Proposals for aligning the PEFC ST 1003 with EUDR

1. **Modification (Chapter 1: Scope, page 6)**
   
   Replacing “covering all their products and services” with “covering all their forest and tree based products and services”

2. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 7)**
   
   Introducing the definition of “Agricultural plantations”

   **3.3 Agricultural plantations**
   
   Tree stands in agricultural production systems, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantations, olive orchards and agroforestry systems when crops are grown under tree cover. It includes all plantations of the relevant commodities other than wood.
   
   Note: Agricultural plantations are excluded from the definition of ‘forest’.

3. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 7)**
   
   Introducing the definition of “Agricultural use”

   **3.4 Agricultural use**
   
   Use of land for the purpose of agriculture, including for agricultural plantations, and includes livestock and set-aside agricultural areas.

4. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 7)**
   
   Removing the definition of “Degraded forest”

5. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8)**
   
   Extending the coverage of the “Ecologically important forest areas” with “e) covering primary forests”

   **3.6 Ecologically important forest areas**
Forest areas
a) Containing protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems;
b) Containing significant concentrations of endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;
c) Containing endangered or protected genetic in situ resources;
d) Contributing to globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscapes with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species,
e) Covering primary forests.

6. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8)**

Introducing the definition of “Ecologically important non-forest areas”

3.7 Ecologically important non-forest areas

Non-forest areas
a) Containing protected, rare, sensitive or representative non-forest ecosystems;
b) Containing significant concentrations of endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;
c) Containing endangered or protected genetic in situ resources;
d) Contributing to globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscapes with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.

7. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8)**

Updating the definition of “Forest”

3.9 Forest

Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural use or urban land use (source: FAO 2023).

Note: Each regional, national or subnational standard may include the specific values for the criteria in their national forest definition. If such specifications for a country are not yet available, the standardising body is responsible to set the values according to the national framework.

8. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8)**

Removing the definition of “Forest conversion”
9. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8)**

Introducing the definition of “Forest conversion to agricultural use”

3.10 **Forest conversion to agricultural use**

*Change of forest to agricultural use whether human-induced or not.*

*Note: Regeneration by planting or direct seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, to the same dominant species as was harvested or other species that were present in the historical species mix is not considered a conversion to agricultural use.*

10. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8)**

Introducing the definition of “Forest conversion to other land use”

3.11 **Forest conversion to other land use**

*Direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest and non-agriculture uses.*

11. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 9)**

Introducing the definition of “Forest degradation”

3.12 **Forest degradation**

*Structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of:*

a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into [forest plantations]/[plantation forests] or into other wooded land; or

b) primary forests into planted forests.

12. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 9)**

Updating the definition of “[Forest plantation]/[Plantation forest]”

3.13 **[Forest plantation]/[Plantation forest]**

*Planted forest that is intensively managed and meets, at planting and stand maturity, all the following criteria: one or two species, even age class, and regular spacing. It includes short rotation plantations for wood, fibre and energy, and excludes forests planted for protection or ecosystem restoration, as well as forests established through planting or seeding which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble naturally regenerating forests. Note: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.*
13. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 10)**

Introducing the definition of “Geolocation”

3.16 Geolocation

Geographical location of a plot of land described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and one longitude point and using at least six decimal digits; for plots of land of more than four hectares used for the production of forest and tree based products, this shall be provided using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land.

14. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 10)**

Introducing the definition of “Naturally regenerating forest”

3.22 Naturally regenerating forest

Forest predominantly composed of trees established through natural regeneration; it includes any of the following:

a) forests for which it is not possible to distinguish whether planted or naturally regenerated;

b) forests with a mix of naturally regenerated native tree species and planted or seeded trees, and where the naturally regenerated trees are expected to constitute the major part of the growing stock at stand maturity;

c) coppice from trees originally established through natural regeneration;

d) naturally regenerated trees of introduced species.

Note: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.

15. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11)**

Updating the definition of “Non-wood forest products” with removing the text “and Trees outside Forests (source: following FAO 2017)”

16. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11)**

Introducing the definition of “Non-wood products from TOF areas”

3.25 Non-wood products from TOF areas

Products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from trees.
17. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11)**

Introducing the definition of “Other wooded land”

3.27 Other wooded land

*Land not classified as forest spanning more than 0.5 hectares, with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of 5% to 10%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, or with a combined cover of shrubs, bushes, and trees above 10%, excluding land that is predominantly under agricultural use or urban land use