the relevant experience of an individual and the resources available for the development of SFM standards</p> <p>8. Approval and publication</p> <p>8.1 Formal approval of standards</p> <p>The IRAM Standardization Directorate shall formally approve the SFM standard when</p>		
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			there is evidence of consensus among the SS-WG. Then these standards are formally adopted by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Board of Directors as standards of the Argentine Forest Certification System.		
(b) procedures for keeping documented information,	Procedures	PG08 6.2.1	<p>CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association</p> <p>PG 08:00 - Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System.</p> <p>6. Executive Secretariat of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina activities</p> <p>6.2.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall maintain the relevant documented information on the standards development and revision processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) General procedure for the development and revision of the SFM standards of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina (PG08); b) Stakeholder identification map; c) Stakeholders contacted and/or invited; d) Stakeholders involved in the development and revision activities of SFM standards of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina, including attendance at each meeting of the SS-WG; e) Comments received and a summary of how they were addressed; 		Conforms

			<p>f) All drafts and final versions of the standard;</p> <p>g) The result of the considerations of the SS-WG;</p> <p>h) Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard;</p> <p>i) Evidence related to the revision process, and</p> <p>j) Final approval by IRAM and adoption by the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Board of Directors</p>		
(c) procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	PG08 7.2.1	<p>CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association</p> <p>PG 08:00 - Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System.</p> <p>7. CERFOAR PEFC – Argentina SFM standards development process</p> <p>7.4 SFM standard setting working group requirements</p> <p>7.4.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall organize a SFM standard setting working group (SFM SS-WG) based on the nominations received. The acceptance and rejection of the nominations will be justified in relation to the requirements established for a balanced representation of the interest groups within the SS-WG, the considerations of an appropriate gender balance, the relevance of the organization,</p>		Conforms

			the competence of an individual, the relevant experience of an individual and the resources available for the development of SFM standards,		
(d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	PG08 1.0	<p>CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association</p> <p>PG 08:00 - Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System.</p> <p>1. Object</p> <p>This procedure defines the specific requirements of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina, in addition to those established by the <i>Rules of standards setting and of the functioning of their technical forum (IRAM REN - 1999)</i> and by any other complementary document established by the Argentine Institute of Standardization and Certification (IRAM), which shall be met by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat in the development and revision process of the IRAM standards of the 39800 Series of Sustainable Forest Management, the basis of the Argentine Forest Certification System (CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina).</p>		
(e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	PG08 7.4.5	<p>CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association</p> <p>PG 08:00 - Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System.</p>		Conforms

			<p>4. Terms and definitions</p> <p>4.5 Consensus</p> <p>General agreement characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Consensus need not imply unanimity</p> <p>NOTE 2: adopted definition of ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary. definición adoptada de la ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary.</p> <p>5. SFM Standards development and revision principles</p> <p>5.1 The process of development and revision the SFM standards of the Argentine Forest Certification System is developed as established in the REN and in any other complementary document established by IRAM and the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Association. The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall verify that this process is governed by the following fundamental principles of normalization::</p> <p>III. Consensus: standards are approved by consensus. Any sustained opposition to specific issues is resolved through dialogue whenever possible.</p>		
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			<p>7. CERFOAR PEFC – Argentina SFM standards development process</p> <p>7.4 SFM standard setting working group requirements</p> <p>7.4.5 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall verify that the working group's decision to recommend the final draft for formal approval is taken on the basis of consensus, trying to avoid voting. All the decisions of the working group and the way in which they were adopted must be recorded in the corresponding minutes. To determine whether there is consensus or sustained and well-founded opposition, the working group may use the following methods:</p> <p>a) face-to-face meetings where there is a verbal agreement yes/no, a show of hands for a yes/no agreement; a statement from the SS-WG Coordinator on consensus when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal note, etc.</p> <p>b) conference call meetings or on another virtual platform where there is a verbal yes/no agreement,</p> <p>c) email request to the working group for agreement or objection where members provide a formal (written) response, or</p> <p>d) combinations of these methods, as approved by the working group</p> <p>In case of doubt about the consensus, the agreement by a simple majority of the members of the SS-WG may be considered sufficient for the final draft to be</p>		
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			submitted to the General Standards Council of the IRAM for its subsequent formal approval by the IRAM, and this will be recorded as the decision made by the SS-WG		
(f) review and revision of standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	PG08 9.1.1.	<p>CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association</p> <p>PG 08:00 - Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System.</p> <p>9. Periodic review of standards</p> <p>9.1 Generalities</p> <p>9.1.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, at intervals no greater than 5 years, must request the IRAM Standardization Directorate the periodic evaluation of the IRAM standards for sustainable forest management adopted by CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina as Argentine System standards. of Forest Certification. Periodic evaluation will be based on observations on the practical application of the standard and on a gap analysis. The Executive Secretariat of PEFC Argentina, when necessary to receive comments for the review, will organize a consultation with interested parties.</p> <p>10. Revision of the standard</p>	The review and revision process is described at Document 2 Figure 1, and at Document 1 2.3.4	Conforms
5.1.2 The standardising body shall make its standard- setting	Procedures	PG 08 5.1	5. SFM Standards development and revision principles 5.1 The process of development and revision the SFM		Conforms

procedures publicly available and shall review its standard-setting procedures regularly. The review shall consider feedback from stakeholders.			<p>standards of the Argentine Forest Certification System is developed as established in the REN and in any other complementary document established by IRAM and the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Association. The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall verify that this process is governed by the following fundamental principles of normalization: I. Stakeholder Inclusion: facilitate the participation of all interested parties through their incorporation in standards settings working groups and public consultations V. Transparency: the relevant documents are publicly available so that interested parties can follow the development of the review during and after the process.</p> <p>7.4.4 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall verify that the activities of the SS-WG are carried out in an open and transparent manner and in such a way that: a) working drafts are available to all members of the working group, b) all members of the SS-WG have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development and/or revision of the standard and to provide comments on the working drafts, and c) feedback and opinions given by any member of the working group are considered in an open and transparent manner and the outcome of these considerations is recorded</p>		
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	Process		Documentation for the process is available here: 2020 Review - Documentation (cerfoar.org.ar)		Conforms
5.2.1 The standardising body shall keep documented information relevant to the standard-setting and review process. Evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard and the standardising body's own procedures includes:					
(a) Standard-setting procedures,	Procedures	PG08 6.2.1	PG 08:00 - Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System. 6.2 Documented information 6.2.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall maintain the relevant documented information on the standards development and revision processes, including: a) General procedure for the development and revision of the SFM standards of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina (PG08);		
	Process			Standard setting procedure process documentation has been indexed and described in the Standard Development Report.	Conforms

				The documentation associated with the standard setting process has also been provided.	
(b) Stakeholder identification mapping,	Procedures	6.2.1 b)	6.2.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall maintain the relevant documented information on the standards development and revision processes, including: b) Stakeholder identification map;		Conforms
	Process			The standard revision report contains a description of the stakeholder mapping process, and an additional database of contacts has also been provided.	Conforms
(c) Contacted and/or invited stakeholders,	Procedures	6.2.1 c)	c) Stakeholders contacted and/or invited;		Conforms
	Process			A database of contacts has also been provided in the documentation.	Conforms
(d) Stakeholders involved in standard-setting activities including participants in each working group meeting,	Procedures	6.2.1 d)	d) Stakeholders involved in the development and revision activities of SFM standards of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina, including attendance at each meeting of the SS-WG,;		Conforms
	Process			The development report includes details of the various working group meetings. Minutes of the meetings have been provided accordingly. Attendance records for the meetings have been provided, including records of names and contact details.	Conforms

(e) Feedback received and a synopsis of how feedback was addressed,	Procedures	6.2.1 e)	e) Comments received and a summary of how they were addressed		Conforms
	Process			The development report contains a synopsis of the feedback and how this was addressed.	Conforms
(f) All drafts and final versions of the standard,	Procedures	6.2.1 f)	f) All drafts and final versions of the standard,		Conforms
	Process			The development report documents the different stages of the working, inquiry and final drafts. Different versions of the working, inquiry and final drafts have been provided in the minutes of the meetings, which document all changes made.	Conforms
(g) Outcomes from working group considerations,	Procedures	6.2.1 g)	g) The result of the considerations of the SS-WG;		Conforms
	Process			The development report documents the working group minutes in summary form, and the full minutes have been provided.	Conforms
(h) Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard(s),	Procedures	6.2.1 h)	h) Evidence of consensus on the final version of the standard		Conforms
	Process			The Development Report contains a description of the final decision taken on the standard, and the minutes reflect that there were no objections to the final standard. In addition, stakeholder consultations indicate that consensus was reached. .	Conforms

(i) Evidence relating to the review process, and	Procedures	6.2.1 i)	i) Evidence related to the revision process, and		Conforms
	Process			The development report contains detailed feedback from stakeholders on the review process.	Conforms
(j) Final approval by the standardising body.	Procedures	6.2.1 j)	j) j) Final approval by IRAM and adoption by the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Board of Directors..		Conforms
	Process			The development report provides records of the final approval	Conforms
5.2.2 Documented information shall be kept until completion of the next review or revision of the standard to which they refer. Otherwise the documented information must be kept for a minimum of five years after publication of the standard.	Procedures	PG08 6.2.2	PG 08:00 - Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System. 6. Executive Secretariat of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina activities 6.2 Documented information 6.2.2 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall maintain the documented information on the development and revision of the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina SFM standards and other records, until the completion of the next review or revision of the standard. All documented information shall be kept for a minimum of five years from the date of publication of the standard.		Conforms
	Process			Documentation has been provided accordingly indicating that the procedure has been followed. .	Conforms

5.2.3 Documented information shall be available to interested parties upon request.	Procedures	6.2.3	6.2.3 Documented information may be obtained upon request to the office of the Executive Secretariat of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina.		Conforms
	Process			Stakeholders have indicated that access to information and documentation has not been problematic.	Conforms
5.3.1 The standardising body shall establish procedure(s) for dealing with any substantial and process complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. It must make procedure(s) accessible to stakeholders. Upon receipt of a complaint or appeal, the standardising body shall:					
(a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint or appeal to the complainant,	Procedures	PG08 6.3.1.	PG 08:00 - Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System. 6. Executive Secretariat of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina activities 6.3 Handling of complaints and appeals 6.3.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall deal with complaints related to the content of the standard or the procedures related to the development and revision of		Conforms

			<p>CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina GFS standards, as well as appeals, through a Committee made up of a chairman and two members. The Executive Secretariat CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall designate an independent president and each of the parties to a complaint or appeal will designate a member of the Committee to handle that specific case.</p> <p>6.3.2 The person or entity that makes the complaint or appeal shall submit a written request to resolve a complaint or appeal addressed to the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, who will respond to queries related to the handling of disputes or complaints and will deliver the information to the appointed chairman of the Committee, who will promptly address the issue with the remaining two members appointed to make up the Committee. The contact information for the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat can be found on the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina website.</p> <p>6.3.3 Upon receipt of a complaint or appeal, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) Acknowledge receipt of the complaint/appeal to the sender</p>		
	Process			There do not appear to have been any complaints during the process according to stakeholder consultations.	Conforms

(b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint or appeal, evaluate the subject matter of the complaint or appeal impartially and objectively, and make a decision regarding the complaint or appeal,	Procedures	6.3.3. b)	b) Gather and verify all the information necessary to validate the complaint or appeal (background and evidence);		Conforms
	Process			No complaints have been received regarding the functioning of the IRAM Forestry Commission (IRAM GW2) or the review process of the GFS standards	Conforms
(c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint or appeal to the complainant and describe the handling process.	Procedures	6.3.1.c)	c) Convene the independent Committee, if applicable, to deal with the complaint or appeal, evaluate the matter rigorously, impartially and objectively and make a decision on the complaint or appeal		Conforms
	Process			There were no complaints during the standard setting process according to stakeholder consultation.	Conforms
5.3.2 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries, complaints and appeals relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be easy to access and readily available.	Procedures	6.3.2	PG 08:00 - Sustainable Forest Management standard settings procedure of the Argentine Forest Certification System. 6. Executive Secretariat of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina activities 6.3 Handling of complaints and appeals 6.3.4 Queries related to the establishment of standards and complaints and appeals will be answered by the Executive Director		Conforms

			of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina, whose contact information can be found on the website www.pefc.org.ar		
	Process			Contact information for IRAM is contained on all documentation. A contact point for the PEFC documentation is available on the CERFOAR website. IRAN makes a complaints form available.	Conforms
Standard-setting process					
6.1.1 For the creation of a new standard, the standardising body shall develop a proposal including:					
(a) the scope of the standard,	Procedures	7.1.1	7.1.1 For the creation of a new standard for the Argentine Forest Certification System, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall draft and submit to the IRAM Standardization Directorate a proposal that includes the following: a) The scope of the standard;		Conforms
	Process				N/A
(b) a justification of the need for the standard,	Procedures	7.1.1 b)	b) Justification of the need for the standard;		Conforms
	Process				N/A
(c) a clear description of the intended outcomes	Procedures	7.1.1 c)	c) The description of the expected results;		Conforms
	Process				N/A

(d) a risk assessment of potential negative impacts arising from implementing the standard, such as • factors that could affect the achievement of the outcomes negatively, • unintended consequences of implementation, • actions to address the identified risks, and	Procedures	7.1.1 d)	d)) A risk assessment of the possible negative impacts of implementing the standard; and		Conforms
	Process				N/A
(e) a description of the stages of standard development and their expected timetable. NOTE Guidance for development of a proposal and justification is given in ISO Directives, Part 1, Annex C and Annex SL (Appendix 1).		7.1.1 e)	e) The description of the stages of development of the standard and the planned schedule. .		Conforms
6.1.2 For the revision of a standard the proposal shall cover at least (a) and (e) of clause 6.1.1.	Procedures	7.1.2	7.1.2 A proposal for revision of the standard must include, at a minimum, the information mentioned in points 7.1.1. (a) and 7.1.1. (e). .		Conforms
	Process	Revision report		Once the stakeholder map and the revised IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805 draft standards were completed, IRAM was formally requested to revision the reference standards. The application submitted on	Conforms

				<p>2019/11/08 and signed by the president of the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Association included: ▪ the proposal and justification of the request for revision; ▪ the documents related and considered as background for this application; ▪ the proposed scope of IRAM Standards 39801 and 39805.</p> <p>The timetabling for the draft is proposed under IRAM documentation at document 2_DN-PG 010. Rev.10.pdf:</p>	
<p>6.2.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting activities by means of a stakeholder identification mapping exercise. It shall define which stakeholder groups are relevant to the subject matter and why. For each stakeholder group the standardising body shall identify the likely key issues, key stakeholders, and which means of communication would be best to reach them.</p>	Procedures	7.2.1	<p>7.2.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall identify the stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standards development activity. The Executive Secretariat shall determine the relevant stakeholders for the issue and will present the arguments used. In turn, the Executive Secretariat shall identify the probable participation problems of each stakeholder group, the key and disadvantaged stakeholders and the most effective means of communication to reach them.</p>		
	Process			<p>The Standard Development Report contains a comprehensive stakeholder mapping document that includes key</p>	Conforms

				issues, preferred contact details, location, and stakeholder group.	
<p>6.2.2 Identification of stakeholder groups shall be based on nine major stakeholder groups as defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At least the following groups shall be included in the stakeholder mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest owners, • business and industry, • indigenous people, • non-government organisations, • scientific and technological community, • workers and trade unions. <p>Other groups shall be added if relevant to the scope of standard-setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE The full list of nine major stakeholder groups defined by Agenda 21 of the <i>United Nations Conference on Environment and Development</i> consists of:</p>	Procedures	7.2.2	<p>7.2.2 The identification of relevant stakeholders shall be based on the nine major stakeholder groups, as defined in Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and the following groups should be included as a minimum within the stakeholder map:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - women, - indigenous people, - non-governmental organizations, - government organizations, - forest owners and forest producers, - business and industry, - scientific and technological community, - workers and trade unions. 		Conforms

(i) business and industry, (ii) children and youth, (iii) forest owners, (iv) indigenous peoples, (v) local authorities, (vi) non-government organisations, (vii) scientific and technological community, (viii) women, and (ix) workers and trade unions.					
	Process			<p>The Development Report stakeholder mapping document contains identified groups as follows:</p> <p>women,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - indigenous people, - non-governmental organizations, - government organizations, - forest owners and forest producers, - business and industry, - scientific and technological community, - workers and trade unions.. 	Conforms
6.2.3 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders and address any constraints to their participation in standard-setting activities. NOTE A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged	Procedures	7.2.3	<p>7.2.3 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall identify disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders, and will address any limitations to their participation in standard setting activities.</p> <p>NOTE: A stakeholder can be both a disadvantaged party and a key stakeholder at the same time</p>		Conforms

and a key stakeholder at the same time.					
	Process			The Stakeholder mapping document contains identification of disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders.	Conforms
<p>6.3.1 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the process. The announcement shall be made in a timely manner through suitable media, as appropriate, to give stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</p> <p>NOTE 1 <i>In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) four weeks before the first standard-setting activity is scheduled to occur.</p> <p>NOTE 2 <i>Through suitable media</i> means at least through the standardising body's website and by email and/or letter to identified stakeholders. Other media includes press releases,</p>	Procedures	7.3.1	.3.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall make a public announcement of the beginning of the process of developing the IRAM SFM standards, including an invitation to stakeholders to participate in this process. Announcement shall be made in a timely manner through appropriate means, as appropriate, to give stakeholders the opportunity to make meaningful contributions.		Conforms

news articles, features in trade-press, information sent to branch organisations, social media, digital media, etc.					
	Process			An announcement of the start of the revision process was made on the CERFOAR website on August 19, 2020. The announcement was made via the CERFOAR website and emails: Evidence of email invitations has been provided	Conforms
6.3.1 The announcement and invitation shall include:					
(a) overview of the standard-setting process,	Procedures	7.3.2	7.3.2 The announcement and invitation shall include: a) information on the objectives, scope and stages of the standardization process and its schedule,		Conforms
	Process			The announcement contained links to an overview of the process, ability to participate in the process, accessibility of the working draft, and an invitation to participated in the standard management committee, as well as a schedule for the revision process.	Conforms
(b) access to the proposal for the standard (refer to 6.1),	Procedures	7.3.2	b) information on the proposed standard,		Conforms
	Process			See above	Conforms

(c) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	7.3.2	c) information on opportunities for participation,		Conforms
	Process			See above	Conforms
(d) requests to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) or themselves to the working group (refer to 6.4). The request to disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand,	Procedures	7.3.2	d) the invitation to stakeholders to nominate their representatives to form part of the SFM SS-WG. The request of disadvantaged stakeholders and key stakeholders will be done in a way that ensures the information reaches the intended recipients and in a format that is easy to understand,		Conforms
	Process			See above	Conforms
(e) explicit invitation and clear instruction on how to submit feedback on the scope and standard-setting process, and	Procedures	7.3.2	e) invitation to comment on the scope and process of standardization		Conforms
	Process			See above	Conforms
(f) access to the standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	7.3.2	f) reference to the public provision of the Standardization Procedure.		Conforms
	Process			See above	Conforms
6.3.2 The standardising body shall review the	Procedures	7.3.3	7.3.3 The standardization process shall be reviewed based on the comments received		Conforms

standard- setting process based on feedback received in response to the public announcement.			after its public announcement, and may lead to the modification of this General Procedure PG 08		
	Process			No comments received in response to public announcement.	Conforms
6.4.1 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group or adjust the composition of an already existing working group based on nominations it received. Acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justified in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group, considerations of an appropriate gender balance, relevance of the organisation, an individual's competence, an individual's relevant experience and resources available for standard-setting.	Procedures	7.4.1.	7.4.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall organize a SFM standard setting working group (SFM SS-WG) based on the nominations received. The acceptance and rejection of the nominations will be justified in relation to the requirements established for a balanced representation of the interest groups within the SS-WG, the considerations of an appropriate gender balance, the relevance of the organization, the competence of an individual, the relevant experience of an individual and the resources available for the development of SFM standards..		
	Process			The Secretariat acknowledged that there no representation of groups representing women and indigenous groups, due to no nominations from these groups. It did, however, mitigate this by ensuring	Conforms

				representation of women through the second working group (WG2) and maintain open channels of communication with indigenous groups.	
6.4.2 The working group shall:					Conforms
(a) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard, where no single concerned stakeholder group can dominate, nor be dominated in the process, and	Procedures	7.4.2 a)	7.4.2 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall verify that the established SS-WG: a) has balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories, relevant to the issue and geographic scope of the standard, where no single stakeholder group in question can dominate, or be dominated in the process, and		
	Process			A list of the WG membership has been provided, with no single group dominating (see main report for details on composition)	Conforms
(b) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that affected by the standard, and those that can influence implementation of the standard. The affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among participants.	Procedures	7.4.2 b)	b) include interested parties with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those who are affected by the standard, and those who can influence the implementation of the standard. Affected stakeholders shall be represented in an appropriate proportion among the participants.		Conforms

	Process			A list of the standard management committee membership has been provided and meets the requirements, including for appropriate proportion of affected stakeholders.	Conforms
6.4.3 In order to achieve balanced representation, the standardising body shall strive to have all identified stakeholder groups (refer to 6.2) represented. The standardising body shall set targets for the participation of key stakeholders and proactively seek their participation by using outreach such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations etc. NOTE When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standardising body may consider alternative options.	Procedures	7.4.3	7.4.3 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall implement actions to have in the SS-WG representatives of all the groups of interested parties identified with the objective of achieving a balanced representation. The Executive Secretariat, for each process of development and/or revision of its standards, shall establish objectives for the participation of key stakeholders and shall proactively seek their participation through disclosure, such as (but not limited to) personal emails, phone calls, meeting invitations, etc.. Note: When a stakeholder group is not represented and key stakeholders cannot be encouraged to participate, the standards body may consider alternative options.		Conforms
	Process			The WG set specific targets on representation and took steps to achieve those in the case of workers' groups and indigenous groups, and achieving the former, but not the latter. The WG subsequently undertook direct meetings with the groups in order to ensure some level of participation.	Conforms

6.4.4 Activities of the working group shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:		7.4.4	7.4.4 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall verify that the activities of the SS-WG are carried out in an open and transparent manner and in such a way that:		Conforms
(a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group,	Procedures	7.4.4	a) working drafts are available to all members of the working group,		Conforms
	Process			Working drafts were made available via the CERFOAR website following the announcement of the revision.	Conforms
(b) all members of the working group shall be given meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and to provide feedback on working drafts, and	Procedures	7.4.4. b)	b) all members of the SS-WG have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development and/or revision of the standard and to provide comments on the working drafts, and		Conforms
	Process			Confirmed via consultation; feedback mechanisms were provided by the Secretariat and have been documented	Conforms
(c) feedback and views given by any member of the working group shall be considered in an open and transparent way where the outcome of these considerations is recorded.	Procedures	7.4.4	c) feedback and opinions given by any member of the working group are considered in an open and transparent manner and the outcome of these considerations is recorded.		Conforms
	Process			Feedback has been compiled in the development report and has been reflected in the different versions of the drafts, held on the CERFOAR website.	Conforms
6.4.5 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall		7.4.5	7.4.5 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall verify that the working group's decision to recommend the final draft for formal approval is taken on		

be taken on the basis of consensus. In order to determine whether there is any sustained opposition, the working group can utilise the following methods:			the basis of consensus, trying to avoid voting. All the decisions of the working group and the way in which they were adopted must be recorded in the corresponding minutes. To determine whether there is consensus or sustained and well-founded opposition, the working group may use the following methods:		
(a) face-to face meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote, a show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal ballot, etc.,	Procedures	7.4.5 a)	a) face-to-face meetings where there is a verbal agreement yes/no, a show of hands for a yes/no agreement; a statement from the SS-WG Coordinator on consensus when there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal note, etc.		Conforms
	Process			It has been recorded in meeting minutes that there was consensus on the final draft on 24 November 2020.	Conforms
(b) telephone conference meeting(s) where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	7.4.5 b)	b) conference call meetings or on another virtual platform where there is a verbal yes/no agreement,		Conforms
	Process			N/A	
(c) e-mail request to the working group for agreement or objection where the members provide a formal (written) response (vote),	Procedures	7.4.5 c)	c) email request to the working group for agreement or objection where members provide a formal (written) response, or		Conforms
	Process			N/A	
(d) combinations of these methods.	Procedures	7.4.5 d)	d) combinations of these methods, as approved by the working group.		

	Process			N/A	
6.4.6 Where a vote is used in decision-making, the standard-setting procedures shall determine and include decision-making thresholds that quantifies consensus. The threshold must be consistent with the consensus definition (refer to 3.1). However, a majority vote cannot override sustained opposition in order to achieve consensus.	Procedures	7.4.6.	<p>In case of doubt about the consensus, the agreement by a simple majority of the members of the SS-WG may be considered sufficient for the final draft to be submitted to the General Standards Council of the IRAM for its subsequent formal approval by the IRAM, and this will be recorded as the decision made by the SS-WG.</p> <p>7.4.6 When a vote is used in decision-making, the decision adopted by the SS-WG will be the motion based on and supported by the majority of the regular members present at the corresponding meeting.</p> <p>However, a majority vote cannot override sustained and well-founded opposition to consensus.</p> <p>For a decision to be considered based on consensus, any differences of opinion must have been resolved by the means presented in 7.4.5 and 7.4.7 and, where appropriate, applying the practices described in 7.4.8.</p>		Conforms
	Process			There does not appear to have been a point in decision making where votes were otherwise required.	Conforms
6.4.7 When there is sustained opposition to a substantial issue, the issue shall be resolved		7.4.7	7.4.7 When there is sustained and well-founded opposition to a substantial issue, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive		

using the following methods:			Secretariat shall resolve the problem using the following methods:		
(a) finding a compromise through discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group,	Procedures	7.4.7. a),	a) discussion and negotiation on the issue in dispute within the working group		Conforms
	Process			There does not appear to have been sustained opposition to any issue.	Conforms
(b) finding a compromise through direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) making the objection and other stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue,	Procedures	7.4.7. b)	b) find a compromise through direct negotiation between the interested parties that formulate the objection and other interested parties with different points of view on the subject in dispute, where the compromise reached implies the agreement with the informed decisions adopted by the majority of the members of the working group, without reaching the vote		Conforms
	Process				
(c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary) where further stakeholder input can help to achieve consensus on unresolved issues. The standardising body determines the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.	Procedures	7.4.7. c)	c) additional round(s) of public consultation (if necessary and agreed by the members of the SS-WG) where further input from stakeholders can help achieve consensus on unresolved issues. The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall determine the scope and duration of any additional public consultation.		Conforms
	Process			See above	Conforms

6.4.8 When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and sustained opposition persists, the standardising body shall initiate dispute resolution in accordance with its procedures for impartial and objective action.	Procedures	7.4.8	7.4.8 When a substantial issue cannot be resolved and a sustained and well-founded opposition persists, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, will initiate the resolution of the dispute by convening a panel of impartial specialists to evaluate the issue in dispute and prepare a report that duly supports its conclusions, citing bibliography, national and foreign background, test results, etc. The composition of the technical panel shall be agreed upon by the members of the SS-WG.		Conforms
	Process			See above	Conforms
6.5.1 The standardising body shall organise public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:					
(a) the start and the end dates of public consultation are announced in a timely manner through suitable media, <i>NOTE In a timely manner</i> means (at the latest) the day before the start of public consultation.	Procedures	7.5.1 a)	7.5 Public consultation 7.5.1 The Executive Secretariat CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall implement the public discussion of the enquiry draft of the SFM IRAM standards in such a way that: a) the start and end dates of the public consultation are announced in a timely manner through appropriate means,		Conforms
	Process			At the meeting of June 23, 2021, the members of the IRAM WG2 approved by consensus the sending to public discussion	Conforms

				<p>of the Draft IRAM Standard 39805. Sustainable Forest Management. Group certification.</p> <p>IRAM WG2 members request that the two draft standards be sent together for public discussion (IRAM 39805 and IRAM 39801) to facilitate their dissemination and evaluation.</p> <p>At the meeting of August 25, 2021, the members of the IRAM WG2 approved by consensus the sending to public discussion of the Draft IRAM Standard 39801. Sustainable Forest Management. Criteria and indicators of the management unit</p> <p>The following dates were agreed for submission for public discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IRAM 39801 Sustainable forest management. Criteria and indicators of the management unit <p>Public Discussion Period: 17/09/2021 to 16/11/2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IRAM 30805 Sustainable forest management. Group Certification <p>Public Discussion Period: 14/09/2021 to 13/11/2021</p> <p>The public consultation included the identified multiple stakeholders and was conducted for a period of 60 days.</p> <p>Once the public consultation was published on the IRAM website, the identified stakeholders were sent an invitation to participate in the public discussion.</p>	
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				Halfway through the public discussion period, a reminder of the invitation was sent by email to the identified stakeholders.	
(b) a direct invitation to comment on the enquiry draft is sent to each stakeholder identified by stakeholder identification mapping (refer to 6.2) aiming for a balanced participation of stakeholder groups,	Procedures	7.5.1 b)	b) a direct invitation to comment on the exposure draft is sent to each stakeholder identified by stakeholder mapping with the aim of ensuring balanced participation of stakeholder groups		Conforms
	Process			Copies of both the email lists and the email that was sent have been provided.	Conforms
(c) invitations are sent to disadvantaged and key stakeholders by methods that ensure they reach recipients and are easy to understand,	Procedures	7.5.1 c)	c) invitations are sent to identified disadvantaged and key stakeholders using methods that ensure they reach the recipients and are easy to understand,		Conforms
	Process			A list of stakeholders was provided that contained preferred contact methods for all stakeholders.	Conforms
(d) the enquiry draft is made publicly available,	Procedures	7.5.1 d)	d) the consultation draft is made available to the public,,		Conforms
	Process			The enquiry draft was made public via the invitation,	Conforms
(e) public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	7.5.1 e)	e) the duration of the public consultation is at least 60 days,		Conforms
	Process			See above for dates	Conforms
(f) all feedback is considered by the working	Procedures	7.5.1 f)	f) all comments are considered by the SS-WG in an objective and adequate manner, and		Conforms

group in an objective manner, and	Process			Feedback has been considered by the working group in an objective manner, with responses made accordingly, as per the Development Report.	Conforms
(g) a synopsis of feedback is compiled for each material issue, including the outcome of considering the issue. The synopsis is made publicly available (e.g. on a website) and is sent to each stakeholder/party that gave feedback. NOTE For clarity the standardising body's synopsis may aggregate responses on material issues where there was similar feedback from different stakeholders. However, best practice would be to publish each piece of original feedback and the response, to allow each stakeholder to identify its own feedback.	Procedures	7.5.1 g)	g) a synopsis of the comments or observations is made and recorded for each topic, including the conclusions on the evaluation of the comments. The synopsis is made publicly available and sent to each stakeholder/party that gave feedback.		Conforms
	Process			Feedback has been compiled; it has been compiled according to the relevant document in the standard in the RPP. This document has been made publicly available.	Conforms
6.5.2 For new standards the standardising body shall organise a second round of public	Procedures	7.5.2	7.5.2 For the new standards, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, must implement, in addition to the public consultation described in 7.5.1, a second		Conforms

consultation lasting at least 30 days.			round of public consultation with a minimum duration of 30 days.		
	Process			N/A	
6.6 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of new standard(s) to assess the clarity, auditability and feasibility of the requirements. The working group shall consider the outcome of pilot testing. NOTE Pilot testing is not required for revision of an existing standard when experience from its usage can substitute for pilot testing.	Procedures	7.6.1.	7.6.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall organize pilot tests for the new standards in order to assess the clarity, auditability and feasibility of the requirements. NOTE: Pilot testing is not required for the revision of an existing standard when experience with its use can substitute for pilot testing. 7.6.2 The SS-WG shall consider the result of the pilot test.		Conforms
	Process			N/A	N/A
Approval and Publication					
7.1 The standardising body shall approve the standard(s)/normative document(s) formally when there is evidence of consensus among the working group.	Procedures	PG08 8.1	8.1 Formal approval of standards The IRAM Standardization Directorate shall formally approve the SFM standard when there is evidence of consensus among the SS-WG. Then these standards are formally adopted by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Board of Directors as standards of the Argentine Forest Certification System.		Conforms
	Process			Evidence of consensus was recorded on meetings of the working groups on November 24 and 26. On April 28, 2022, the IRAM General Standards Committee	Conforms

				approved IRAM Standards Projects 1 39801 and 39805 as IRAM standards. On May 5, 2021, the IRAM General Directorate formally approves the IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805	
7.2.1 The formally approved standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be published and made publicly available at no cost within 14 days of approval, or as otherwise defined by the standardising body.	Procedures	8.2.1	8.2.1 The IRAM shall publish the standard and make it available to the public for free consultation at its Documentation Center within 14 days after its formal approval. NOTE: The IRAM has a Documentation Center dependent on the Standardization Directorate where the public can consult the normative documents free of charge. More information can be obtained from the IRAM Documentation Center at https://iram.org.ar/centro-de-documentacion/ or via email.		Conforms
	Process			On April 28, 2022, the IRAM General Standards Committee approved IRAM Standards Projects 1 39801 and 39805 as IRAM standards. On May 5, 2021, the IRAM General Directorate formally approves the IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805, publishes them and makes them available to interested parties at the IRAM Documentation Center located at Perú N° 552/6, (C1068AAB) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires https://iram.org.ar/centro-de-documentacion/	Conforms
7.2.2 Standard(s) shall include:					

(a) identification and contact information for the standardising body,	Procedures	8.2.2. a)	8.2.2 The sustainable forest management IRAM standards adopted by CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina as standards for the Argentine Forest Certification System, in their version translated into English within the framework of the mutual recognition agreement between PEFC International and CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina, shall include: a) the identification and contact information of the standardization body, IRAM;		Conforms
	Process			Identification information and IRAM contact is provided on all documentation IRAM Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación Perú 552/6 (C1068AAB) Buenos Aires - Argentina Tel +54 11 7078-0542 iram-iso@iram.org.ar https://iram.org.ar	Conforms
(b) official language of the standard,	Procedures	8.2.2.	b) official language of the standard,		Conforms
	Process			Official language of the standard: Spanish	Conforms

(c) a note that when there is inconsistency between versions, the English version of the standard as endorsed by the PEFC Council is the reference.	Procedures	8.2.2 c)	c) an informative note that where there is inconsistency between versions, the English version of the standard approved by the PEFC Council is the reference;		Conforms
	Process			NOTE: Where there is an inconsistency between versions, the English version of the PEFC Council approved standard is the reference.	Conforms

(d) The approval date and the date of next periodic review NOTE The date of next periodic review may be within a shorter period than five years based on (for example) stakeholder expectations or other foreseen developments.	Procedures	8.2.2	8.2.2 The sustainable forest management IRAM standards adopted by CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina as standards for the Argentine Forest Certification System, in their version translated into English within the framework of the mutual recognition agreement between PEFC International and CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina, shall include: Note: The date of the next periodic evaluation may be within a period shorter than five years depending on (for example) stakeholder expectations or other anticipated developments.		Conforms
	Process			Revision dates are included on the standard	Conforms
7.2.3 Printed copies shall be made available upon request at a price that covers no more than administrative costs (if any)	Procedures	8.2.3.	8.2.3 The Executive Secretariat CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina shall facilitate the acquisition of the sustainable forest management standards of the Argentine Forest Certification System at a price that does not cover more than the administrative costs at the request of disadvantaged stakeholders.		Conforms
	Process			There do not appear to have been any formal requests made for printed copies.	Conforms
7.2.4 The standardising body shall make the development report (refer to PEFC GD 1007) publicly available	Procedures	7.2.4	8.2.4 The CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat s shall available to the public a report on the development or revision process of development/revision the IRAM standards for sustainable forest management adopted by CERFOAR –		Conforms

			PEFC Argentina as standards for the Argentine Forest Certification System.		
	Process			The development report has been published on the CERFOAR website. Web page of the review process: https://rev2020.cerfoar.org.ar/ Documentación del proceso de revisión Procedimientos para la revisión del CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Revision Process Report	Conforms
Periodic review of standards					
8.1 The standard(s)/normative document(s) shall be reviewed at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The review shall be based on consideration of feedback received during the standard's implementation and a gap analysis. If necessary, a stakeholder consultation shall be organised to obtain further feedback and input.	Procedures	9.1.1	9.1.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, at intervals no greater than 5 years, must request the IRAM Standardization Directorate the periodic evaluation of the IRAM standards for sustainable forest management adopted by CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina as Argentine System standards. of Forest Certification. Periodic evaluation will be based on observations on the practical application of the standard and on a gap analysis. The Executive Secretariat of PEFC Argentina, when necessary to receive comments for the review, will organize a consultation with interested parties.		Conforms
	Process			Insert dates	Conforms
8.2.1 The standardising body shall establish and	Procedures	9.2.1	9.2.1 The Executive Secretariat CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina shall establish and		Conforms

maintain a permanent mechanism for collecting and recording feedback on a standard. This mechanism shall be accessible on the website of the standardising body and/or PEFC National Governing Body with clear directions for providing feedback. NOTE Feedback can be sent in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.			maintain a permanent mechanism to collect and record comments on standards. This mechanism will be accessible on the CERFOAR – PEF Argentina website with clear instructions for providing feedback. Note: Feedback can be submitted in various formats: comments, requests for clarification and/or interpretation, complaints, etc.		
	Process			On the IRAM website, in the Normalization section https://iram.org.ar/normalizacion/que-son-las-normas/ there is an online form "Let's talk" to answer queries, including observations and comments about a norm. DOCUMENTACIÓN DEL PROCESO DE REVISIÓN Contact us and leave us your observations and comments on the GFS standards and the standards review process: Observations and Comments Form	Conforms
8.2.2 All feedback received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc. shall be recorded and considered.	Procedures	9.2.2	9.2.2 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall record and consider all comments received through all channels, including meetings, training courses, etc.		Conforms
	Process			Feedback appears not to have been received..	Conforms
8.3.1 At the start of a review, the standardising	Procedures	9.3.1	9.3.1 At the beginning of a periodic review, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive		Conforms

body shall evaluate the standard against appropriate PEFC International standards, national laws and regulations, and other relevant standards to identify potential gaps in the standard.			Secretariat, shall evaluate the standard with respect to PEFC international standards, appropriate national laws and regulations and other relevant standards to identify possible gaps in the standard.		
	Process			CHECK	Conforms
8.3.2 The standardising body shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues.	Procedures	9.3.2	9.3.2 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall consider the latest scientific knowledge, research and relevant emerging issues		Conforms
	Process			CHECK	Conforms
8.4.1 Where the feedback and the gap analysis do not identify a need to revise the standard, the standardising body shall organise stakeholder consultation to determine whether stakeholders see a need for revising the standard. The standardising body shall include the gap analysis in the stakeholder consultation.	Procedures	9.4.1	9.4.1 When the feedback and gap analysis do not identify the need to review the standard, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall organize a consultation with the interested parties to determine if the stakeholders see the need to review the standard. The Executive Secretariat will include the results of the gap analysis in the consultation with the interested parties.		Conforms
	Process			CHECK	Conforms
8.4.2 At the start of a review, the standardising body shall update the stakeholder identification	Procedures	9.4.2	9.4.2 At the start of an review, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall update the stakeholder identification mapping (see clause 7.2).		Conforms
	Process			CHECK	Conforms

mapping (refer to clause 6.2).					
8.4.3 The standardising body shall organise:					
(a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.5.1) and/or, (b) stakeholder meetings.	Procedures	9.4	9.4 Stakeholder Consultation a) a public consultation period of at least 30 days (following the requirements of clause 6.5.1) and/or, b) meetings with interested parties.		Conforms
	Process			CHECK	Conforms
8.4.4 The standardising body shall announce the review in a timely manner (refer to 6.3).	Procedures	9.4.4	9.4.4 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall announce the review in a timely manner (see clause 7.3).		Conforms
	Process			CHECK	Conforms
8.5.1 Based on the feedback received during the period of a standard's implementation, the outcome of the gap analysis and the consultations, the standardising body shall decide whether to reaffirm the standard or whether a revision of the standard is necessary.	Procedures	9.5.1	9.5.1 Based on the comments during the implementation period of the standard, the result of the gap analysis and the public consultation, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall make the decision to reaffirm or revise the standard		
	Process			CHECK	Conforms
8.5.2 The decision shall be made at the highest	Procedures	9.5.2	9.5.2 The formal decision shall be made by the IRAM Standardization Directorate and		Conforms

decision- making level of the standardising body			endorsed by the CERFOAR– PEFC Argentina Board of Directors.		
	Process			See above	Conforms
8.5.3 Where the decision is to reaffirm a standard, the standardising body shall provide a justification for the decision and make the justification publicly available.	Procedures	9.5.3	9.5.3 When the standard shall be reaffirmed, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall provide a justification for the decision and make it available to the public.		Conforms
	Process			.	Conforms
8.5.4 Where the decision is to revise the standard, the standardising body shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision).	Procedures	9.5.4.	9.5.4 When the standard is going to be revised, the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall specify the type of revision (normal or editorial revision).		Conforms
	Process			It is understood that the decision was not specified in the process as this was a required review and revision.	
Revision of standards					
9.1 Procedures for revision of standard(s)/normative document(s) shall conform to those stated in section 6. A normal revision can occur at the periodic review, or between periodic reviews,	Procedures	10.1.1.	10.1.1 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall verify that the procedures to review the standard comply with those established in chapter 7 of this PG 08. A normal revision can occur at periodic evaluation or between periodic evaluations. Editorial revision and time critical reviews will not be considered normal revisions.		Conforms

but does not include editorial revisions and time-critical revisions.	Process			This has been a normal revision that has taken place at the point of periodic review.	Conforms
9.2 Editorial revisions can be made without triggering the normal revision process. The standardising body shall approve the editorial changes formally and publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard.	Procedures	10.2.1.	10.2.1 Editorial revision can be made without triggering the normal revision process. The IRAM Standardization Directorate shall formally approve the editorial changes and will publish an amendment or a new edition of the standard. This amendment or this new standard shall be endorsed by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Board of Directors..		Conforms
	Process			N/A	
9.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process.	Procedures	10.3.2	10.3 Time-critical revision 10.3.1 A time-critical revision is a revision between two periodic reviews using a fast-track process		Conforms
	Process				
9.3.2 A time-critical revision can be conducted only in the following situations:					Conforms
(a) Change in national laws and regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements	Procedures	10.3.2 a)	a) a change in national legislation or other regulations affecting compliance with PEFC International requirements		
	Process			N/A	
(b) Instruction by PEFC International to comply	Procedures	10.3.2 b)	b) an instruction from PEFC International to meet specific or new PEFC requirements		Conforms

with specific or new PEFC requirements within a timescale that is too short for a normal revision.			within too short a time frame for normal review;		
	Process			N/A	
9.3.3 The time-critical revision shall follow these steps:					Conforms
(a) The standardising body shall draft the revised standard,	Procedures	10.3.3.	10.3.3 The CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat, in coordination with the IRAM Standardization Directorate, shall verify that a time critical revision complies with the following steps: a) the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat will draft a revised standard,		Conforms
	Process			N/A	
(b) The standardising body may consult stakeholders, but it is not mandatory,	Procedures	10.3.3.	b) consult stakeholders if appropriate, although this is not mandatory,		Conforms
	Process				
(c) The revised standard shall be approved formally at the highest appropriate decision-making level of the standardising body,	Procedures	10.3.3.	c) the revised standard shall be formally approved by the IRAM Standardization Directorate and then it shall be adopted by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Board of Directors as a standard of the Argentine Forest Certification System;		Conforms
	Process			N/A	
(d) The standardising body shall explain the	Procedures	10.3.3.	d) The Executive Secretariat CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina will explain the justification		Conforms

justification for the urgent change(s) and make the justification publicly available.			for the urgent changes and will make this justification public.		
	Process			N/A	
9.4.1 A revision shall define the application date and transition period of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s).	Procedures	10.4.1	10.4.1 The CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Executive Secretariat shall define the date of application and the transition period of the revised standard.		Conforms
	Process			Transition dates have been included in the normative documents accordingly.	Conforms
9.4.2 An application date shall not be more than one year after the publication of the standard. This allows time for endorsement of the revised standard(s)/normative document(s), introduction of change(s), information dissemination and training.	Procedures	10.4.2	10.4.2 The date of application must not be later than one year after the publication of the standard.		Conforms
	Process				Conforms
9.4.3 The transition period shall not exceed one year. The standardising body may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances.	Procedures	10.4.3	10.4.3 The transition period must not exceed one year. The Executive Secretariat CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina may determine a longer period when justified by exceptional circumstances.		Conforms
	Process			The transition period exceeds one year. The exceptional circumstances were because of COVID.	Conforms

PART II: STANDARD AND SYSTEM REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST FOR GROUP FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION (PEFC ST 1002:2018)

PEFC benchmark requirement	Y/N	Reference to system documentation	Quotation	Additional information	Decision
4. Context of the group organisation					
4.1 Understanding the group organisation and its context The standard shall define how relevant external and internal issues of the group organisation shall be determined. A general framework for the group organisation shall be determined:					
a) regional groups: group of forest owners/managers defined by regional borders and	YES		4.1 Understanding the forest certification group and its context 4.1.1 The forest certification group shall establish and document the criteria for its formation. The criteria shall consider: a) regional group: the composition of the forest certification group is determined by regional jurisdictional, eco-regional or basin limits;		Conforms
b) other groups and/or	YES	As mentioned above	b) other groups: the formation of the forest certification group is determined by other specific circumstances that influence the implementation of the group's management system.		Conforms
c) whether there are any other specific circumstances which influence the	YES	As mentioned above	As (b) above		Conforms

implementation of the group management system.					
4.2 Understanding the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders					
4.2.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall identify:					
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant for the group management system and	YES	4.2.1 a)	4.2.1 The forest certification group shall identify: a) affected stakeholders that are relevant to the management system of the forest certification group;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.	YES	4.2.1 b)	b) the relevant expectations of these affected stakeholders.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
4.3 Determining the scope of the group management system					
4.3.1 The standard shall provide definitions relating to the following terms, which are in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3:					
a) the group organisation and the elements of the group organisation (group entity and participant),	YES		3.11 forest certification group the set of participants, members of the forest certification group, represented by the entity of the group, constituted for the purpose of implementing the standard of sustainable forest management and its certification. There is a binding written agreement between each member of the forest certification group and the forest certification group entity	The standard provides definitions for group organisations that are consistent with the PEFC requirements, for three types of organisations: forest owners, regional council and other. Entity and participant are defined for all three.	Conforms

			<p>NOTE 1. The term “forest certification group” is equivalent to the term “regional forest certification group” if the group is defined by regional jurisdictional, ecoregional or basin boundaries and meets the content of this definition.</p> <p>NOTE 2. The standard for sustainable forest management is IRAM 39801 - Sustainable forest management. Criteria and indicators of the management unit</p> <p>3.9 forest certification group entity</p> <p>legally constituted entity or organization that requests certification on behalf of a group of organizations that agree to participate in the forest certification group and is responsible for ensuring the conformity of forest management on the certified surface with the standard of sustainable forest management and others applicable requirements of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina. To do this, the entity of the forest certification group uses a group management system</p> <p>NOTE 1. The forest certification group entity is the certificate holder.</p> <p>NOTE 2. The entity of the forest certification group can be an existing entity (a forest company, a natural person, a chamber or a sectoral association, a non-governmental organization, a government organization, a community organization)</p>		
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			<p>or it can be expressly formed. for the certification process and will be the one who signs the agreements with the members of the forest certification group and with the certification body.</p> <p>NOTE 3. The standard for sustainable forest management is IRAM 39801 - Sustainable forest management. Criteria and indicators of the management unit.</p> <p>3.13 member of the forest certification group</p> <p>natural or legal person (organization) responsible for the management unit(s) included in the forest certification group</p> <p>NOTE 1 A member of the forest certification group covered by the group sustainable forest management certificate has the ability to implement the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard in a certified area.</p> <p>NOTE 2. The standard for sustainable forest management is IRAM 39801 - Sustainable forest management. Criteria and indicators of the management unit.</p>		
b) the certified area,	YES		<p>3.23 certified area</p> <p>the forest area and other related areas covered by a sustainable forest management system in accordance with IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Criteria and indicators of</p>	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

			the management unit. In the context of group certification, the certified area is the sum of the areas of the forest management unit(s) included by the members of the forest certification group in the group and is covered by a group sustainable forest management certificate		
c) the group certificate and	YES		<p>3.4 group sustainable forest management certificate</p> <p>a document confirming that the forest certification group meets the requirements of this standard and IRAM 39801 Sustainable Forest Management. Criteria and indicators of the management unit and with other applicable requirements of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina</p> <p>NOTE. CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina is the Argentine Forest Certification System.</p>	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements with additional stipulations.	Conforms
d) the document confirming participation in group certification.	YES		<p>3.5 proof of participation in the group forest management certification</p> <p>a document issued by the certification body to a member of the forest certification group that refers to the group sustainable forest management certificate and that confirms that the member of the forest certification group is covered by the scope of the forest management certification in group</p>	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements with additional stipulations.	Conforms

			NOTE. This document can be, for example, a sub-certificate or a confirmation of participation		
4.3.2 The standard requires that for the establishment of the scope for the group management system the boundaries and applicability of the group management system shall be determined.	YES	4.3.2	<p>4.3.1 In order to achieve the defined objectives, including the improvement of its performance, the forest certification group shall establish, implement, maintain and continuously improve a management system, which includes the necessary processes, their interactions and the level of performance required, in accordance with the requirements of this standard.</p> <p>4.3.2 The forest certification group shall determine the limits and applicability of its management system to establish its scope. To determine this scope, the forest certification group shall consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the objectives of the management system of the forest certification group, b) the entity of the forest certification group, c) the members of the forest certification group, and d) certified area. 	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements with additional stipulations.	Conforms
4.3.3 The standard shall define which requirements of the sustainable forest management standard may be fulfilled on group level.	YES	4.3.3 “	4.3.4 The forest certification group shall determine and document which requirements of the sustainable forest	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements with additional stipulations.	Conforms

			management standard are implemented at the group level. NOTE. The sustainable forest management standard is IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Criteria and indicators of the management unit..		
4.3.4 The standard requires that the scope shall be made available as documented information.	YES	4.3.4	4.3.3 The forest certification group shall document the scope of its management system and shall make it available to interested parties.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
4.4 Group management system					
4.4.1 The standard requires that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring and the internal audit programme.	YES	4.4.1.	9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis 9.2.1 Objectives 9.2.1.1 The forest certification group entity shall plan, establish, implement and maintain an annual internal audit program that provides information on whether the forest certification group's management system: a) conforms to: i. the forest certification group's own requirements for its group management system; ii. the requirements of this group forest certification standard;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

			<p>b) ensures the correct implementation of the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801) at the level of a member of the forest certification group;</p> <p>c) is effectively implemented and maintained.</p> <p>9.2.1.2 The internal audit programme shall cover the forest certification group entity and all members of the forest certification group. The entity of the forest certification group shall be audited annually.</p> <p>Members of the forest certification group may be selected by sampling in accordance with section 9.3.</p> <p>9.2.1.3 The forest certification group entity shall implement an internal audit program that meets the requirements of this standard, including assessment by management, prior to the application for sustainable forest management certification.</p>		
4.4.2 The standard requires that a certified PEFC chain of custody system shall be in place if a group entity acts as a trader of forest based material not covered by group certificate.	YES	4.4.2.	<p>4.3 Forest certification group management system</p> <p>4.3.5 In cases where the forest certification group entity acts as a trader of timber and non-timber forest products</p>	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements with different wording. .	Conforms

			<p>not covered by the scope of the forest certification group, it shall implement and certify a chain of custody in accordance with the international standard PEFC ST 2002:2020 - Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Products - Requirements.</p> <p>NOTE. PEFC is the English acronym for the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.</p>		
5. Leadership					
5.1 Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities					
5.1.1 Functions and responsibilities of the group entity The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the group entity shall be specified:					
a) to implement and maintain an effective management system covering all participants of the group;	YES	5.2.1.1.a)	5.2.1.1 The entity of the forest certification group shall, as a minimum: a) implement and maintain an effective forest certification group management system covering all members of the forest certification group;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) to represent the group organisation in the certification process, including in communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body;	YES	5.1.1.b)	b) represent the forest certification group in the certification process, including communications and relations with the certification body, the presentation of the application for	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

			certification and the contractual relationship with the certification body;		
c) to establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;	YES	5.1.1.c)	d) establish documented procedures for the management of the forest certification group;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
d) to establish written procedures for the acceptance of new participants of the group organisation. These acceptance procedures shall cover at least the verification of the applicant's information about contact details, clear identification of their forest property and its/their size(s)	YES	5.1.1.d)	e) establish documented procedures for the acceptance of new members of the forest certification group in accordance with the requirements established in Annex A of this standard;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
e) to establish written procedures for the suspension and exclusion of participants who do not correct/close nonconformities. Group participants excluded from any certification group based on nonconformities cannot be accepted within 12 months after exclusion	YES	5.1.1.e)	f) establish documented procedures for the suspension and exclusion of members of the forest certification group that do not correct nonconformities in accordance with the requirements established in Annex B of this standard. Forest certification group members expelled from any certification group for nonconformities cannot be accepted within 12 months of exclusion;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
f) to keep documented information of: i. the group entity and participants' conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system, ii. all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s),	YES	5.1.1.f)	g) maintain documented information of: i. the conformity of the entity of the forest certification group and the members of the forest certification group with the requirements of this standard, of the standard of sustainable forest management (see IRAM 39801) and	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

<p>iii. the certified area, iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken;</p>			<p>other applicable requirements of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina,</p> <p>NOTE. CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina is the Argentine Forest Certification System.</p> <p>ii. all members of the forest certification group, including their contact details, identification of the forest management unit(s) of each member of the forest certification group and their size(s),</p> <p>iii. the certified area,</p> <p>iv. the implementation of an internal monitoring program, its review and any preventive and/or corrective action taken;</p>		
<p>g) to establish connections with all participants based on a binding written agreement which shall include the participants' commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard. The group entity shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of nonconformity with the sustainable forest management standard; Note: The requirements for "participant' commitment" and "written contract or other written agreement with all participants"</p>	YES	5.1.1 g)	<p>h) establish connections with all members of the forest certification group on the basis of a binding documented agreement (contract or agreement of adherence to the forest certification group) that includes a commitment in accordance with the management system of the forest certification group, with the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801) and with other applicable requirements of the forest certification system. The documented and binding agreement shall include the right of the forest certification group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion</p>	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

may also be satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.			from the scope of certification of any member of the forest certification group, in the event of not conformity with the standard of sustainable forest management; NOTE. CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina is the Argentine Forest Certification System.		
h) to provide all participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;	YES	5.1.1 h)	i) provide all members of the forest certification group with proof of participation in group forest management certification;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
i) to provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system;	YES	5.1.1 i)	j) provide all members of the forest certification group with the necessary information and guidance for the effective implementation and maintenance of the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina; NOTE. CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina is the Argentine Forest Certification System.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
j) to address nonconformities reported from group members which were identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification and to ensure implementation with all group members;	YES	5.1.1 j)	k) manage non-conformities reported by members of the forest certification group that were identified under other PEFC certifications than the group certification and to ensure implementation with all	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

			members of the forest certification group;		
k) to operate an internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants' conformity with the certification requirements;	YES	5.1.1 k)	l) implement an internal monitoring program that provides for the evaluation of the conformity of the members of the forest certification group with the certification requirements;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
l) to operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity;	YES	5.1.1 l)	l) to operate an annual internal audit programme covering both group members and group entity;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
m) to operate a management review of the group forest certification and acting on the results from the review;	YES	5.1.1 m)	n) conduct a management review of the forest certification group and act on the results of the review;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms Conforms
n) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the certification body, accreditation body, PEFC International or the National Governing Body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest area covered by the group organisation and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system.	YES	5.1.1 n)	<p>ñ) provide full cooperation and assistance to respond effectively to all requests from the certification body, the accreditation body and the CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina Association, provide documentation or other relevant information; allow access to forest area covered by the forest certification group and other facilities, whether in connection with formal or otherwise related audits or reviews or implications for the forest certification group's management system.</p> <p>NOTE. The CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina is the non-profit civil association responsible for the</p>	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	

			administration of the Argentine Forest Certification System.		
5.1.2 Function and responsibilities of participants The standard requires that the following functions and responsibilities of the participants shall be specified:					
a) To provide the group entity with a binding written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification system; group participants excluded from any certification group cannot apply for group membership within 12 months after exclusion. Note: The requirement for “written agreement” and participants’ “commitment” is also satisfied by the commitment of and written agreement of a pre-existing organisation or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners’/managers’ association, SFM programme and submission to tax programming, where the organisation can demonstrate that it has a legal mandate to represent the participants and where its commitment and the terms and conditions of the contract are enforceable.	YES	5.1.2 a)	5.2.2 Function and responsibilities of members of the forest certification group 5.2.2.1 Members of the forest certification group shall, at a minimum: a) provide the forest certification group entity with a binding documented agreement (forest certification group adhesion contract or agreement), including a commitment in accordance with the forest certification group's management system, the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801) and other applicable forest certification scheme requirements. Members of the forest certification group excluded from any forest certification group shall not apply to join the forest certification group within 12 months of the exclusion;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) To provide the group entity with information about previous group participation.	YES	5.1.2 b)	b) inform the forest certification group entity about participation in other certification groups;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

c) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system as well as with the requirements of the management system;	YES	5.1.2 c)	c) comply with the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801) and other applicable requirements of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina, as well as with the requirements of the management system of the certification group;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
d) to provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the group entity, or certification body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise related or with implications for the management system;	YES	5.1.2 d)	d) provide full cooperation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the forest certification group entity and/or the certification body; allow access to its forest management unit(s) within the scope of the forest certification group, either in relation to formal or otherwise related audits or reviews or with implications for the forest certification group's management system;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
e) to inform the group entity about nonconformities identified under other PEFC certifications than the particular group certification.	YES	5.1.2 e)	e) inform the forest certification group entity about non-conformities identified under PEFC certifications other than the certification of the particular forest certification group;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
f) to implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.	YES	5.1.2 f)	f) implement the relevant preventive actions and corrective actions established by the entity of the forest certification group.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
5.2 Commitment and policy					

5.2.1 The standard requires that the group entity shall provide a commitment:					
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	YES	5.2.1 a)	5.3 Commitment and policy 5.3.1 The forest certification group entity shall define, provide and document a commitment to: a) comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) to integrate the group certification requirements in the group management system;	YES	5.2.1 b)	b) integrate the certification requirements of the forest certification group into the management system of the forest certification group;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) to continuously improve the group management system;	YES	5.2.1 c)	c) continuously improve the management system of the forest certification group;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
d) to continuously support the improvement of the sustainable management of the land/forests by the participants.	YES	5.2.1 d)	d) continuously support the improvement of sustainable forest management by the members of the forest certification group on the certified area.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
5.2.2 The commitment of the group entity may be part of a group management policy and shall be publicly available as documented information upon request.	YES	5.2.2	5.3.2 The commitment defined and provided by the forest certification group entity shall be part of the certification group's policy for sustainable forest management, shall be actively communicated to forest workers and	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

			<p>relevant stakeholders, and shall be publicly available.</p> <p>5.3.3 Members of the forest certification group shall agree to abide by this policy in the contract or agreement of adhesion to the forest certification group..</p>		
5.2.3 The standard requires that the participants shall provide a commitment					
a) to follow the rules of the management system;	YES	5.2.3 a)	<p>5.3.3 Members of the forest certification group shall agree to abide by this policy in the contract or agreement of adhesion to the forest certification group.</p> <p>5.2.2.1 Members of the forest certification group shall, at a minimum:</p> <p>a) provide the forest certification group entity with a binding documented agreement (forest certification group adhesion contract or agreement), including a commitment in accordance with the forest certification group's management system, the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801) and other applicable forest certification scheme requirements. Members of the forest certification group excluded from any forest certification group shall not apply to join the forest certification group within 12 months of the exclusion</p>	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

b) to implement the requirements of the sustainability standard in their operations in their area.	YES	5.2.3 a)	c) comply with the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801) and other applicable requirements of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina, as well as with the requirements of the management system of the certification group;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
6. Planning					
6.1 The standard requires that if a group organisation plans any changes in the group management system, these changes shall be included in a group management plan.	YES	6.1	6.1 The forest certification group shall establish, implement and maintain a forest certification group management plan that includes at least the processes necessary to meet the requirements of this standard. 6.2 The forest certification group shall include in the management plan of the forest certification group all planned changes to the management system of the forest certification group..	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
6.2 The standard requires that if a group organisation decides to fulfil requirements of the sustainable forest management standard on the group level, these requirements shall be considered in a group management plan.	YES	6.2	6.3 The management plan of the forest certification group shall incorporate all the actions to comply with those requirements of the sustainable forest management standard that the forest certification group establishes to be implemented as a group.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
7. Support					

7.1 The standard requires that resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the group management system shall be determined and provided.	YES	7.1	7.1 The forest certification group shall determine and provide the necessary resources for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continuous improvement of the forest certification group's management system.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
7.2 The standard shall define the necessary competence of persons doing work in the group management system.	YES	7.2.	7.2 The forest certification group shall define the necessary competence of persons carrying out work in the management system of the forest certification group.	The standard defines the necessary competence of those doing the work accordingly.	Conforms
7.3 The standard requires that communication processes shall be in place to raise the awareness of participants concerning:	YES	7.3	7.3 The forest certification group shall establish communication processes to raise awareness among members of the forest certification group about:	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
a) the group management policy;	YES	7.3 a)	a) the certification group policy for sustainable forest management;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard;	YES	7.3 b)	b) the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801);	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) their contribution to the effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved group performance;	YES	7.3 c)	c) its contribution to the effectiveness of the forest certification group management system and sustainable forest management, including the benefits of improved performance of the group	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

d) the implications of not conforming with the group management system requirements.	YES	7.3 d)	d) the implications of not complying with the requirements of the forest certification group's management system	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
7.4 The standard requires that the internal and external communications relevant to the group management system shall be determined. This includes:					
a) on what to communicate;	YES	7.4 a)	7.4 The forest certification group shall determine the internal and external communications relevant to the forest certification group's management system. This includes: a) what to communicate;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) when to communicate;	YES	7.4. b)	b) when to communicate;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) with whom to communicate;	YES	7.4.c)	c) with whom to communicate;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
d) how to communicate.	YES	7.4.d)	d) how to communicate	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
7.5 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms shall be in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to group management and sustainable forest management operations.	YES	7.5.	7.5 The forest certification group shall establish appropriate mechanisms to resolve complaints and disputes related to group management and sustainable forest management operations.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

7.6 The standard requires that the documented information relevant to the group management system and the conformance with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard is:					
a) up to date;	YES	7.6 a)	7.6 The forest certification group shall ensure that the documented information relevant to the forest certification group's management system and compliance with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801) is: a) updated;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;	YES	7.6 b)	b) available and suitable for use, where and when needed;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity.	YES	7.6 c)	c) adequately protected against loss of confidentiality, misuse or loss of integrity.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
8. Operation					
8.1 The standard requires that the group organisation shall plan, implement and control processes needed:					
a) to meet the requirements of the group certification standard and the sustainable forest management standard and	YES	8.1 a)	8.1 The forest certification group shall establish, implement, control and maintain the processes necessary to meet the requirements of this standard and the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801) and to	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

			implement the actions determined in Chapter 6, through: a) the establishment of criteria for the processes;		
b) to implement the actions determined in 6.	YES	8.1 b)	b) the implementation of process control according to the criteria;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
8.2 The standard requires that this planning, implementing and controlling shall be done by:					
a) defining the necessary processes and establishing criteria for those;	YES	8.2 a)	8.2 This planning, implementing and controlling shall be done by: a) defining the necessary processes and establishing criteria for those;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria;	YES	8.2 b)	b) implementing control of the processes in accordance with the criteria;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) keeping documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned.	YES	8.2 c)	8.3 The forest certification group shall maintain the documented information to the extent necessary to have confidence that the processes have been carried out as planned.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9. Performance evaluation					
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation					

9.1.1 The standard requires that an ongoing internal monitoring programme provides confidence in the conformity of the group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard. In particular, it shall be determined:					
a) what shall be monitored and measured;	YES	9.1.1 a)	<p>9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation</p> <p>9.1.1 The forest certification group shall establish and implement an ongoing internal monitoring program that provides confidence in the forest certification group's compliance with the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801). The internal monitoring program shall include at least:</p> <p>a) what shall be monitored and measured;</p>	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) the methods for monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as applicable, to ensure valid results;	YES	9.1.1 b)	b) methods of monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation, as appropriate, to ensure valid results;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	
c) when the monitoring and measuring shall be performed;	YES	9.1.1 c)	c) when monitoring and measurement shall be carried out;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
d) when the results from monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated;	YES	9.1.1 d)	d) when the results of monitoring and measurement shall be analysed and evaluated;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
e) what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.	YES	9.1.1 e)	e) what documented information shall be available as evidence of the results.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

9.1.2 The standard requires that the group entity shall evaluate the group management performance and the effectiveness of the group management system concerning the implementation of the sustainable forest management requirements	YES	9.1.2	9.1.2 The forest certification group entity shall evaluate the group's management performance and the effectiveness of the group's management system with respect to the implementation of sustainable forest management requirements.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.2 Internal audit					
9.2.1 Objectives					
9.2.1.1 The standard requires that an annual internal audit programme shall provide information on whether the group management system:					
a) conforms to i. the group organisation's own requirements for its group management system; ii. the requirements of the national group certification standard;	YES	9.2.1.1a)	9.2.1.1 The forest certification group entity shall plan, establish, implement and maintain an annual internal audit program that provides information on whether the forest certification group's management system: a) conforms to: i. the forest certification group's own requirements for its group management system; ii. the requirements of this group forest certification standard;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) ensures the implementation of the sustainable forest management standard on the participant level;	YES	9.2.1.1b)	b) ensures the correct implementation of the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801) at the level	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

			of a member of the forest certification group;		
c) is effectively implemented and maintained.	YES	9.2.1.1c)	c) is effectively implemented and maintained.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.2.1.2 The standard requires that the internal audit programme shall cover the group entity and all group participants. The group entity shall be audited annually. The participants may be selected on a sample basis.	YES	9.2.1.2	<p>9.2.1.2 The internal audit programme shall cover the forest certification group entity and all members of the forest certification group. The entity of the forest certification group shall be audited annually. Members of the forest certification group may be selected by sampling in accordance with section 9.3.</p> <p>9.2.1.3 The forest certification group entity shall implement an internal audit program that meets the requirements of this standard, including assessment by management, prior to the application for sustainable forest management certification.</p>		Conforms
9.2.2 Organisation					
The standard requires an internal audit programme which shall cover at least:					
a) planning, establishing, implementing and maintaining an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the	YES	9.2.2 a)	<p>9.2.2 Organization</p> <p>The internal audit programme shall include at least</p> <p>a) the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into</p>	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

processes concerned and the results of previous audits;			account the importance of the processes to be audited and the results of previous audits;		
b) definition of the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	YES	9.2.2 b)	b) the definition of the audit criteria and scope of each audit;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) competence of internal auditor (forest knowledge, standard knowledge);	YES	9.2.2 c)	c) the competence of the internal auditor (forestry knowledge, knowledge of this standard and the sustainable forest management standard, see IRAM 39801);	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
d) selection of auditors and conducting of audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	YES	9.2.2 d)	d) the selection of auditors and the conduct of audits in order to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the audit process;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
e) ensuring that the results of the audits are reported to relevant group management;	YES	9.2.2 e)	e) ensure that the results of audits are reported to the forest certification group entity;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
f) retaining of the documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	YES	9.2.2 f)	f) maintenance of documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and audit results.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.3 Selection of participants in the internal audit programme					
9.3.1 General					
9.3.1.1 The standard requires the establishment of requirements for the selection of participants in the internal	YES	9.3.1.1	9.3.1 General		

audit programme. These requirements shall include the			9.3.1.1 The forest certification group entity shall establish and implement a procedure for the selection of forest certification group members in the internal audit program. The procedure shall include::		
a) determination of the sample size (9.3.2);	YES	9.3.1.1 a)	a) the determination of the sample size in accordance with paragraph 9.3.2;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) determination of sample categories(9.3.3);	YES	9.3.1.1 b)	b) the determination of the categories of the sample in accordance with paragraph 9.3.3;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) distribution of the sample to the categories (9.3.4);	YES	9.3.1.1 c)	c) the distribution of the sample into the categories in accordance with paragraph 9.3.4;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
d) selection of the participants (9.3.5).	YES	9.3.1.1 d)	d) the selection of participants in accordance with section 9.3.5.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.3.1.2 The standard may define additional requirements on the regional, national or sub-national level.	YES			No further additional requirements are defined	Conforms
9.3.1.3 The standard shall define additional sampling requirements in case of participation of pre-existing organisations or group or the members participation, such as a forest owners'/managers' association, SFM programme and submission to tax	YES		No text reference exists. The	No further additional requirements are defined	Minor non-conformity

programming which have their own members.					
9.3.2 Determination of the sample size					
9.3.2.1 The sample size shall be calculated for the participants of the group organisation.	YES	9.3.2.1	9.3.2 Determination of sample size 9.3.2.1 The sample size shall be calculated on the total number of members of the certification group	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.3.2.2 The size of the sample generally should be the square root of the number of participants: ($y=\sqrt{x}$), rounded to the upper whole number.	YES	9.3.2.2	9.3.2.2 The sample size shall be equal to the square root of the number of members of the forest certification group: ($y = \sqrt{x}$), rounded to the upper integer.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.3.2.3 The size of the sample may be adapted by a standard taking into account one or more of the following indicators:					
a) results of a risk assessment. In this case deviations of sample sizes in case of low or high risk for individual categories shall be defined;	YES		9.3.2.3 The sample size may be adapted taking into account one or more of the following parameters: a) results of a risk assessment. In this case, deviations from sample sizes shall be defined in case of low or high risk for individual categories;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits;	YES	9.3.2.3 b)	b) results of internal audits or previous certification audits;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) quality / level of confidence of the internal monitoring programme;	YES	9.3.2.3 c)	c) confidence level of the internal monitoring program;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

d) use of technologies allowing the gathering of information concerning specified requirements; Note: Such technologies may be e.g. the use of satellite data or drones and allow compliance statements for specific requirements of a sustainability standard or support the risk based sampling.	YES	9.3.2.3 d)	d) use of technologies to collect information on specific requirements; NOTE. These technologies can be, for example, the use of satellite data or drones and enable declarations of compliance for specific requirements of the sustainable forest management standard (see IRAM 39801) or support risk-based sampling.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
e) based on other means of gathering information about activities on the ground. Note: One way could be a survey with participants who provide some information about their activities on the ground.	YES	9.3.2.3 e)	e) other means of collecting information relating to field activities. NOTE. One way could be a survey with members of the forest certification group who provide information on their activities on the ground.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.3.3 Determination of sample categories					
9.3.3.1 The sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of the standard. The following non exhaustive list of indicators may be used for the risk assessment:					
a) ownership type (e.g. state forest, communal forest, private forest);	YES	9.3.3.1 a)	9.3.3.1 Sample categories shall be established based on the results of a risk assessment. (The indicators used in the risk assessment shall reflect the geographical scope of IRAM 39801.) For risk assessment, the following non-	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

			exhaustive list of indicators may be used: a) type of property (e.g. fiscally owned forest, community-owned forest, privately owned forest);;		
b) size of management units (different size classes);	YES	9.3.3.1 b)	b) size of forest management units (different size classes);	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) biogeographic region (e.g. lowlands, low mountain range, high mountain range);	YES	9.3.3.1 c)	c) biogeographic region;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
d) operations, processes and products of potential group participants;	YES	9.3.3.1 d)	d) operations, processes and products of the members of the forest certification group;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
e) deforestation and forest conversion;	YES	9.3.3.1 e)	e) forest conversion;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
f) rotation period(s);	YES	9.3.3.1 f)"	f) rotation period(s);	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
g) richness of biological diversity;	YES	9.3.3.1 g)	g) presence of priority sites for conservation;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;	YES	9.3.3.1 h)	h) recreation and other socio-economic functions of the forest;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
i) dependence of and interaction with local communities and indigenous people;	YES	9.3.3.1 i) "interaction with local communities, Ainu people or organizations of Ainu people"	i) dependency and interaction with local communities and indigenous peoples;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

j) available resources for administration, operations, training and research;	YES	9.3.3.1 j)	j) resources available for administration, operations, training and research;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
k) governance and law enforcement.	YES	9.3.3.1 k)	k) governance and law enforcement.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.3.3.2 Conditions which constitute risk for each indicator on low, medium and high level and the respective consequences for the sampling shall be defined.	YES	9.3.3.2 "Risks levels in risk assessment are divided into three levels of low, medium and high and the indicators shall be defined by classifying natural and social conditions of location of forest, and management and implementation system of group organizations."	9.3.3.2 For sampling, the conditions that constitute risk for each indicator, at low, medium and high level, and the respective consequences shall be defined	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.3.4 Distribution of the sample The sample shall be distributed to the categories according to the result of the risk assessment.	YES	9.3.4	9.3.4 Sample distribution The sample shall be divided into categories according to the result of the risk assessment	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.3.5 Selection of the participants					
9.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.	YES	9.3.5.1	9.3.5.1 At least 25% of the sample shall be selected at random.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure for the selection of the participants shall be specified.	YES	9.3.5.2	9.3.5.2 A risk-based procedure shall be specified for the selection of certification group members.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.4 Management review					

9.4.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include:					
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	YES	9.4.1 a)	.4.1 The forest certification group entity shall establish and implement an annual management review that includes, at a minimum: a) the status of the actions of the previous management reviews;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the group management system;	YES	9.4.1 b)	b)changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system of the forest certification group;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) the status of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance;	YES	9.4.1 c)	c)the status of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, which includes the review of the results of the internal monitoring programme, the internal audit and the assessments and surveillance of the certification body;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
d) information on the group performance, including trends in: i. nonconformities and corrective actions; ii. monitoring and measurement results; iii. audit results;	YES	9.4.1 d)	d)information on the performance of the forest certification group, including trends in: i. non-conformities and corrective actions; ii. monitoring and evaluation results; iii. audit results;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

e) opportunities for continual improvement.	YES	9.4.1 e)	e) opportunities for continuous improvement.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.4.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the group management system.	YES	9.4.2	9.4.3 The group entity shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews, at least for a full certification cycle.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
9.4.3 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews.	YES	9.4.3	9.4.3 The standard requires that the group organization shall retain documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
10. Improvement					
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action					
10.1.1 The standard requires when a nonconformity occurs, the group organisation shall:					
a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable: i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;	YES	10.1.1 a)	10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action 10.1.1 When a non-conformity occurs, the forest certification group entity shall: a) react to non-conformity and, as appropriate,; i. take measures to control and correct it;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

			ii. deal with the consequences;		
b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;	YES	10.1.1 b)	b) assess the need for action (actions) to eliminate the causes of non-conformity, so that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. the review of non-conformity; ii. the determination of the causes of non-conformity; iii. the determination of whether there are similar or potentially potential non-conformities;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
c) implement any action needed;	YES	10.1.1 c)	c) implement any necessary action;	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	YES	10.1.1 d)	d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken; and	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
e) make changes to the group management system, if necessary.	YES	10.1.1 e)	e) if necessary, make changes to the management system of the forest certification group.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
10.1.2 The standard requires that the group organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:					
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	YES	10.1.2 a)	10.1.2 The forest certification group entity shall retain documented information as evidence of: a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent action taken, and	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

b) the results of any corrective action.	YES	10.1.2	b)the results of any corrective action.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
10.1.3 The standard requires that a participant who was excluded from a group certification shall be internally audited by the group entity before it is allowed to re-enter the group certification. The internal audit shall not take place sooner than 12 months after the exclusion.	YES	10.1.3	10.1.3 The forest certification group entity shall internally audit a member of the forest certification group who has been excluded from the forest certification group before being allowed to re-enter the group. This internal audit shall be carried out after 12 months after the exclusion	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms
10.2 Continual improvement					
The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the group management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.	YES	10.2	10.2 Continual improvement The forest certification group entity shall verify that the adequacy, adequacy and effectiveness of the group management system and sustainable forest management are continuously improved.	The standards reproduce the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

PART III: STANDARD AND SYSTEM REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (PEFC ST 1003:2018)

PEFC benchmark requirement	Y/N*	Reference to system documentation	Quotation of relevant text	Additional Appendix 3 text (unless otherwise specified)	Decision
Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard					
4.1 General The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall:					
a) include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the forest management unit level, or at another level as appropriate, to ensure that the intent of all requirements is achieved at the forest management unit level; Note: An example of a situation where a requirement can be defined as being at another level (e.g. group/regional) is monitoring of forest health. Through monitoring of forest health at regional level, and communicating of results at the FMU level, the objective of the requirement is met without the necessity to carry out the individual monitoring of each forest management unit.	YES	IRAM 39801 (unless specified)	1 SCOPE This standard specifies the planning requirements and establishes specific criteria and performance indicators for sustainable forest management in relation to native forests and planted forests in the Argentine Republic. The requirements of this standard are applicable to the forest management unit and cover the full range of forest management objectives defined for it, including the provision of wood and non-wood forest products and other ecosystem services, and to all activities implemented in the forest management unit to achieve those objectives.		
b) be clear, performance based and auditable;	YES	IRAM 39801	1 SCOPE	The management and performance requirements are auditable; they do not	Conforms

			This standard specifies the planning requirements and establishes specific criteria and performance indicators for sustainable forest management in relation to native forests and planted forests in the Argentine Republic.	differ significantly from the requirements of the previous version of the standard. The standard comprises 6 criteria and XX indicators that are clear and performance based.	
c) apply to activities of all forest operators in the defined forest area who have an impact on achieving compliance with the requirements;	YES		1 SCOPE The requirements of this standard are applicable to the forest management unit and cover the full range of forest management objectives defined for it, including the provision of wood and non-wood forest products and other ecosystem services, and to all activities implemented in the forest management unit to achieve those objectives.	The standard applies to activities of all forest operators in a defined area.	Conforms
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards;	YES		7.5 Documented information 7.5.1 The organization's forest management system shall include the documented information required by this standard and determined by the organization itself as necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system. 7.5.2 Documented information from the forest management unit shall include: a) the sustainable forest management plan; b) the procedures and other documents necessary to carry out sustainable forest management;	The standard meets the requirements.	Conforms

			<p>c) the records.</p> <p>7.5.3 Documented information shall be relevant and updated as appropriate to the activities of the organization.</p> <p>7.5.4 The organization shall establish a procedure that allows the updating and approval of documents when necessary.</p> <p>7.5.5 All documentation necessary for forest management shall be available at the places of use.</p> <p>7.5.6 The organization shall identify and maintain records that provide evidence of compliance with the requirements of this sustainable forest management standard</p>		
<p>e) specify "100% PEFC certified", or another system specific claim, as claim to be used to communicate the origin of products in an area covered by the standard to customers with a PEFC chain of custody;</p> <p>Note: System specific claims of PEFC endorsed standards and PEFC Council approved abbreviations of such claims and the claim "100% PEFC certified", and their translations into languages other than English, are published online on the PEFC website www.pefc.org.</p>	YES		<p>Annex A (Normative)</p> <p>PEFC Declarations</p> <p>A.1 PEFC Declarations</p> <p>A.1.1 The organization that holds a PEFC-recognized and current certificate of sustainable forest management in accordance with the requirements of this standard can communicate to its clients the origin of the products included in the scope of its certificate using the declarations "100% PEFC certified" and/or or "100% PEFC origin".</p> <p>NOTE 1. PEFC is the English acronym for the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.</p> <p>NOTE 2. A PEFC recognized certificate of sustainable forest management is a valid accredited certificate is-sued by a</p>	The standard meets the requirements.	Conforms

			<p>notified certification body against a forest management system/standard that is recognized by PEFC.</p> <p>NOTE 3. The forest certification schemes recognised by PEFC can be found on the PEFC website http://pefc.org/</p>		
f) require that where owners/managers of forests are selling products from areas other than covered by the standard, only products from areas covered by the standard are sold with the claim "100% PEFC-certified" or a system specific claim;	YES	4.1 f)	<p>Annex A (Normative) PEFC Declarations A.1 PEFC Declarations A.1.2 The organization shall verify and record that only the products included within the scope of its valid and recognized certificate, issued in accordance with the requirements of this sustainable forest management standard, are marketed with the PEFC claim.</p>	The standard meets the requirements.	Conforms
g) require that claims on the origin of products in an area covered by the standard are only made by forest owners/managers covered by a PEFC recognised certificate issued against the standard;	YES		<p>Annex A (Normative) PEFC Declarations A.1 PEFC Declarations A.1.2 The organization shall verify and record that only the products included within the scope of its valid and recognized certificate, issued in accordance with the requirements of this sustainable forest management standard, are marketed with the PEFC claim.</p>	The standard meets the requirements.	Conforms
h) specify requirements concerning the information which need to be	YES		<p>nnex A (Normative) PEFC Declarations</p>	The standard meets the requirements.	Conforms

provided to a PEFC chain of custody certified customer;			<p>A.1 PEFC Declarations</p> <p>A.2 PEFC declaration of output products</p> <p>A.2.1 For output products for which the organization makes a PEFC declaration to a client, it shall provide the client with documentation containing the following information for each delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) identification of the PEFC client; b) the name of the organisation as the supplier of the material; c) identification of the product; d) quantity of product(s); e) delivery date / delivery period / accounting period; f) the PEFC declaration applicable specifically for each declared product covered by the documentation; g) the certificate number of the organisation's recognised PEFC certificate <p>NOTE. The certificate number is a numeric or alphanumeric combination that is a unique identifier of the certificate.</p> <p>A.2.2 The organisation shall specify the type of documentation in which PEFC declarations are made for output products.</p>		
i) include an overview of applicable legislation, if requirements of this benchmark are not reflected in the	YES		<p>Annex B (Informative)</p> <p>National Legal Framework applicable to the forest management unit</p>		Conforms

regional, national or sub-national standard, because they are already addressed through the legislation.			B.1 National Constitution B.2 National Forest Legislation B.3 National legislation related to land tenure and use rights B.4 National tax and commercial legislation B.4 National tax and commercial legislation B.6 National environmental legislation B.7 National Legislation Linked to Indigenous Peoples B.8 National legislation linked to social and labour rights B.9 National legislation related to occupational health and safety B.10 National legislation related to transport B.11 National anti-corruption and access to information legislation B.12 International conventions and treaties of which the Argentine Republic is a signatory B.12.1 Conventions and treaties related to environmental issues B.12.2 Conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO)		
The standard requires that the organisation shall determine:					
a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to the sustainable forest management;	YES	4.1	4.1 Understanding stakeholder needs and expectations 4.1.1 The organization shall determine:		Conforms

			a) the affected stakeholders who are relevant to forest management;		
b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.	YES	4.1	<p>4 CONTEXT OF THE ORGANIZATION</p> <p>4.1 Understanding stakeholder needs and expectations</p> <p>4.1.1 The organization shall determine:</p> <p>b) the relevant needs and expectations of these affected stakeholders.</p>		Conforms
4.3 Determining the scope of the management system					
4.3.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine the boundaries and applicability of the management system to establish its scope.	YES	4.2	<p>4.2 Determining the scope of the forest management system</p> <p>4.2.1 The organization shall determine the limits and applicability of the forest management system to establish its scope. To determine this scope, the organization shall consider:</p> <p>a) the objectives defined for the forest management system: production of goods, wood and non-wood, and/or other services; and</p> <p>b) the forest management unit(s) and their physical limits.</p> <p>4.2.2 The organization shall implement all the requirements of this standard, where applicable, within the given scope of its forest management system.</p> <p>4.2.3 The organization shall document the scope of its forest management system and make it available to stakeholders</p>		Conforms

4.3.2 The standard requires that forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management practices. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement.	YES	4.3.1	<p>4.3 Forest management system</p> <p>4.3.1 To achieve the defined objectives, including the improvement of its performance, the organization shall establish, implement, maintain and continuously improve a forest management system, including the necessary processes, their interactions and the level of performance required, in accordance with the requirements of this standard.</p> <p>4.3.2 The organization's forest management system shall comprise at a minimum the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation of planned activities, monitoring and evaluation, including an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management. This forms the basis of a cycle of continuous improvement.</p>		Conforms
5. Leadership					
5.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall provide a commitment:					
a) to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system;	YES	5.1	<p>5.1 The organization shall demonstrate leadership and make a long-term commitment to the forest management system:</p> <p>a) complying with the criteria and requirements of this sustainable forest management standard; and</p>		Conforms

b) to continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.	YES		b) contributing to the continuous improvement of the sustainable forest management system.		Conforms
5.2 The standard requires that this commitment shall be publicly available.	YES	5.2, 5.3	5.2 The organization shall document and make public its long-term commitment to comply with the criteria and requirements of this sustainable forest management standard. 5.3 The organisation shall communicate its long-term commitment to comply with the criteria and requirements of this sustainable forest management standard to forest workers and forest service providers operating in the management unit(s) within the scope of the forest management system.		Conforms
5.3 The standard requires that responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	YES	5.4	5.4 The organization shall define, document and assign responsibilities for the implementation of sustainable forest management.		Conforms
6. Planning					
6.1 Actions to address risks and opportunities					
6.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest management. Size and scale of the operations of the organisation shall be considered.	YES	6.1.6	6.1 Generalities 6.1.1 The organization shall plan and implement forest management in a sustainable manner, to maintain or increase the forests of the forest management unit and to maintain or increase its capacity to produce a variety of wood and non-wood forest goods and other ecosystem services, in		Conforms

			<p>accordance with a long-term forest management plan, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and applicable to the forest management unit.</p> <p>6.1.6 The organization shall consider in planning the risks and opportunities related to meeting the requirements for sustainable forest management, taking into account the size and scale of the organization's operations.</p>		
<p>6.1.2 The standard requires that inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the requirements described in this international benchmark standard.</p>	YES	4.3.2, 6.2.3	<p>4.3.2 The organization's forest management system shall comprise at a minimum the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation of planned activities, monitoring and evaluation, including an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management. This forms the basis of a cycle of continuous improvement.</p> <p>6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least:</p> <p>a) description of the forest management unit including the type of rights to tenure and/or use of land and forest resources, the continuous inventory, the characterization of forest types and the identification and characterization of priority conservation sites present therein;</p>		Conforms

			j) cartography appropriate to the size and use of the forest management unit;		
6.2 Management plan					
6.2.1 The standard requires that management plans shall be:					
a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;	YES	6.2.1 1)	<p>6 PLANNING</p> <p>6.2 Sustainable forest management plan</p> <p>6.2.1 The organization shall develop and document a sustainable forest management plan that:</p> <p>a) is periodically updated and adjusted;</p>		Conforms
b) appropriate to the size and use of the forest area;	YES	6.2.1 2)	<p>6.2.1 The organization shall develop and document a sustainable forest management plan that:</p> <p>b) is appropriate to the size and uses of the forest management unit</p>		Conforms
c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and	YES	6.2.1 3)	<p>6.2.1 The organization shall develop and document a sustainable forest management plan that:</p> <p>c) is based on applicable local, national and international legislation, as well as on the use, tenure and/or ownership of the land of the forest management unit; and</p>		Conforms
d) adequately covering forest resources.	YES	6.2.1 4)	d) includes all types of forest present in the forest management unit.		Conforms

6.2.2 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.	YES	6.2.2	6.2.2 Forest management plans shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.		
6.2.3 The standard requires that management plans shall include at least a description of the current forest management unit, long-term objectives, and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification.	YES	6.2.3	6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least: a) description of the forest management unit including the type of rights to tenure and/or use of land and forest resources, the continuous inventory, the characterization of forest types and the identification and characterization of priority conservation sites present therein; b) long-term management objectives; f) the average annual rate of harvest of all wood and/or non-wood forest products and their technical justification; NOTE: The average annual harvest or extraction rate does not exceed the possibility of the forest so that its vitality and productivity are maintained or improved.		Conforms
6.2.4 The standard requires that the annually allowable use of non-wood forest products shall be included in the management plan where forest management covers commercial use of non-wood forest products at a level which can have an impact on their long-term sustainability.	YES	6.2.4.	6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least: f) the average annual rate of harvest of all wood and/or non-wood forest products and their technical justification; NOTE: The average annual harvest or extraction rate does not exceed the possibility of the forest so that its vitality	The standard meets the PEFC requirement.	Conforms

			and productivity are maintained or improved.		
6.2.5 The standard requires that management plans specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.	YES	6.2.5.	6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least: g) specifications, technical requirements and environmental and watershed protection measures necessary to protect soil, watercourses and bodies of water, flora and fauna; h) protective measures to prevent damage by harmful biological agents, fires, and other disturbances; NOTE: pests, weeds, pathogens and livestock (overgrazing and ramoneo) are considered harmful biological agents, when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources. i) identification and assessment of the relevant aspects and impacts of activities in the forest management unit;	The standard meets the PEFC requirement.	Conforms
6.2.6 The standard requires that management plans shall take into account the results of scientific research.	YES	6.2.6.	6.2.6 The sustainable forest management plan shall consider where relevant the results of scientific research.	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms
6.2.7 The standard requires that a summary of the management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information	YES	6.2.9.	6.2.9 A summary of the sustainable forest management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of sustainable forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information		Conforms

on the general objectives and forest management principles.			on the general objectives and criteria for sustainable forest management. NOTE: The publicly available summary of the sustainable forest management plan excludes confidential commercial and personal information and other information that has been made confidential by applicable law or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive features of natural resources.		
6.2.8 The standard requires that the publicly available summary of the management plan may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.	YES	6.2.9.	6.2.9 A summary of the sustainable forest management plan, appropriate to the scope and scale of sustainable forest management, shall be publicly available and shall include information on the general objectives and criteria for sustainable forest management. NOTE: The publicly available summary of the sustainable forest management plan excludes confidential commercial and personal information and other information that has been made confidential by applicable law or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive features of natural resources.		Conforms
6.3 Compliance requirements					
6.3.1 Legal compliance					
6.3.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to	YES	6.3.1.1	6.3.1.1 The organization shall identify and have access to all updated legislation applicable to its forest	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

its forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation. Note: For a country which has signed a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the European Union and the producing country, the "legislation applicable to forest management" is defined by the VPA agreement.			management and shall determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organization. NOTE. The legislation identified includes, but is not limited to, forest management practices; protection of nature and the environment; protected and endangered species; property rights and use of the land and resources of the forest management unit; land tenure and use of indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, work and safety issues; anti-corruption and payment of royalties and applicable taxes.		
6.3.1.2 The standard requires that the organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest management, including but not limited to forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous peoples, local communities or other affected stakeholders; health, labour and safety issues; anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.	YES	6.3.1.2	6.3.1 Legal compliance 6.3.1.2 The organization shall comply with all local and national legislation and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements applicable to its forest management. 6.3.1.9 Forest service providers shall comply with the laws and regulations applicable to their activity and the policies, procedures, instructions and codes of good practice subscribed to or defined for the forest management unit.		Conforms
6.3.1.3 The standard requires that where no anti-corruption legislation exists, the organisation must take	YES		6.3.1 Legal compliance		Conforms

alternative anti- corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption.			6.3.1.5 The organization shall take effective anti-corruption measures appropriate to the risk of corruption. .		
6.3.1.4 The standard requires that measures shall be implemented to address protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	YES	As mentioned above	6.3.1 Legal compliance 6.3.1.6 The organization shall take effective measures to protect the forest from unauthorized activities such as hunting, fishing and illegal logging; illegal use of land; unauthorized or illegal settlements; illegally started fires and other illegal activities.	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms
6.3.2 Legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land					
6.3.2.1 The standard requires that property rights, tree ownership and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant management unit. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected. Note: Guidance for the handling of tenure arrangements can be obtained from the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.	YES	6.3.2.1	6.3.2 Legal, traditional and usage rights related to the tenure of the forest management unit 6.3.2.1 The organization shall have a suitable and up-to-date document attesting to its right to use the land or forest resources of the forest management unit and the right of use is for a period consistent with the long term planning of the sustainable forest management plan. The boundaries of the forest management unit shall be legally determined and clearly documented in the mapping of the forest management plan. NOTE. Accreditation is carried out through one of the titles recognized by Argentine legislation (property title;		Conforms

			<p>lease or concession contract; real right of surface; recognition of traditional rights; customary rights, etc.)</p> <p>8 Operations</p> <p>8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or adequate improvement of socio-economic functions and condition</p> <p>8.6.2 The organisation shall know and respect the rights of possession and management of the lands and resources of the indigenous people who inhabit the area of influence of the forest management unit.</p>		
<p>6.3.2.2 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall be conducted in recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon without the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of the rights, including the provision of compensation where applicable. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved, or is in dispute, there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such cases forest managers shall, in the interim, provide meaningful opportunities for parties to be engaged in forest management decisions whilst respecting the processes and roles and</p>	YES	6.3.2.2.	<p>6.3.2 Legal, traditional and usage rights related to the tenure of the forest management unit</p> <p>6.3.2.2 The organization shall conduct forestry practices and operations in recognition of the established framework of legal and traditional rights, as described in Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>NOTE 1: Convention 169 was ratified by Law No. 24.071/92</p> <p>NOTE 2: Argentina adheres to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on September 13, 2007.</p> <p>6.3.2.3. When the scope of the legal and traditional rights of indigenous peoples is not resolved or is in dispute, the</p>	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms

responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.			<p>organization shall implement processes for a fair and equitable resolution and in such cases, the organization shall, in the meantime, provide significant opportunities for the parties to engage in forest management decisions, respecting the processes, roles and responsibilities established in the policies and laws where the certification is carried out.</p> <p>8 Operations</p> <p>8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or adequate improvement of socio-economic functions and condition</p> <p>8.6.2 The organisation shall know and respect the rights of possession and management of the lands and resources of the indigenous people who inhabit the area of influence of the forest management unit.</p>		
6.3.2.3 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall respect human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.	YES	6.3.2.3	<p>6.3.2 Legal, traditional and usage rights related to the tenure of the forest management unit</p> <p>6.3.2.4 The organization shall implement forestry practices and operations in compliance with human rights as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. NOTE. The Argentine Republic has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights since 1948 and in 1994 incorporated into the National Constitution (in article 75, paragraph 22), all declarations, treaties and International Covenants on</p>	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms

			human rights, consequently, in Argentina, the Human Rights Treaty System has the force of law.		
6.3.3 Fundamental ILO conventions					
6.3.3.1 The standard requires that forest practices and operations shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions. Note: In countries where the fundamental ILO conventions have been ratified, the requirements of 6.3.3.1 apply. In countries where a fundamental convention has not been ratified and its content is not covered by applicable legislation, specific requirements shall be included in the forest management standard.	YES	6.3.3.1	6.3.3.1 The organization shall implement forestry practices and operations in compliance with the fundamental ILO Conventions. NOTE. The Argentine Republic ratified the eight fundamental labour Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO)		Conforms
6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions					
6.3.4.1 The standard requires that forest operations shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.	YES	6.3.4.1	6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions. 6.3.4.1 The organisation shall plan, organise and carry out its activities in a manner that makes it possible to identify the risks of occupational accidents and diseases, and shall implement all necessary measures to protect workers from work-related risks. The organization shall inform forest workers about the risks involved in their work and about preventive measures. NOTE: The organization can obtain guidance for the planning and implementation of safe working		Conforms

			<p>conditions in the ILO Code of Good Practice: Safety and Health in Forestry Work and in the Manual of Good Practices for Forestry of the Superintendence of Occupational Risks.</p> <p>6.3.4.2 The organization shall verify that the risk analyses are carried out by job position and keep the updated payroll of workers with the Occupational Risks Insurer (ART) or Self-Insured Employer.</p> <p>6.3.4.3 The organization shall ensure and verify that working conditions are safe and shall provide first aid and transfer in the event of a health emergency and occupational accidents.</p> <p>6.3.4.4 The organization shall ensure the correct state of the tools, machinery, and vehicles that operate within the forest management unit, in their relationship with the modality and state of use, so that they do not generate work accidents or occupational diseases.</p> <p>6.3.4.5 The organization shall provide forest workers with personal protection elements appropriate to the task they perform and in good condition, and shall take measures to ensure their use, protection and maintenance</p>		
6.3.4.2 The standard requires that working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a task in forest	YES	6.3.4.2.	<p>6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions.</p> <p>6.3.4.3 The organization shall ensure and verify that working conditions are safe and shall provide first aid and</p>		Conforms

<p>operations. Working hours and leave shall comply with national laws or applicable collective agreements. Note: Guidance for specifying national standards can be obtained from the ILO Code of Good Practice: Safety and Health in Forestry Work.</p>		<p>transfer in the event of a health emergency and occupational accidents.</p> <p>6.3.4.7 The organization shall ensure and verify that the salaries of permanent and temporary forest workers, as well as of forest service providers operating in the forest management unit, meet or exceed the legal standards of the forest sector or, where appropriate, collective labour agreements.</p> <p>7 SUPPORT</p> <p>7.2 Competence</p> <p>7.2.1 The organization shall ensure that all forest workers, including forest service providers, receive sufficient information and are kept up to date with ongoing training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all planning and implementation of the management practices set out in this standard.</p> <p>7.2.2 The organization shall document, implement and keep up to date an effective training programme for forest workers, according to their roles and responsibilities, covering at least the following topics:</p> <p>c) proper implementation of the tasks it performs and of the forestry operations, the occupational risks to which they are exposed and the preventive measures to preserve the health and safety of forestry workers in the performance of their activities;</p>		
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6.3.4.3 The standard requires that wages of local and migrant forest workers as well as of contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas shall meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards or, where applicable, collective bargaining agreements. Note: Where wages are below the living wage of a country, steps should be taken to attain increased wages towards a living wage level over time in addition to increases for inflation.	YES	6.3.4.7	6.3.4 Health, safety and working conditions. 6.3.4.7 The organization shall ensure and verify that the salaries of permanent and temporary forest workers, as well as of forest service providers operating in the forest management unit, meet or exceed the legal standards of the forest sector or, where appropriate, collective labour agreements.	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms
6.3.4.4 The standard requires that the organisation is committed to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and freedom from workplace harassment. Gender equality shall be promoted.	YES	6.3.4.9	6.3.4.9 The organization shall demonstrate its commitment to equal opportunities for hiring, training and promotion, promoting non-discrimination, the absence of workplace harassment and gender equity.	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms
7. Support					
7.1 Resources					
7.1.1 The standard requires that the organisation shall determine and provide the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system.	YES	7.1.1.	7.1.1 The organization shall determine and provide the necessary resources for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continuous improvement of the forest management system.		Conforms
7.2 Competence					

<p>7.2.1 The standard requires that forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and kept up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this benchmark.</p>	YES	7.2.1	<p>7.2.1 The organization shall ensure that all forest workers, including forest service providers, receive sufficient information and are kept up to date with ongoing training in relation to sustainable forest management, as a precondition for all planning and implementation of the management practices set out in this standard.</p> <p>7.2.2 The organization shall document, implement and keep up to date an effective training programme for forest workers, according to their roles and responsibilities, covering at least the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) criteria and indicators and sustainable forest management policy established by the organisation and in accordance with this standard; b) the law applicable to management activities and how these compliance obligations apply to the respective organisation and activities; c) proper implementation of the tasks it performs and of the forestry operations, the occupational risks to which they are exposed and the preventive measures to preserve the health and safety of forestry workers in the performance of their activities; d) measures to protect identified priority conservation sites; 		Conforms
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		<p>e) identification, monitoring, prevention and management of harmful biological agents;</p> <p>NOTE: pests, weeds, pathogens and livestock (overgrazing and ramoneo) are considered harmful biological agents, when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources.</p> <p>f) management of phytosanitary products and other chemicals and specific safety, personal and environmental measures;</p> <p>g) management of waste of all kinds generated in the forest management unit;</p> <p>h) prevention, early detection and control of forest fires;</p> <p>i) ILO fundamental labour Conventions and the rights and obligations of forest workers in the performance of their activities;</p> <p>j) the organization's commitment to equal opportunities for recruitment, training and promotion, the promotion of non-discrimination, the absence of workplace harassment and gender equity;</p> <p>k) unpermitted and/or illegal activities, preventive measures thereof and complaint mechanisms;</p> <p>l) procedure for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management</p>	
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			<p>operations, land use rights and working conditions;</p> <p>m) reventive and/or mitigation measures for negative social and environmental impacts of management activities on local communities and/or indigenous people; and</p> <p>n) hanges in forest planning and operations, because of monitoring, where applicable.</p> <p>7.2.3 The organization shall identify and define which training topics reach each job according to the responsibilities and functions.</p> <p>7.2.4 The organization may define a methodology to evaluate the effectiveness of training.</p>		
7.3 Communication					
7.3.1 The standard requires that effective communication and consultation with local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management shall be provided.	YES	7.3.1.	7.3.1 The organization shall establish effective channels of communication and exchange of information with local communities, indigenous people and other affected stakeholders, related to the sustainable forest management it implements.		Conforms
7.4 Complaints					
7.4.1 The standard requires that appropriate mechanisms are in place for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.	YES	7.4.1.	7.4.1 The organization shall establish and implement an appropriate procedure for resolving complaints and disputes related to forest management operations, land use rights and working conditions. The organization shall keep		Conforms

			records of the management of complaints and disputes.		
7.5 Documented Information					
7.5.1 The standard requires that the organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and determined by the organisation as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.	YES	7.5.1	<p>7.5.1 The organization's forest management system shall include the documented information required by this standard and determined by the organization itself as necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.</p> <p>7.5.2 Documented information from the forest management unit shall include:</p> <p>a) the sustainable forest management plan;</p> <p>b) the procedures and other documents necessary to carry out sustainable forest management;</p> <p>c) the records.</p>		Conforms
7.5.2 The standard requires that the documented information is relevant, and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.	YES	7.5.2	<p>7.5 Documented information</p> <p>7.5.3 Documented information shall be relevant and updated as appropriate to the activities of the organization.</p> <p>7.5.4 The organization shall establish a procedure that allows the updating and approval of documents when necessary.</p> <p>7.5.5 All documentation necessary for forest management shall be available at the places of use.</p> <p>7.5.6 The organization shall identify and maintain records that provide evidence of compliance with the requirements of</p>	See above	Conforms

			this sustainable forest management standard.		
8. Operation					
8.1 Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle					
8.1.1 The standard requires that management shall aim to maintain or increase forests and their ecosystem services and maintain or enhance the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources.	YES	6.1.1.	<p>6.1.1 The organization shall plan and implement forest management in a sustainable manner, to maintain or increase the forests of the forest management unit and to maintain or increase its capacity to produce a variety of wood and non-wood forest goods and other ecosystem services, in accordance with a long-term forest management plan, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and applicable to the forest management unit.</p> <p>6.1.2 The organization shall plan and implement forest management while maintaining and/or improving the economic, ecological, cultural and/or social functions and values of the forests of the forest management unit.</p>		Conforms
8.1.2 The standard requires that the quantity and quality of the forest resources and the capacity of the forest to store and sequester carbon shall be safeguarded in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring	YES	8.1.1 and 8.1.6	<p>8.1.1 The organization shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources of the forest management unit and their ability to store and sequester carbon in the medium and long term, using appropriate silvicultural treatment.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the silvicultural treatments applied are based on the ecology of each site and</p>		Conforms

<p>techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources.</p>		<p>on information obtained through the forest inventories of the forest management unit and ensure the productivity of the forest and its capacity to store and sequester carbon;</p> <p>b) in the absence of sufficient technical information on the ecology of the site, silvicultural treatments are defined on the basis of the precautionary principle and these promote that forest resources are sustainable in the long term.</p> <p>8.1.6 The organization shall ensure adequate regeneration and/or reforestation in any area of forest harvested from the forest management unit in order to maintain the quality and quantity of forest resources.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) adequate regeneration, or adequate reforestation or adequate regeneration and reforestation is ensured throughout the area of forest harvested in the forest management unit;</p> <p>NOTE. It is considered appropriate when it is verified that the regeneration of native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and timely.</p> <p>b) the regeneration and/or reforestation of the harvested area is carried out at the appropriate time in such a way as to protect the environmental values of the area affected by the harvest;</p> <p>c) the species composition and density of regeneration of native forests and the</p>		
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			<p>degree of establishment of forest plantations are assessed and corrective measures are taken, when necessary, to ensure effective regeneration, or effective establishment or regeneration and establishments;</p> <p>NOTE. Planted forests are also called forest plantations or afforestation.</p> <p>d) where appropriate, adequate measures are implemented to control livestock pressure on the re-generation of native forests and/or establishment of forest planting.</p>		
8.1.3 The standard requires that climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions and efficient use of resources shall be encouraged.	YES	8.1.2.	<p>8.1.2 The organization shall promote positive environmental practices in forestry operations, which aim at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and efficient use of resources.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) program implemented to prevent, detect and control early the occurrence of forest fires;</p> <p>NOTE: A program involves an orderly series of actions aimed at achieving objectives. It shall specify roles, responsibilities, processes, resources, timelines, and priorities.</p> <p>b) avoidance of the use of fire for the treatment of forest residues;</p> <p>c) maintenance procedures of the vehicle fleet and all types of machinery used in the management of the forest</p>		Conforms

			that minimize the risks of environmental pollution		
8.1.4 The standard requires that forest conversion shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:					
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with affected stakeholders; and	YES	8.1.3 a)	<p>8.1.3 The organization shall not carry out forest conversion unless it is carried out in justified and verified circumstances in which the forest conversion:</p> <p>a) complies with provincial and national legislation applicable to land use and forest land use, including consultation with stakeholders;</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) planted forests established on a forest conversion carried out after 31 December 2010 in circumstances other than those set out in paragraph 8.1.3 as "justified and verified circumstances" are not eligible for certification</p> <p>b) no forest conversion is carried out except where such forest conversion takes place in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>i. the organisation holds a land-use change authorisation granted by the enforcement authority which included consultation of stakeholders; and</p>		Conforms
b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and	YES	8.1.4 b)	b) involves a small proportion (not exceeding 5%) of forest type within the certified area;		Conforms

			<p>Indicators:</p> <p>b) no forest conversion is carried out except where such forest conversion takes place in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>ii. implies a small proportion (not exceeding 5%) of forest type within the certified area, and</p>		
c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	YES	8.1.4 c)	<p>c) has no direct or indirect negative impacts on priority conservation sites or other protected areas</p> <p>b) no forest conversion is carried out except where such forest conversion takes place in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>iii. no direct and indirect negative impacts are identified in forest areas of ecological importance, areas of cultural and social importance or other protected areas; and</p>	See above	Conforms
d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	YES	8.1.4 d)	<p>d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stocks; and</p> <p>b) no forest conversion is carried out except where such forest conversion takes place in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>iv. no destruction of significantly high carbon stock areas is identified; and</p>	See above	Conforms
e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	YES	8.1.4 e)	e) makes a long-term contribution to economic, social and conservation benefits		Conforms

			<p>Indicators:</p> <p>b) no forest conversion is carried out except where such forest conversion takes place in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>v. a contribution to long-term conservation with economic, social and sustainable forest management benefits is identified</p>		
8.1.5 The standard requires that afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:					Conforms
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and	YES	8.1.5 a)	<p>8.1.5 The organisation shall not carry out afforestation at priority conservation sites unless it is in justified and verified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>a) complies with local, provincial and national legislation applicable to land use; and</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) planted forests established on a conversion of priority sites for conservation carried out after 31 December 2010 in circumstances other than those set out in paragraph 8.1.5 as "justified and verified circumstances" are not eligible for certification;</p> <p>b) the conversion of priority conservation sites to planted forests is not carried out except where such</p>	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms

			conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that: i. holds, if applicable, a land-use change authorisation granted by the implementing authority which included consultation of stakeholders; and		
b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and	YES	8.1.5 b)	<p>b) is established on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and</p> <p>Indicators: b) the conversion of priority conservation sites to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that: iii. there are records of consultations with affected stakeholders where it is verified that they had opportunities to contribute to decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and</p>	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms
c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) nonforest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of	YES	8.1.5 c)	c) has no negative impacts on other threatened non-forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare or endangered), culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms

threatened species or other protected areas; and			<p>threatened species or other protected areas</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>b) the conversion of priority conservation sites to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>iv. no negative impacts are identified on other threatened non-forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare or endangered ones), culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and</p>		
d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non- forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and	YES	8.1.5 d)	<p>d) involves a small proportion of the existing priority conservation site within the forest management unit; and</p> <p>b) the conversion of priority conservation sites to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>ii. involves a small proportion of the existing priority conservation site within the management unit; and</p>	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms
e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and	YES	8.1.5 e)	e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stocks; and	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms

			<p>Indicators:</p> <p>b) the conversion of priority conservation sites to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>v. the conversion of significantly high carbon stock areas is not identified; and</p>		
f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	YES	8.1.5 f)	<p>f) makes a long-term contribution to economic, social and conservation benefits.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>b) the conversion of priority conservation sites to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>vi. identifies a contribution to long-term conservation with economic, social and sustainable forest management benefits.</p>	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirement.	Conforms
8.1.6 The standard requires that if conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations is being considered, it must add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. Precondition of adding such value are circumstances where the conversion:	YES	8.1.4	8.1.4 The organization, in considering the conversion of degraded forests to planted forests, shall verify that such conversion adds economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value. It is a precondition for the addition of this value that the following circumstances in which the conversion is verified:		
a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation	YES		a) complies with local, provincial and national legislation applicable to land		

applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and			<p>use and territorial planning of forests; and</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>a) the conversion of degraded native forests to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>i. holds a land-use change authorisation granted by the enforcement authority which included consultation of stakeholders; and</p>		
b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and	YES		<p>b) is established on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to decision-making on this conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>a) the conversion of degraded native forests to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>ii. there are records of consultations with affected stakeholders where it is verified that they had opportunities to contribute to decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and</p>	The requirement here is not applicable, as the standard cannot be applied to any “man made” forest areas.	

c) has a positive impact on long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and	YES		<p>c) has a positive impact on the long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>a) the conversion of degraded native forests to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>iii. there is a positive impact on the long-term carbon sequestration capacity of forest vegetation; and</p>		
d) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and	YES		<p>d) has no negative impacts on priority conservation sites; and</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>a) the conversion of degraded native forests to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>iv. no negative impacts are verified on priority conservation sites; and</p>		
e) safeguards protective functions of forests for society and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services; and	YES		<p>e) safeguards the socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>a) the conversion of degraded native forests to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion</p>		

			<p>occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>v. the protective functions of forests for society and other regulatory or ecosystem support services are safeguarded; and</p> <p>vi. the socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services, are safeguarded; and</p>		
f) safeguards socio-economic functions of forests, including the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests and other cultural services; and	YES		See above		
g) has a land history providing evidence that the degradation is not the consequence of deliberate poor forest management practices; and	YES		<p>f) has a land use history of the forest management unit that has evidence that degradation is not the result of deliberate forest management malpractice; and</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>a) the conversion of degraded native forests to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that:</p> <p>vii. there is evidence that degradation is not the consequence of deliberate forest</p>		

			management mal-practices by the organization; and		
h) is based on credible evidence demonstrating that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.	YES		g) is based on verifiable evidence showing that the area is not recovered or in the process of recovery. Indicators a) the conversion of degraded native forests to planted forests is not carried out except where such conversion occurs in justified circumstances in which it is verified that: viii. there is credible evidence showing that the area is neither recovered nor in the process of recovery.		
8.2 Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality					
8.2.1 The standard requires that health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall be maintained or enhanced and degraded forest ecosystems shall be rehabilitated wherever and as far as economically feasible, by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures.	YES	8.2.1	8.2.1 The organization shall maintain or improve the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and should recover or restore degraded forests where and when technically possible and economically feasible, making the best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures. Indicators: a) identification of the different forests present in the forest management unit, and their state of health and vitality;		Conforms

			b) definition and implementation of actions to restore degraded forests, and to maintain the health and vitality of those that are not degraded.		
8.2.2 The standard requires that adequate genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.	YES	8.2.2	<p>8.2.2 The organization shall promote or maintain genetic, species and structural diversity appropriate to improve the stability, vitality and resistance of forests to adverse biotic and abiotic factors and strengthen natural regulatory mechanisms.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) planning and management promote the diversity of genotypes, species and ecosystems;</p> <p>b) management planning and implementation includes a diverse patchwork of ages, areas and/or cycles of regeneration or reforestation, appropriate to the size and uses of the forest management unit and the objectives set out in the forest management plan.</p>		
8.2.3 The standard requires that use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for regeneration, wildfire protection and habitat management or	YES	8.2.3	8.2.3 The use of fire shall be limited to regions where fire is an essential tool in forest management for re-generation, protection against forest fires and habitat management or a recognized		Conforms

a recognized practice of indigenous peoples. In these cases adequate management and control measures shall be taken.			<p>practice of indigenous people. In these cases the organization shall implement all appropriate management and control measures for the use of fire.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) authorisation of the use of fire by the enforcement authority;</p> <p>b) documented and implemented procedure for the use of fire as a forest management tool that includes at least the technical justification, control measures, safety measures of workers assigned to this activity, identification and verification of compliance with applicable legal requirements and monitoring of affected areas;</p> <p>c) prior communication to the affected stakeholders concerned</p>		
8.2.4 The standard requires that appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied.	YES	8.2.4	<p>8.2.4 The organization shall implement forestry practices appropriate to local and justified peculiarities throughout management that ensure the health and vitality of forest resources.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the definition of the silvicultural system used is based on the results of studies and research carried out under conditions similar to those of the forest management unit and ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources;</p> <p>b) documented, updated and implemented procedures for forest</p>		Conforms

			<p>production processes that include measures to minimize damage to the remaining forest and/or soil;</p> <p>c) the equipment, machinery and inputs used are appropriate to the local conditions of topography, soil, climate and characteristics of the forest resources managed and ensure the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources</p>		
<p>8.2.5 The standard requires that the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner. The spillage of oil or fuel during forest management operations shall be prevented. Emergency procedures for the minimisation of risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage shall be in place.</p>	YES	8.2.5.	<p>8.2.5 The organization shall implement a program for the reduction, reuse or proper treatment of waste of all kinds.</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>a) documented and implemented waste management procedure of all kinds including identification, sorting, transport and final disposal;</p> <p>b) hazardous waste, and other waste, including liquid effluents, generated by management, are treated in accordance with current legislation.</p>	<p>Compliance is partly established via national legislation and regulation. See: Law 25.916/04. Minimum specifications for environmental protection for the comprehensive management of household waste. General disposition. Competent authorities. Generation and Initial Disposition. Re-collection and Transport. Treatment, Transfer and Final Disposition. Interjurisdictional coordination. Application authority. Infringements and sanctions. Supplementary Provisions.</p> <p>Decree 779/2022 Last update of the regulatory decree of Law 25916/04.</p> <p>ARTICLE 2°.- Household waste: are those elements, objects or substances, which are generated and discarded as a result of domestic activities carried out in urban and rural centers, including those assimilable in their characteristics to these whose origin is commercial, institutional, welfare and industrial.</p>	Minor non conformity

			<p>ARTICLE 3°.- The integral management of household waste must respect the following hierarchy of options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Prevention/Minimization;Reuse/Reuse;Recovery;Treatment; andFinal Disposition. <p>Law 27.279/16. Minimum specifications for environmental protection for the management of empty phytosanitary containers, due to the toxicity of the product they contained, requiring differentiated and conditioned management.</p> <p>Decree No. 134/2018. Regulates Law No. 27.279</p> <p>Law N° 24.051/92. Hazardous Waste Law.</p> <p>ARTICLE 1 ° - The generation, handling, transport, treatment and final disposal of hazardous waste will be subject to the provisions of this law</p> <p>ARTICLE 2 ° - It will be considered dangerous, for the purposes of this law, any waste that may cause damage, directly or indirectly, to living beings or contaminate the soil, water, atmosphere or the environment in general.</p> <p>In particular, waste listed in Annex I or possessing any of the characteristics listed in Annex II of this Law shall be considered hazardous.</p>	
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8.2.6 The standard requires that integrated pest management, appropriate silviculture alternatives and other biological measures shall be preferred to minimise the use of pesticides.	YES	8.2.6.	<p>8.2.6 The organization shall plan and carry out the management of harmful biological agents following the guidelines of an integrated management, in order to evaluate and prefer appropriate forestry alternatives and other cultural and/or biological management measures, seeking to minimize the use of phytosanitary products.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) Identification of present and/or potential harmful biological agents that require management actions in the forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTE. In the identification of potential harmful biological agents, pests, diseases and livestock (overgrazing and ramoneo) are considered when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources.</p>		Conforms

		<p>b) documented and implemented procedure for the monitoring, prevention and management and control of harmful biological agents that considers the best available practices and ensures the maintenance of health and vitality of forest resources;</p> <p>NOTE: The best practices available for the prevention and control of harmful biological agents include, but are not limited to giving preference, biological control measures, selection of forestry or mechanical systems / practices, compared to the use of phytosanitary products, according to the regulations established by the regulatory body of sanitary protection.</p> <p>c) actions and strategies to minimise the risks of introduction of harmful biological agents into the forest management unit and to prevent the increase in the incidence of existing ones;</p> <p>NOTE. Strategies to minimize the risk of introduction of harmful biological agents may include but are not limited to the active participation of the organization in local and regional monitoring programs together with other forest producers and/or the enforcement authority, early communication to the enforcement authority when harmful biological agents are detected, etc.</p> <p>d) the use of phytosanitary products is limited to situations where there is no other economically and technically</p>		
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			viable and effective management alternative.		
8.2.7 The standard requires that any use of pesticides is documented.	YES	8.2.7	8.2.7 The organization shall adopt a program of responsible use of phytosanitary products that ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources. c) up-to-date registration of all phytosanitary products purchased, stored and used in the forest management unit including the product safety sheet;	The requirement establishes a general requirement that records are kept of pesticides used, and refers to the registration. However, it does not require documentation of any use of pesticides. It is not clear that this is delivered in practice.	Minor NC
8.2.8 The standard requires that the WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available. Any exception to the usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides shall be defined in the national/regional standard.	YES	8.2.7.	8.2.7 The organization shall adopt a program of responsible use of phytosanitary products that ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources. Indicators: a) No WHO Type 1A and 1B phytosanitary products and other highly toxic phytosanitary products are used;		Conforms
8.2.9 The standard requires that pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. Note: "Pesticides banned by international agreements" are defined	YES	8.2.7	8.2.7 The organization shall adopt a program of responsible use of phytosanitary products that ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources. Indicators: b) no phytosanitary products, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, the derivatives of which remain bio-logically active and accumulate in the food chain	The standard meets the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.			beyond their intended use, and any other phytosanitary products prohibited by international agreement; NOTE: "Phytosanitary products prohibited by international agreements" are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to which Argentina is a signatory, ratified by Law No. 26,011.		
8.2.10 The standard requires that the use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment by trained personnel.	YES	8.2.10	8.2.7 The organization shall adopt a program of responsible use of phytosanitary products that ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources. Indicators: c) up-to-date registration of all phytosanitary products purchased, stored and used in the forest management unit including the product safety sheet; d) documented and implemented procedure for the transport, handling, use and appropriate storage of phytosanitary products and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force and the manufacturer's instructions, which ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources; NOTE: The organization may use as reference documentation for the development of this procedure the ILO Guide "Safety in the Use of Chemicals	The standard reproduces the PEFC requirements.	Conforms

			<p>at Work" for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for the cleaning of active spills.</p> <p>e) the procedures implemented for the use of phytosanitary products consider the climatic, edaphic and topographic conditions and include actions to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts caused by their use.</p> <p>[NOTE: see 7.2 Competence, 7.2.2 f)]</p>		
8.2.11 The standard requires that where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment. Fertilizer use shall not be an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.	YES	8.2.8	<p>8.2.8 When the use of fertilisers is justified, the organisation shall apply them in a controlled manner and with due regard for the environment. The use of fertilizers shall not be an alternative to the proper management of soil nutrients.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the use of fertilisers is limited to situations where there is no other economically and technically viable and effective alternative;</p> <p>b) up-to-date record of fertilisers purchased, stored and used in the forest management unit.</p> <p>NOTE. The record includes at least the following information: brand name, active ingredient, place of application and total area under application, total dose and quantity used, date of application, and frequency of use.</p> <p>c) documented and implemented procedure for the transport, handling,</p>		Conforms

			<p>use and proper storage of fertilisers and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force, which ensures the maintenance of the health and vitality of forest resources;</p> <p>NOTE: The organisation may use as reference documentation for the development of this procedure the ILO Guide "Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work" for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for the cleaning of active spills.</p> <p>d) the procedures implemented for the use of fertilisers consider the climatic, edaphic and topographic conditions and include actions to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts caused by their use</p>		
8.3 Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)					
8.3.1 The standard requires that the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis shall be maintained.	YES	8.3.1	<p>8.3.1 The organization shall maintain the capacity of forests to produce a variety of products and other services in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) identification of the products and other services generated by the forests present in the forest management unit.</p> <p>b) the management plan, based on the range of products and other services existing in the forest management unit,</p>		Conforms

			<p>considers and foresees for mechanisms for their diversification;</p> <p>c) planning and implementation of actions aimed at maintaining or increasing the future value of the products and other services of the forest management unit.</p>		
8.3.2 The standard requires that sound economic performance shall be pursued, taking into account possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.	YES	6.1.3	6.1.3 The organization shall plan and implement forest management in such a way as to achieve sound economic performance, taking into account the possibilities of new markets and economic activities in relation to all existing goods and services in the forest management unit.		Conforms
8.3.3 The standard requires that management, harvesting and regeneration operations shall be carried out at a time, and in a way, that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to soil and retained stands and trees.	YES	8.3.3	<p>8.3.2 The organisation shall implement forestry operations, including harvesting and forestry, reforestation and/or regeneration at a time and in a manner that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) updated and implemented procedures for forest production processes, including harvesting and afforestation, reforestation and/or regeneration, which ensure the maintenance of the productiveness of the site;</p> <p>b) the equipment, machinery and inputs used are appropriate to the local conditions of topography, edaphic, climate and characteristics of the forest</p>		Conforms

			<p>resources produced and ensure the maintenance of the productivity of the site;</p> <p>c) implementation of techniques and/or actions to minimize damage from forestry operations to the remaining forest;</p> <p>d) on-site harvest and processing residues are disposed of in the forest in such a way as to facilitate the natural cycling of nutrients, prevent erosion and maintain the productivity of the site.</p> <p>.</p>		
8.3.4 The standard requires that harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested products.	YES	8.3.3	<p>8.3.3 The organisation shall establish levels of harvest or extraction of both wood and non-wood forest products that do not exceed a rate that can be maintained in the long term, and optimal use shall be made of the harvested products.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods (wood and non wood);</p> <p>NOTE. The rate of harvest or extraction does not exceed the possibility of the forest, so that its quality and productivity are maintained or improved.</p> <p>b) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and periodic inventory records;</p>		Conforms

			<p>c) documented and implemented procedure for carrying out forest inventories;</p> <p>d) adoption of techniques to minimise residues of forest products associated with on-site harvesting and processing operations and to prevent losses.</p>		
<p>8.3.5 The standard requires that adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.</p>	YES	6.1.5, 8.4.7	<p>6.1.5 The organization shall plan, establish, and maintain adequate infrastructure, such as the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, collection areas and roads work, to ensure the efficient delivery of goods and services.</p> <p>8. OPERATION</p> <p>8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and/or adequate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems</p> <p>8.4.7 The organization must plan and build infrastructure in a way that minimizes damage to priority sites for conservation, native ecosystems and forest resources present in the forest management unit.</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>a) in the planning and building of the infrastructure, such as the road network, the irrigation network, the drainage network, the storage areas, the buildings and works of art, prescriptions are adopted to minimize the damage to</p>		Conforms

			the priority sites for the conservation, native ecosystems and forest resources present in the forest management unit.		
8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems					
8.4.1 The standard requires that management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve or enhance biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.	YES	6.1.4	6.1.4. The organization shall plan and implement forest management to maintain, conserve or improve biodiversity in the landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.		Conforms
8.4.2 The standard requires that inventory, mapping and planning of forest resources shall identify, protect, conserve or set aside ecologically important forest areas. Note: This does not prohibit forest management activities that do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.	YES	8.4.1	8.4.1 The organization shall identify the priority sites for conservation present in the forest management unit. Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure for the identification of priority sites for conservation in the forest management unit; NOTE: When the identification of priority sites for conservation is carried out, the protected areas already established, of any domain or jurisdiction, adjacent or that include in part or in whole the forest management unit are also considered. b) identification of sites defined as priorities for conservation in the mapping of the management plan and in the field.. 8.4.2 For the identified priority conservation sites, the organisation shall define the conservation objectives and implement specific requirements, included in the management plan and		Conforms

			<p>based on the precautionary approach, that ensure the maintenance or increase of their values.</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>a) each priority site for conservation has specific management objectives that ensure the maintenance or increase of its values;</p> <p>b) buffer areas adjacent to priority conservation sites in the forest management unit;</p> <p>c) the presence of invasive tree and shrub species is monitored at priority conservation sites;</p> <p>d) the presence of livestock and invasive animal species is monitored at priority conservation sites.</p>		
<p>8.4.3 The standard requires that protected, threatened and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.</p> <p>Note: The requirement does not preclude trade according to CITES requirements.</p>	YES	8.4.3	<p>8.4.3 The organisation shall define and implement specific non-harvesting measures for commercial purposes and protection for rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species, as well as their habitats, that contribute to their conservation. NOTE: The requirement does not preclude trade in accordance with CITES requirements.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) procedures in place for the identification and registration of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species and their habitats present in the forest management unit;</p>		

			<p>NOTE. In the identification of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species for conservation, what is indicated by the red books or what is declared by the competent authority, among others, is taken into account.</p> <p>b) identification in the mapping of the management plan of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species for conservation and their habitats;</p> <p>c) adoption of practices for the protection of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species and their habitats during forestry operations;</p> <p>d) the extraction, cutting, hunting of any rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species for conservation is controlled;</p> <p>e) implemented procedure of registration and reporting to the competent authority, of the presence of unauthorized hunters, fishermen or gatherers within the forest management unit.</p>		
8.4.4 The standard requires that successful regeneration shall be ensured through natural regeneration or planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.	YES	8.1.6	8.1.6 The organization shall ensure adequate regeneration and/or reforestation in any area of forest harvested from the forest management unit in order to maintain the quality and quantity of forest resources.		Conforms

			<p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) adequate regeneration, or adequate reforestation or adequate regeneration and reforestation is ensured throughout the area of forest harvested in the forest management unit;</p> <p>NOTE. It is considered appropriate when it is verified that the regeneration of native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and timely.</p> <p>b) the regeneration and/or reforestation of the harvested area is carried out at the appropriate time in such a way as to protect the environmental values of the area affected by the harvest;</p> <p>c) the species composition and density of regeneration of native forests and the degree of establishment of forest plantations are assessed and corrective measures are taken, when necessary, to ensure effective regeneration, or effective establishment or regeneration and establishments;</p> <p>NOTE. Planted forests are also called forest plantations or afforestation.</p> <p>d) where appropriate, adequate measures are implemented to control livestock pressure on the re-generation of native forests and/or establishment of forest planting.</p>		
8.4.5 The standard requires that for reforestation and afforestation origins	YES	8.4.4	8.4.4 The organisation shall use for afforestation and reforestation native or		Conforms

<p>of native species that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been scientifically evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.</p> <p>Note: CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction, and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species are recognised as guidance for avoidance of invasive species.</p>		<p>introduced species that are adapted to the conditions of the site. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local origins have been scientifically assessed shall be used, and whether the negative impacts can be avoided.</p> <p>NOTE: The guiding principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of the impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species can be used as a guide to avoid invasive species.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) records of experience in the locality or region that the genetic material used for afforestation and reforestation is well adapted to the site and has not presented significant negative environmental impacts; b) records of all genetic material used in the forest management unit; c) updated and implemented procedure to monitor and evaluate the productive potential and possible environmental and economic impacts of the introduced genetic material; d) the use of genetically modified trees is expressly prohibited. 		
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8.4.6 The standard requires that afforestation, reforestation and other tree planting activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.	YES	8.4.5	<p>8.4.5 The organisation shall plan and execute afforestation, reforestation and other activities of the forest management unit in a manner that contributes to the maintenance, improvement and/or restoration of ecological connectivity.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the planning and execution of planted forests and infrastructure works and services identify and respect the areas suitable for each use;</p>		Conforms

			<p>b) the planning, design and management of planted forests and infrastructure works and services contributing to the maintenance, improvement and/or restoration of the connectivity of the natural systems of the forest management unit and the areas adjacent to it;</p> <p>NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through adequately sized (functional) corridors that communicate patches remnants of the original native system and protected areas or priority sites for conservation, among themselves.</p> <p>c) in areas under management, the maintenance of native forest attributes is promoted, such as the presence of dead wood standing and falling, hollow trees, old groves and / or with rare tree species, as a habitat and refuge of biodiversity.</p> <p>NOTE. These native forest attributes are called and known as legacy elements.</p>		
<p>8.4.7 The standard requires that genetically-modified trees shall not be used.</p> <p>Note: The restriction on the usage of genetically-modified trees has been adopted by the PEFC General Assembly based on the Precautionary Principle. Until enough scientific data on genetically modified trees indicates</p>	YES	8.4.7	<p>8.4.4 The organisation shall use for afforestation and reforestation native or introduced species that are adapted to the conditions of the site. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local origins have been scientifically assessed shall be</p>		Conforms

<p>that impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to, or more positive than, those presented by trees genetically improved by traditional methods, no genetically- modified trees will be used.</p>		<p>used, and whether the negative impacts can be avoided.</p> <p>NOTE: The guiding principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of the impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species can be used as a guide to avoid invasive species.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>d) the use of genetically modified trees is expressly prohibited.</p> <p>NOTE 1. The genetically modified tree is included in the definition of genetically modified organism (see 3.23)</p> <p>NOTE 2. The restriction on the use of genetically modified trees has been adopted by the General Assembly of the PEFC Council based on the Precautionary Principle. Until there is sufficient scientific data on genetically modified trees to indicate that the impacts on human and animal health and the environment are equivalent to or more positive than those of genetically improved trees using traditional methods, genetically modified trees shall not be used.</p> <p>NOTE 3. PEFC is the English acronym for the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.</p>		
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8.4.8 The standard requires that a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures and the diversity of species such as mixed stands shall be promoted, where appropriate. The practices shall also aim to maintain or restore landscape diversity.	YES	6.1.4, 8.2.2	<p>6.1.4. The organization shall plan and implement forest management to maintain, conserve or improve biodiversity in the landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.</p> <p>8 OPERATION</p> <p>8.2 Criterion 2: Maintaining the health and vitality of forest ecosystems</p> <p>8.2.2 The organization shall promote or maintain genetic, species and structural diversity appropriate to improve the stability, vitality and resistance of forests to adverse biotic and abiotic factors and strengthen natural regulatory mechanisms.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) planning and management promote the diversity of genotypes, species and ecosystems;</p> <p>b) management planning and implementation includes a diverse patchwork of ages, areas and/or cycles of regeneration or reforestation, appropriate to the size and uses of the forest management unit and the objectives set out in the forest management plan.</p>	COMMENT	Conforms With observation
8.4.9 The standard requires that traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems on appropriate sites shall be supported, where appropriate.	YES	6.2.7	6.2.7 The sustainable forest management plan shall consider the socio-cultural context, taking as a reference the experience and traditional knowledge related to the forest of local communities, indigenous people and		Conforms

			other stakeholders. Where appropriate, traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems at suitable forest management unit sites shall be supported.		
8.4.10 The standard requires that tending and harvesting operations shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to maintain or improve biological diversity.	YES	8.4.6	8.4.6 The organisation shall carry out forest operations in such a way as to minimize damage to the ecosystems present in the forest management unit and when technically and economically feasible practical measures are taken to maintain or improve biological diversity. Indicators: a) procedures implemented for forestry operations including actions to minimise damage to biodiversity and ecosystems present in the forest management unit; b) evidence that areas bordering those covered by the management plan are not adversely affected by forestry operations.		Conforms
8.4.11 The standard requires that infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimizes damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.	YES	8.4.7	8.4.7 The organization must plan and build infrastructure in a way that minimizes damage to priority sites for conservation, native ecosystems and forest resources present in the forest management unit. Indicators a) in the planning and building of the infrastructure, such as the road network, the irrigation network, the drainage network, the storage areas, the buildings and works of art, prescriptions		Conforms

			are adopted to minimize the damage to the priority sites for the conservation, native ecosystems and forest resources present in the forest management unit.		
8.4.12 The standard requires that, with due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to control the pressure of animal populations on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.	YES	8.1.6 and 8.4.2	<p>8.1.6 The organization shall ensure adequate regeneration and/or reforestation in any area of forest harvested from the forest management unit in order to maintain the quality and quantity of forest resources.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>d) where appropriate, adequate measures are implemented to control livestock pressure on the re-generation of native forests and/or establishment of forest planting.</p> <p>8.4 Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and/or adequate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems</p> <p>8.4.2 For the identified priority conservation sites, the organisation shall define the conservation objectives and implement specific requirements, included in the management plan and based on the precautionary approach, that ensure the maintenance or increase of their values.</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>d) the presence of livestock and invasive animal species is monitored at priority conservation sites.</p>	Comment – LIVESTOCK VS ANIMAL POPULATIONS	comments

8.4.13 The standard requires that standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding ecosystems.	YES	8.4.13	<p>8.4.5 The organisation shall plan and execute afforestation, reforestation and other activities of the forest management unit in a manner that contributes to the maintenance, improvement and/or restoration of ecological connectivity.</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>c) in areas under management, the maintenance of native forest attributes is promoted, such as the presence of dead wood standing and falling, hollow trees, old groves and / or with rare tree species, as a habitat and refuge of biodiversity.</p> <p>NOTE. These native forest attributes are called and known as legacy elements.</p>		Conforms
8.5 Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)					
8.5.1 The standard requires that protective functions of forests for society, such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.	YES	8.5.1	<p>8.5.1 The organisation shall identify and maintain or improve the forest protective functions of the forest management unit.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) identification in the mapping of areas of the forest management unit that perform specific protection functions;</p> <p>NOTE 1: Among the protective functions of forests can be identified among others, their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulatory or supportive ecosystem services.</p>		Conforms

			<p>NOTE 2: The scale and level of detail of the cartography is appropriate to the size and use of the forest management unit.</p> <p>b) forestry operations are planned and implemented to maintain or improve the identified protective functions.</p>		
8.5.2 The standard requires that areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be mapped, and forest management plans and operations shall ensure the maintenance or enhancement of these functions.	YES	6.2.3 and 8.5.1	<p>6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least:</p> <p>g) specifications, technical requirements and environmental and watershed protection measures necessary to protect soil, watercourses and bodies of water, flora and fauna;</p> <p>8. OPERATION</p> <p>8.5 Criterion 5: Adequate maintenance or improvement of the protective functions of forests in forest management, in particular soil and water</p> <p>8.5.1 The organisation shall identify and maintain or improve the forest protective functions of the forest management unit.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>8.5.1 The organization shall identify and maintain or improve the forest protective functions of the forest management unit.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) identification in the mapping of areas of the forest management unit that perform specific protection functions;</p>		Conforms

			<p>NOTE 1: Among the protective functions of forests can be identified among others, their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulatory or supportive ecosystem services.</p> <p>NOTE 2: The scale and level of detail of the cartography is appropriate to the size and use of the forest management unit.</p>		
8.5.3 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Techniques applied and the machinery used shall be suitable for such areas. Special measures shall be taken to minimise the pressure of animal populations on these areas.	YES	8.5.2	<p>8.5.2 The organization shall adopt effective measures to maintain and/or improve the soil quality of the forest management unit.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) adoption of techniques that consider the maintenance and / or improvement of soil quality;</p> <p>b) forestry operations are planned and equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of slope, soil fragility and rainfall are planned and selected in order to minimise soil erosion and compaction and maintain its quality;</p> <p>c) damage to the ground caused by forestry operations that shall lead to erosion is mitigated or re-paired prior to the closure of the task;</p> <p>d) taking measures to minimize livestock pressure on sensitive soils and areas prone to erosion and compaction;</p>	<p>In addition</p> <p>6.2.3 The sustainable forest management plan shall contain at least</p> <p>g) specifications, technical requirements and environmental and watershed protection measures necessary to protect soil, watercourses and bodies of water, flora and fauna;</p>	Conforms

			<p>d) in the use of chemical products, measures are taken to minimize soil contamination;</p> <p>NOTE. Chemical products include, but are not limited to, the variety of phytosanitary products, herbicides, fuel and lubricants that are used in the forest management unit.</p> <p>e) response procedures to soil pollution emergencies resulting from forestry operations, which provide for mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts.</p>		
8.5.4 The standard requires that special care shall be given to forestry operations in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided. Downstream water balance and water quality shall not be significantly affected by the operations.	YES	8.5.4	<p>8.5.4 Special care shall be given to forestry operations in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources.</p> <p>Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided. Downstream water balance and water quality shall not be significantly affected by the operations.</p>		Conforms
8.5.5 The standard requires that construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and	YES	8.5.3	<p>8.5.3 The organization shall plan and implement forestry operations to maintain the quality and availability of water resources.</p> <p>Indicators:</p>		Conforms

preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) the organization knows and considers in the planning of forestry operations the water uses of local communities in the area of influence of the forest management unit;b) the planning, construction and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage net-work, roadworks and any works involving significant earth and water movements, including, where appropriate, requirements for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. minimize exposure to bare soil,ii. minimize erosion and sediment entrainment into streams and bodies of water, andiii. preserve the natural level and function of water courses and their beds;c) installation and maintenance of energy dissipaters and/or other facilities for the proper drainage of forest roads;d) buffer strips on the banks of water courses or bodies of water which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;e) procedures to prevent or mitigate the fall of crop waste into streams or bodies of water that contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;	
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			<p>f) in the use of chemicals products, measures are taken to minimize contamination of water re-sources;</p> <p>NOTE. Chemical products include, but are not limited to, the variety of pesticides, herbicides, fuels and lubricants that are used in the forest management unit.</p> <p>g) response procedures to water pollution emergencies resulting from forestry operations, which provide for mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts</p>		
8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of socio-economic functions and conditions					
8.6.1 The standard requires that forest management planning shall aim to respect all socio-economic functions of forests.	YES	8.6.1	<p>6.1.2 The organization shall plan and implement forest management while maintaining and/or improving the economic, ecological, cultural and/or social functions and values of the forests of the forest management unit.</p>		Conforms
8.6.2 The standard requires that adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided, taking into account respect for ownership rights, safety and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.	YES	8.6.2	<p>8.6.2 The organisation shall know and respect the rights of possession and management of the lands and resources of the indigenous people who inhabit the area of influence of the forest management unit.</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>h) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous people and other members of the local community are agreed upon and take into account respect for the organisation's property rights, the</p>	<p>Public access and recreation are not appropriately considered in the standard. Although consideration of recreational services is considered at the planning stage (as ecosystem services, see definitions and 6.1), they are nonetheless not specifically addressed.</p> <p>This omission does not necessarily preclude public access completely; there is some overlap with 8.6.1 (d), where negative impacts on local communities must be mitigated. However, this is a clear requirement.</p>	Minor non-conformity

			<p>security and rights of individuals, the effects on forest and non-forest resources and ecosystems; as well as compatibility with the other functions of the forest.</p> <p>i) the organisation implements procedures to avoid and resolve conflicts with the indigenous people where the particular negotiating characteristics of the parties involved are respected.</p>		
8.6.3 The standard requires that sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.	YES	8.6.1	<p>8.6.1 The organisation shall know and respect the uses, customs and rights of the local community and/or the indigenous people where the forest management unit is inserted and shall seek to improve the quality of life of forest workers, the local community and indigenous people.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the organization is aware of the social situation of local communities and/or indigenous people and respects their customs and rights;</p> <p>b) the organization identifies, respects and protects sites of special cultural, spiritual and/or historical significance for local communities and/or indigenous people;</p> <p>c) the organisation identifies and evaluates the social aspects and impacts associated with the activities of the forest management unit;</p>		Conforms

			<p>d) the organisation implements procedures to prevent and mitigate negative impacts on the local community and/or indigenous people, associated with the activities of the forest management unit;</p> <p>e) the organisation implements a procedure for compensation for direct damages to individuals, local communities and/or indigenous people resulting from the activities of the forest management unit;</p> <p>f) the organisation implements a procedure for communicating to the local community and/or the indigenous people about the realization and risks associated with forestry operations;</p>		
8.6.4 The standard requires that management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area, where appropriate supported by engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples.	YES	8.6.3	<p>8.6.3 The organisation shall promote actions that lead to the development of local communities and/or indigenous people.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) actions that promote or support development enterprises, health programs and education in forestry and environmental issues together with local communities and / or indigenous people;</p> <p>b) members of the local community and/or indigenous people, under equal conditions of suitability, have priority in recruitment and employment and opportunities for promotion and training;</p>		Conforms

			<p>c) the organisation supports the maintenance and improvement of local infrastructure;</p> <p>d) on equal market terms, priority is given to the sale of forest products from the forest management unit to local processing industries, where this does not affect the commercial objectives of the forest management unit..</p>		
<p>8.6.5 The standard requires that the best use shall be made of forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples. Equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge shall be encouraged.</p>	YES	6.2.7 and 8.6.2	<p>6.2.7 The sustainable forest management plan shall consider the socio-cultural context, taking as a reference the experience and traditional knowledge related to the forest of local communities, indigenous people and other stakeholders. Where appropriate, traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems at suitable forest management unit sites shall be supported.</p> <p>8. OPERATION</p> <p>8.6 Criterion 6: Maintenance or adequate improvement of socio-economic functions and conditions</p> <p>8.6.2 The organisation shall know and respect the rights of possession and management of the lands and resources of the indigenous people who inhabit the area of influence of the forest management unit.</p> <p>Indicators</p>		Conforms

			<p>d) the organization identifies and respects the traditional knowledge of indigenous people;</p> <p>e) the organization only uses the knowledge identified in paragraph 8.6 2.1d) when the recognized owners of the traditional knowledge, having gone through a process of consultation and participation, have given their free, prior and informed consent formalized through a documented binding agreement;</p> <p>f) the organization adequately compensates the indigenous peoples for any use of this knowledge in accordance with the provisions of previous binding agreements;</p>		
8.6.6 The standard requires that management shall give due regard to the role of forestry in local economies. Special consideration shall be given to new opportunities for training and employment of local people, including indigenous peoples.	YES	8.6.3	<p>8.6.3 The organisation shall promote actions that lead to the development of local communities and/or indigenous people.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>b) members of the local community and/or indigenous people, under equal conditions of suitability, have priority in recruitment and employment and opportunities for promotion and training;</p> <p>d) on equal market terms, priority is given to the sale of forest products from the forest management unit to local processing industries, where this does not affect the commercial objectives of the forest management unit.</p>		Conforms

8.6.7 The standard requires that forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.	YES	8.6.7	8.6.4 The organization shall contribute to and/or support research activities and data collection necessary for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organizations, as appropriate. Indicators a) registration of actions to support and/or support research activities.		Conforms
9. Performance evaluation					
9.1 Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation					
9.1.1 The standard requires that monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.	YES	9.1.1 and 9.1.2	9.1.1 The organization shall implement a program of periodic monitoring of the forest resources of the forest management unit and its management, which includes at least the following elements: a) compliance with the applicable legal requirements and with the policies, procedures, instructions and codes of good practice subscribed or defined for the forest management unit; b) compliance with the management plan and its objectives; c) the yield of all forest products (wood and non-wood) harvested and/or produced; d) the health and vitality of forests, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as		Conforms

			<p>pests, diseases, overgrazing and overpopulation, fires and climate damage;</p> <p>e) the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects and impacts of forestry operations;</p> <p>f) the priority sites for conservation and the specific protective functions identified for the forests of the forest management unit;</p> <p>g) working conditions and the training plan;</p> <p>h) the performance of forest service providers, including compliance with legal requirements and policies, procedures, instructions and codes of good practice subscribed to or defined for the forest management unit;</p> <p>i) economic and financial performance.</p> <p>9.1.2 The organization shall evaluate and use the results of the monitoring program to adjust the planning process.</p>		
9.1.2 The standard requires that health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.	YES	9.1.1	<p>9.1.1 The organization shall implement a program of periodic monitoring of the forest resources of the forest management unit and its management, which includes at least the following elements:</p> <p>d) the health and vitality of forests, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and</p>		Conforms

			overpopulation, fires and climate damage;		
9.1.3 The standard requires that where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.	YES	9.1.1	<p>9.1.1 The organization shall implement a program of periodic monitoring of the forest resources of the forest management unit and its management, which includes at least the following elements:</p> <p>c) the yield of all forest products (wood and non-wood) harvested and/or produced;</p> <p>9.1.3 The organization shall implement a procedure for the traceability and quantification of all forest products from their origin, whether from the organization's own forests or from third parties, which includes at least:</p> <p>a) the unique and precise identification and recording of the identity, quantity and origin of all forest products (wood and non-wood) harvested and/or produced;</p> <p>NOTE: The register includes the description of the products, the quantity, the origin of the material used (forest and forest management unit) and the date of harvest or production.</p> <p>b) verification of origin and volume in proportion to planned annual production; the tracking of forest products from their point of harvest to their place of sale or destination;</p>		Conforms

			d) the registration of transport and/or sales documents.		
9.1.4 The standard requires that working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.	YES		<p>9.1.1 The organization shall implement a program of periodic monitoring of the forest resources of the forest management unit and its management, which includes at least the following elements:</p> <p>g) working conditions and the training plan;</p> <p>h) the performance of forest service providers, including compliance with legal requirements and policies, procedures, instructions and codes of good practice subscribed to or defined for the forest management unit;</p> <p>9.1.2 The organization shall evaluate and use the results of the monitoring program to adjust the planning process.</p>		Conforms
9.2 Internal audit					
<p>9.2.1 Objectives</p> <p>The standard requires that an internal audit programme at planned intervals shall provide information on whether the management system</p>					
<p>a) conforms to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the organisation's requirements for its management system; • the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard 	YES	9.2.1 a)	<p>9.2.1 Objectives</p> <p>9.2.1.1 The organization shall establish and implement an internal audit program at planned intervals that provides information on whether the forest management system:</p> <p>a) is in accordance with::</p> <p>i. the organization's requirements for its forest management system, and</p>		Conforms

			ii. the requirements of this sustainable forest management standard; and		
b) is effectively implemented and maintained.	YES	9.2.1 b)	<p>9.2.1 Objectives</p> <p>9.2.1.1 The organization shall establish and implement an internal audit program at planned intervals that provides information on whether the forest management system:</p> <p>b) is effectively implemented and maintained.</p> <p>9.2.1.2 The organization that integrates a forest management certification group may comply with the requirements defined in 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 with the internal audit program established and implemented for that forest management certification group</p>		
<p>9.2.2 Organisation</p> <p>The standard requires that the organisation shall:</p>					
a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;	YES	9.2.2 a)	<p>9.2.2.1 The organisation shall:</p> <p>a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme that includes the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, and which shall take into account the importance of the processes concerned and the results of the previous audits;</p>		Conforms

b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;	YES	9.2.2 b)	9.2.2.1 The organisation shall: b) define the audit criteria and the scope of each audit;		Conforms
c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;	YES	9.2.2 c)	9.2.2.1 The organisation shall: c) select auditors and conduct audits in such a way as to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the audit process;		Conforms
d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;	YES	9.2.2 d)	9.2.2.1 The organisation shall: d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to the relevant management;		Conforms
e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	YES	9.2.2 e)	9.2.2.1 The organisation shall: e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and the results of the audit		
9.3 Management review					
9.3.1 The standard requires that an annual management review shall at least include					
a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;	YES	9.3.1. a)	9.3.1 The organization shall conduct an annual management review that includes at least: a) the status of the actions of the reviews by the above management;		Conforms
b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system;	YES	9.3.1. b)	9.3.1 The organization shall conduct an annual management review that includes at least: b) changes in external and internal matters that are relevant to the forest management system;		Conforms

c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in: • nonconformities and corrective actions; • monitoring and measurement results; • audit results;	YES	9.3.1. c)	9.3.1 The organization shall conduct an annual management review that includes at least: c) information on the organization's performance, including trends in: • nonconformities and corrective actions; • monitoring and measurement results; • audit results;		Conforms
d) opportunities for continual improvement	YES	9.3.1. d)	9.3.1 The organization shall conduct an annual management review that includes at least: d) opportunities for continuous improvement		Conforms
9.3.2 The standard requires that the outputs of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.	YES	9.3.2	9.3.2 The organisation shall include in the results of the management review decisions related to opportunities for continuous improvement and any need for changes in the forest management system.		Conforms
9.3.3 The standard requires that documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained.	YES	9.3.3	9.3.3 The organisation shall record and retain the information resulting from the reviews by the management.		Conforms
10. Improvement					
10.1 Nonconformity and corrective action					
10.1.1 The standard requires that when a nonconformity occurs, the organisation shall:					
a) react to the nonconformity and, as applicable:	YES	10.1.1 a)	10.1.1 The organization, when a non-conformity occurs, shall:		Conforms

i. take action to control and correct it; ii. deal with the consequences;			a) react to the non-conformity and, where appropriate: i. take measures to control and correct; ii. deal with the consequences;		
b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. reviewing the nonconformity; ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity; iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;	YES	10.1.1 b)	10.1.1 The organization, when a non-conformity occurs, shall: b) assess the need for action to eliminate the causes of non-conformity, so that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by: i. assess the non-conformity; ii. determine the causes of the non-conformity; iii. determine whether similar non-conformities exist, or that may potentially occur;		Conforms
c) implement any action needed;	YES	10.1.1 c)	10.1.1 The organization, when a non-conformity occurs, shall: c) implement any necessary action;		Conforms
d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;	YES	10.1.1 d)	10.1.1 The organization, when a non-conformity occurs, shall: d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;		Conforms
e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.	YES	10.1.1 e)	10.1.1 The organization, when a non-conformity occurs, shall: e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.		Conforms
10.1.2 The standard requires that corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the nonconformities encountered.	YES	10.1.2	10.1.2 The organization shall implement corrective actions that are appropriate for the purposes of the nonconformities found		Conforms

10.1.3 The standard requires that the organisation shall retain documented information as evidence of:					
a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;	YES	10.1.3 a)	10.1.3 The organisation shall maintain records of: a) the nature of the non-conformities and any subsequent action taken;		Conforms
b) the results of any corrective action.	YES	10.1.3 b)	10.1.3 The organisation shall maintain records of: b) the results of any corrective action.		
10.2 Continual improvement The standard requires that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system and the sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.	YES	10.2	10.2 Continuous improvement The organization shall continuously improve the adequacy, adequacy and effectiveness of the forest management system and sustainable forest management.		Conforms

PART V: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for system specific Chain of custody standards – COMPLIANCE WITH PEFC ST PEFC 2002:2013

CERFOAR has adopted PEFC 2002:2020

PART VI: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for scheme administration requirements

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement	YES / NO	Reference to system documentation	Quotation of relevant text	Decision
PEFC Notification of certification bodies					
1.	Are procedures for the notification of certification bodies in place, which comply with chapter 5 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme</i> ?			<p>5.1 The notifying body shall have written procedures for the PEFC notification which ensure that:</p> <p>a) the PEFC notified certification body is meeting the PEFC Council's and PEFC endorsed scheme's requirements for certification bodies,</p> <p>4. Conditions for notification CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina.</p> <p>4.1 The CB requesting the notification of the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina shall:</p> <p>a) be a legally constituted entity;</p> <p>b) agree to be included in the PEFC Registry System and in the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina registry that will be publicly available on the web, including the identification data of the CB and/or other data specified by the PEFC Council and/or by the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina;</p> <p>c) have a valid accreditation for the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of sustainable forest management issued by the Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA) that is a signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) for certification of IAF management systems, or issued by another equivalent IAF member accreditation body. The accreditation shall be issued in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 17021 standard and in accordance with the additional specific requirements established by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina system (see Annex 4). The scope of accreditation will explicitly include the in force IRAM 39801, IRAM 39805 and PEFC ST 2001 standards; and/or</p>	Conforms

			<p>d) have a valid accreditation for PEFC chain of custody certification issued by the OAA that is a signatory to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for IAF product certification, or issued by another equivalent IAF member accreditation body. The accreditation shall be issued in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 17065 standard and with the additional requirements specifically defined by the PEFC Council in PEFC ST 2003: current. The scope of the accreditation will explicitly include the current international standards PEFC ST 2002 and PEFC 2001; e) sign a notification contract with the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina (Annex 1).</p> <p><i>b) the scope of the PEFC notification, i.e. type of certification (forest management or chain of custody certification), certification standards and the country covered by the notification, is clearly defined,</i></p> <p>4.1 c and d</p> <p>4.1 The CB requesting the notification of the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina shall</p> <p>c) have a valid accreditation for the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of sustainable forest management issued by the Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA) that is a signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) for certification of IAF management systems, or issued by another equivalent IAF member accreditation body. The accreditation shall be issued in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 17021 standard and in accordance with the additional specific requirements established by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina system (see Annex 4). The scope of accreditation will explicitly include the in force IRAM 39801, IRAM 39805 and PEFC ST 2001 standards; and/or d) have a valid accreditation for PEFC chain of custody certification issued by the OAA that is a signatory to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for IAF product certification, or issued by another equivalent IAF member accreditation body. The accreditation shall be issued in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 17065 standard and with the additional requirements specifically defined by the PEFC Council in PEFC ST 2003: current. The scope of the accreditation will explicitly include the current international standards PEFC ST 2002 and PEFC 2001;</p>	
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			<p><i>c) the PEFC notification may be terminated by the notifying body in the case of the certification body's non adherence to the conditions of the PEFC notification or in the case of the cancellation of the contract between the PEFC Council and the authorised body,</i></p> <p>Article 5: Termination of the Contract. 1. Either party may terminate this Contract with three months' prior written notice and by letter to the last known legal address. 2. The CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association may suspend the contract with immediate effect if there are reasons to believe that any provision of the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina notification contract is not being complied with. 3. The withdrawal, suspension or end of the validity of the accreditation of the Notified Certification Body CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina, shall result in the automatic termination of the contract with effect on the same date of withdrawal, suspension or end of the validity of the accreditation. 4. The CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association is not obliged to pay any compensation for 2022 05 06 PG 01:06 Notification of certification bodies Page 9 of 20 Modelo any costs or other damages caused by the temporary suspension or termination of this contract to the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Notified Certification Body</p> <p><i>d) the PEFC notification is based on a written contract between the notifying body and the PEFC notified certification body,</i></p> <p>4.1 e) sign a notification contract with the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina (Annex 1).</p> <p><i>e) the PEFC notified certification body provides the notifying body with information on certified entities as required by the PEFC Registration System,</i></p> <p>4.1 b) agree to be included in the PEFC Registry System and in the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina registry that will be publicly available on the web, including the identification data of the CB and/or other data specified by the PEFC Council and/or by the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina;</p> <p><i>f) the PEFC notification does not include any discriminatory measures, such as the certification body's country of origin, affiliation to an association, etc.</i></p>	
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PEFC Logo usage licensing					
2.	<p>Are procedures for the issuance of PEFC Logo usage licenses in place, which comply with chapter 6 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme</i>?</p>			<p><i>6.1 Coverage of the PEFC Logo usage licence 6.1.1 The PEFC Logo usage licence shall be issued to an individual legal entity based on the requirements of PEFC ST 2001:2008. Note: Where the PEFC certification covers several legal entities, for example where group and regional forest certification covers a number of forest owners / managers (independent legal entities) or where multi-site certification covers several sites which are legally independent entities, each legal entity shall apply for its own PEFC Logo usage licence.</i></p> <p>PG 07.05 General Procedure: Issuance of licenses for the use of PEFC Trademarks by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association</p> <p>1. Scope</p> <p>This document sets out the rules for the issuance of PEFC trademarks usage licences, hereafter “licences”, by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association to ensure legally compliant use of the PEFC trademarks in accordance with the PEFC ST 2001, Trademarks Rules - Requirements.</p> <p>The CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association, as a PEFC authorized body, can only issue licenses to entities located in the Argentine Republic.</p>	Conforms

			<p>This General Procedure has been approved by the Board of Directors of the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association and is based on the technical documents of the PEFC Council: PEFC ST 2001 and PEFC GD 1004.</p> <p><i>6.1.2 The PEFC Council and authorised bodies may issue a PEFC Logo usage multi-licence to a holder of a multi-site chain of custody certificate, which covers the whole or a part of the multisite organisation provided that: a) the central office and the sites are a part of a single legal entity or b) the central office and the sites are a part of a single company with a single management and organisational structure. Note: The multi-licence cannot be issued to a multi-site chain of custody certificate holder where the sites are independent legal entities without a single management and organisational structure and where the multi-site organisation has only been created for the purpose of the PEFC certification.</i></p> <p>PG07 provides an Appendix for multi-site certification that is a reproduction of Appendix 2, 2.3a, PEFC ST 2002:2020.</p> <p><i>6.2.1 The licensing body shall have written procedures for the PEFC Logo licensing which ensure that:</i></p> <p><i>a) the PEFC Logo usage licence is based on a written contract between the licensing body and the PEFC Logo user,</i></p> <p>3.7 PEFC trademarks usage contract The PEFC trademarks usage contract is the agreement between the organisation applying for trademarks usage and the PEFC Council or a PEFC authorised body issuing the PEFC trademarks usage licence.</p> <p><i>b) the PEFC logo user complies with the PEFC Logo usage rules (PEFC ST 2001:2008),</i></p> <p>3.9 PEFC trademarks usage licence The PEFC trademarks usage licence gives right to the licence holder to use the PEFC trademarks in accordance with PEFC ST 2001, Trademarks Rules – Requirements and to the PEFC trademarks usage contract.</p>	
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			<p><i>c) the scope of the PEFC Logo usage (logo usage groups) is clearly defined,</i></p> <p>Logo usage groups are: user group B: Sustainable forest management (SFM) certified entities user group C: Chain of custody certified entities – individual user group C: Chain of custody certified entities – multi-site user group D: Other users Group D: Retailers and brands owners</p> <p><i>d) the PEFC Logo usage licence can be terminated by the licensing body in the case of the PEFC Logo user's non adherence to the conditions of the PEFC logo usage rules (PEFC ST 2001:2008) or in the case of cancellation of the contract between the PEFC Council and the authorised body,</i></p> <p>Article 7 Contract Termination: . The CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association may terminate the contract with immediate effect if there are reasons to believe that any of the terms of the contract or PEFC ST 2001, Trademarks Rules – Requirements in its valid version are not being adhered to; or the trademarks user(s) may be bringing PEFC to disrepute.</p> <p><i>e) where unauthorised use has taken place, the PEFC Logo usage licence provides for contractual penalty of one fifth of the market value of the products to which the unauthorised logo use relates, unless the PEFC Logo user proves that such unauthorised use was unintentional. In the latter case, the penalty will be limited to 15,000 CHF.</i></p> <p>Article 6: Penalty 1. The CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association may impose a contractual penalty of an Argentine pesos (AR\$) amount being one-fifth the market value of the products to which the unauthorised trademarks use relates, unless the trademarks user proves that such unauthorised use was unintentional. In the latter case the penalty will be limited to the equivalent in Argentine pesos of 15,000 CHF</p>	
Complaints and dispute procedures				

3.	Are complaint and dispute procedures in place, which comply with chapter 8 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme?</i>		<p><i>8.1 The PEFC Council and the authorised bodies shall have written procedures for dealing with complaints relating to the governance and administration of the PEFC scheme.</i></p> <p>PG06 GENERAL PROCEDURE CERFOAR – PEFC ARGENTINA Procedure for the resolution of disputes of the CERFOAR– PEFC Argentina Association</p> <p><i>8.2 Upon receipt of the complaint, the procedures shall provide for: a) acknowledgement of the complaint to the complainant, b) gathering and verification of all necessary information, validation and impartial evaluation of the complaint, and decision making on the complaint, c) formal communication of the decision on the complaint and the complaint handling process to the complainant and concerned parties, d) appropriate corrective and preventive actions.</i></p> <p>3. General requirements The CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association shall ensure that the implementation of the process for dealing with complaints and conflict resolution is carried out following these guidelines: a) Information about how and where to make complaints is available to stakeholders in an accessible manner and is disclosed for their knowledge; b) Receipt of the complaint is acknowledged to the complainant immediately and the complainant is informed of the progress of his complaint; c) Each complaint is treated fairly, objectively and impartially; d) The complaint and dispute resolution process is free for the claimant; e) The complaint handling and dispute resolution process is confidential with respect to the claimant and his personal information will only be disclosed with his consent when this is necessary for the treatment of the claim; f) The effective implementation of the complaints handling and dispute resolution process contributes to the fulfilment of the objectives of the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association and its continuous improvement.</p> <p>4. Procedure for dealing with complaints and dispute resolution</p> <p>4.1 The Executive Secretary of the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association is responsible for the implementation of the process for dealing with complaints and dispute resolution and for the control of the records of this process.</p>	Conforms
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				<p>i) Follow-up and records of the claim treatment process:</p> <p>The Executive Secretariat monitors and records the entire process of dealing with the complaint and resolving the dispute, including the implementation and effectiveness of the corrective and/or preventive actions implemented and the minutes of the meetings of the Conflict Resolution Committee</p>	
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PART IV: CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES CHECKLIST

No.	PEFC benchmark requirement		YES / NO	Reference to system documentation	Quotation of relevant text)	Decision
Certification Bodies						
1.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification shall be carried out by impartial, independent third parties that cannot be involved in the standard setting process as governing or decision making body, or in the forest management and are independent of the certified entity?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	PG02	1.1 This Procedure establishes the additional requirements to those established by ISO/IEC 17021: in force and specific to CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina that Certification Bodies (hereinafter CB) shall comply with in order to carry out audits and CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) of an organization or a group of organizations managed under the requirements of group certification. NOTE: ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies performing management system auditing and certification — Part 1: Requirements contains principles and requirements regarding the competence, consistency and impartiality of auditing and certification of management systems of all kinds	Conforms
2.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES		See above	Conforms
3.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest certification shall have the technical competence in forest management on its economic, social and	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	2.1.2 e)	6.3 Competence of personnel involved in forest management certification activities CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina 6.3.1 The CB shall ensure that the people who carry out the activities related to the CERFOAR – PEFC	Conforms

	environmental impacts, and on the forest certification criteria?				Argentina forest management certification have technical competence in forest management and its environmental, social and economic impacts and on the forest certification criteria in accordance with the standards of CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina.	
4.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have a good understanding of the national PEFC system against which they carry out forest management certification?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	2.1.2 b)	6.3.2 Forest auditors B.- Training in forest management CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina. The CB shall ensure that the forest auditors, in the last two years, have participated in a training course recognized by CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina on the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina sustainable management system and standards, including the PEFC ST 2001Trademarks standard.	Conforms
5.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies have the responsibility to use competent auditors and who have adequate technical know-how on the certification process and issues related to forest management certification?	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	2.2.1	F.- Competence The certification body shall ensure that forest auditors demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge and skills in the following areas: a) The objectives and fundamental processes of the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina system; b) The requirements contained in the in force IRAM 39801, IRAM 39805 and ST 2001 Standards; c) Knowledge of the socio-cultural aspects of the region where the forest management standards are implemented; 2022 05 06 PG 02:04 SFM Audit Procedure Página 5 de 21 d) Audit principles, procedures and techniques: that allow the auditor to apply them correctly in the different audits and ensure that they are carried out in a consistent and systematic manner; e) Characteristics of the organization to be audited, including scale, structure, functions and relationships with other organizations and the community, aspects of the forestry business, terminology, social and cultural customs, working language: that allow the auditor to understand the operational context of the organization; f) Legislation, regulations and other pertinent requirements that allow the auditor to operate in the adequate legal framework and to	Conforms

					<p>be aware of the legal requirements applicable to the organization that is the object of the audit; g) The principles of forest management based on techniques that include forest management planning, inventories, forest crops, protection and management of forest ecosystems: that allow the auditor to evaluate the forest management system and decide whether to properly implements; h) Environmental techniques and the economic principles applicable to forest management: that allow the auditor an understanding of the fundamental relationships between human activities and sustainable forest management; i) Technical aspects associated with forest operations: that allow the auditor to understand the activities of the audited organization and its effects on the management of its forest resources and the territory involved. In turn, the CB shall ensure that the responsible or lead forest auditors have additional knowledge and skills in audit leadership to facilitate the efficient and effective conduct of the audit. The CB shall ensure that the person in charge or leader of the audit team has the capacity to: - plan the audit and make effective use of resources during the audit; - represent the audit team in communications with the client; - organize and direct the members of the audit team; - provide direction and guidance to trainee auditors; - lead the audit team to reach the audit conclusions; - prevent and resolve conflicts; - prepare and complete the audit report. The CB shall provide evidence of annual monitoring by forest management auditors, applying methods such as witness audits, review of audit reports or comment from client organisations, etc., based on the frequency of their use and the level of risk associated with their activities. In particular, OC shall review the competence of its staff in light of its results obtained in order to identify training needs. Annex 1 presents a summary of the competency requirements established by CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina for personnel involved in</p>	
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					certification activities and that shall be met by CBs authorized to work with CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina forest management certification.	
6.	Does the scheme documentation require that the auditors must fulfil the general criteria of ISO 19011 for Quality Management Systems auditors or for Environmental Management Systems auditors?	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	2.2.2	4.2 The CB shall implement its audit procedures in accordance with the guidelines established in the in force ISO 19011 standard. NOTE: The ISO 19011: in force. Guidelines for auditing management systems provides guidance on auditing management systems, including the principles of auditing, managing an audit programme and conducting management system audits, as well as guidance on the evaluation of competence of individuals involved in the audit process. These activities include the individual(s) managing the audit programme, auditors and audit teams.	Conforms
7.	Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management audits? [¹]	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	2.2	Competence: i) Technical aspects associated with forest operations: that allow the auditor to understand the activities of the audited organization and its effects on the management of its forest resources and the territory involved. In turn, the CB shall ensure that the responsible or lead forest auditors have additional knowledge and skills in audit leadership to facilitate the efficient and effective conduct of the audit. The CB shall ensure that the person in charge or leader of the audit team has the capacity to: - plan the audit and make effective use of resources during the audit; - represent the audit team in communications with the client; - organize and direct the members of the audit team; - provide direction and guidance to trainee auditors; - lead the audit team to reach the audit conclusions; - prevent and resolve conflicts; - prepare and complete the audit report.	Conforms
Certification procedures						

8.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management certification?	Annex 6, 4	YES	3.1	4.1 To carry out the audits and the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of SFM, the CB shall develop and implement procedures that meet the requirements defined by the in force ISO/IEC 17021 Standard and with the requirements defined by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina General Procedure PG 02 in force. 4.2 The CB shall implement its audit procedures in accordance with the guidelines established in the in force ISO 19011 standard. NOTE: The ISO 19011: in force. Guidelines for auditing management systems provides guidance on auditing management systems, including the principles of auditing, managing an audit programme and conducting management system audits, as well as guidance on the evaluation of competence of individuals involved in the audit process. These activities include the individual(s) managing the audit programme, auditors and audit teams. It is applicable to all organizations that need to plan and conduct internal or external audits of management systems or manage an audit programme. The application of this document to other types of audits is possible, provided that special consideration is given to the specific competence needed	Conforms
9.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification procedures for forest management certification shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO 17021?	Annex 6, 4	YES		4.1 To carry out the audits and the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of SFM, the CB shall develop and implement procedures that meet the requirements defined by the in force ISO/IEC 17021 Standard and with the requirements defined by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina General Procedure PG 02 in force.	Conforms
10.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?	Annex 6, 4	YES	2.2.2	4.2 The CB shall implement its audit procedures in accordance with the guidelines established in the in force ISO 19011 standard. NOTE: The ISO 19011: in force. Guidelines for auditing management systems provides	Conforms

					guidance on auditing management systems, including the principles of auditing, managing an audit programme and conducting management system audits, as well as guidance on the evaluation of competence of individuals involved in the audit process. These activities include the individual(s) managing the audit programme, auditors and audit teams. It is applicable to all organizations that need to plan and conduct internal or external audits of management systems or manage an audit programme. The application of this document to other types of audits is possible, provided that special consideration is given to the specific competence needed	
11.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest management certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?	Annex 6, 4	YES	3.2	8.2.4.4 The CB shall communicate to the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina Association the initial decision of certification or recertification within a period of time not exceeding 10 days from the decision making. Attached to the communication, the CB shall send a copy of the issued 2022 05 06 PG 02:04 SFM Audit Procedure Página 14 de 21 certificate, a copy of the audit report and the completed CERFOAR – PEFC Argentine certification report form.	Conforms
12.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall carry out controls of PEFC logo usage if the certified entity is a PEFC logo user?	Annex 6, 4	YES		8.2.2.1 h) The evaluation of the organization's conformity with the rules of use of PEFC Marks and their effective application, including the use of sub-licenses in the case of group certification	
13.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Annex 6, 4	YES		8.1.1.2 The audit program shall include an initial certification audit in two stages, two (2) annual surveillances audits, and a certification renewal audit in the last year of the certification cycle, before the expiration of the certification. The period between audits should not exceed one year.	Conforms

14.	Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for forest management certifications?	Annex 6, 4	YES		8.1.1.2 The audit program shall include an initial certification audit in two stages, two (2) annual surveillances audits, and a certification renewal audit in the last year of the certification cycle, before the expiration of the certification. The period between audits should not exceed one year.	Conforms
15.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Annex 6, 4	YES		8.4.7 The CB shall prepare a forest management recertification audit report that has the same characteristics as the certification audit report, including the part that is public and available to interested parties and the accompanying documentation of a nature confidential in accordance with the General Procedure CERFOAR _ PEFC Argentina PG 05 in force.	Conforms
16.	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	YES		E.- Interested parties and enforcement authorities The CB shall identify and make a list of individuals and organizations that can be contacted as interested parties during the certification audit. If possible, the CB shall obtain the contact details of those interested parties and should define the appropriate mechanisms to contact them. The CB shall identify all local and national enforcement authorities that shall be contacted during the certification audit. The CB shall initiate, during the preparation of the Stage 2 audit, the consultation process with the interested parties in accordance with the General Procedure CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina PG 03: in force. Stakeholder's consultation to be implemented by certification bodies during forest management certification	Conforms
17.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures? [1]	Annex 6, 4	YES		4.3 The CB shall use the audit criteria established in IRAM 39801 standards for forest management audits of the certification client organization (hereinafter the client) and	Conforms

					IRAM 39805, PEFC ST 2001 and all other specific criteria established for it by CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina.	
Accreditation procedures						
18.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest management certification shall be accredited by a national accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES		PG01 The CERFOAR - PEFC Argentina certification shall be carried out by impartial and independent third-party certification bodies. These certification bodies shall be accredited by the Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA) that is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), or by another equivalent accreditation body member of the IAF, to demonstrate their competence and independence	Conforms
19.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES		7.2 Certification documents 7.2.1 The CB shall provide the certification documents (certificate) to the certified client. 7.2.2 The CB shall include in the certificate at least the following information: a) The identification data of the certificate holder (certified client), including trade name or business name and address; b) The IRAM 39801 and/or IRAM 39805 in force standards used to audit the certified client; c) The international standard PEFC ST 200 in force, used to audit the use of PEFC Trademarks by the certified client; d) The scope of the certificate; e) The mark and registration number of the accreditation as determined by the Argentine Accreditation Body (or equivalent accreditation body)	Conforms
20.	Does the scheme documentation require that the accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body which is a part of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella or a member of IAF's special recognition regional groups and which implement procedures described in ISO 17011 and other	Annex 6, 5	YES		PG01 4.1 The CB requesting the notification of the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina shall: 2022 05 06 PG 01:06 Notification of certification bodies Page 3 of 20 a) be a legally constituted entity; b) agree to be included in the PEFC Registry System and in the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina registry that will be publicly available on the web, including the identification data of	Conforms

	documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?				the CB and/or other data specified by the PEFC Council and/or by the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina; c) have a valid accreditation for the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of sustainable forest management issued by the Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA) that is a signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) for certification of IAF management systems, or issued by another equivalent IAF member accreditation body. The accreditation shall be issued in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 17021 standard and in accordance with the additional specific requirements established by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina system (see Annex 4). The scope of accreditation will explicitly include the in force IRAM 39801, IRAM 39805 and PEFC ST 2001 standards; and/or d) have a valid accreditation for PEFC chain of custody certification issued by the OAA that is a signatory to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for IAF product certification, or issued by another equivalent IAF member accreditation body. The accreditation shall be issued in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 17065 standard and with the additional requirements specifically defined by the PEFC Council in PEFC ST 2003: current. The scope of the accreditation will explicitly include the current international standards PEFC ST 2002 and PEFC 2001;	
21.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management certification as “accredited certification” based on ISO 17021 and the relevant forest management standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?	Annex 6, 5	YES		4. Conditions for notification CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina. 4.1 The CB requesting the notification of the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina shall: 2022 05 06 PG 01:06 Notification of certification bodies Page 3 of 20 a) be a legally constituted entity; b) agree to be included in the PEFC Registry System and in the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina registry that will be publicly available on the web, including the identification data of the CB and/or other data specified by the PEFC Council	Conforms

					and/or by the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina; c) have a valid accreditation for the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina certification of sustainable forest management issued by the Argentine Accreditation Body (OAA) that is a signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) for certification of IAF management systems, or issued by another equivalent IAF member accreditation body. The accreditation shall be issued in accordance with the current ISO/IEC 17021 standard and in accordance with the additional specific requirements established by the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina system (see Annex 4). The scope of accreditation will explicitly include the in force IRAM 39801, IRAM 39805 and PEFC ST 2001 standards; and/o	
22.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6	YES		PG01 Chapter 5: 5. Procedure for issuing the CERFOAR – PEFC Argentina notification.	Conforms
23.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6	YES		1.2 The requirements for the issuance of the notification of the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina only cover administrative conditions such as communication or transfer of information, financial conditions and compliance with this procedure, verified through the accreditation of the OC. The notification conditions of the CERFOAR Association – PEFC Argentina do not discriminate against CBs nor will they create trade barriers.	Conforms

**PART V: STANDARD AND SYSTEM REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST FOR SYSTEM SPECIFIC CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARDS – COMPLIANCE WITH
PEFC ST PEFC 2002:2020**

CERFOAR has fully adopted PEFC ST 2002:2020 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products Requirements as part of the CERFOAR Scheme. Therefore, this part of the assessment is not applicable.

ANNEX B. RESULTS OF STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

A stakeholder survey was sent to all CERFOAR stakeholders that were identified as part of the mapping process. The questions were sent in both Spanish and English as follows:

- 1. Name, organisation and type of stakeholder (NGO, industry, etc.)*
- 2. Describe your relationship with CERFOAR.*
- 3. When were you invited to participate in the revision of the CERFOAR standard?*
- 4. Were all stakeholders able to participate and contribute to the CERFOAR review?*
- 5. Did CERFOAR provide you with the information you needed to contribute to the development and revision of the scheme?*
- 6. Was the review process well planned and structured?*
- 7. Were your views duly taken into account during the review process?*
- 8. How was consensus reached within the standard review committee? (Applicable to standard review committee members only)*
- 9. Did the participating stakeholders represent the variety of interests in forest management in your country? If not, what other stakeholders do you think should have participated?*
- 10. Are there aspects of the scheme that require further consideration?*

A total of two responses were received from the stakeholder survey. Neither response provided negative answers to the questions provided.

ANNEX C: RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION

No comments were received in the international consultation.

ANNEX D. INTERNAL REVIEW COMMENTS

Page	Comment	Response
17	It's a bit difficult to see in some cases what is in conformity. The most part includes (PROCESS) or (PROCEDURES), but there are some assessment decisions, where these details are not there. Please review and include (PROCESS) or (PROCEDURES) after the assessment decision. Please also consider merging chapter 5 and 6 as "Standard Setting Procedures and Process", and highlight at requirement level, which one/both is applicable.	The section has been revised to include process and procedure assessment decisions; I have nonetheless maintained the existing structure.
29	Please include how much was the additional time for the transition; In addition, it's interesting to see that the application date is the same as the approval date, while there would have been the option to use a later application date and in that case the transition period could have been even longer. Please elaborate on these decisions further	Response inserted to note that the 18 month transition was implemented by the BoD and that this was in response to certification and accreditation calendar delays
30	Please include the scope of the SFM standard. This is important in this case, because the Argentine SFM standard is applicable both for native forest and for the plantations. The requirements are the same and the Appendix 1 is not utilized for plantations.	Notes on scope of the standard inserted
38	This is a boarder requirement then the application of the ILO 169, because in this document FPIC is only mentioned for relocation. Please display additional evidence that forest practices are subject of FPIC or revisit the assessment decision.	Additional information / evidence has been provided.
51	Just a formatting related comment: In some cases it's not clearly visible, which part of the text comes from the standard and what is your comment on it. It would be worth to think about how the two can be visually more distinguished	All quotations have been indented and italicised throughout the assessment.
52	It's a forward looking requirement, which have a general direction to reduce, reuse and treat waste, but the element of prohibiting any waste disposal in forest is missing.	The assessment has been reconsidered to a minor non-conformity

72	<p>Point e) of 8.6.2:</p> <p>the organisation only uses the knowledge identified in paragraph 8.6 2.1d) when the recognized owners of the traditional knowledge, having gone through a process of consultation and participation, have given their free, prior and informed consent formalized through a documented binding agreement</p> <p>Do I understand it right that the utilization of the traditional knowledge is conditional?</p>	<p>Yes, and that is a very good point. My understanding of this is that it comes from two international agreements that are particularly important in South America. First is the Nagoya Protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which requires access and benefit sharing of any financial/economic benefits from genetic resources, though here it is applied to all traditional knowledge, and that this is in line with the next agreement ... Second, which is Article 31 of UNDRIP: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.</p> <p>2. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.</p> <p>So, the conditionality is more about protecting those rights than it is about anything else, which also makes sense in the context of the national law Law N° 23.302/85, which gives indigenous communities statutory rights for participation in any socio-economic processes.</p>
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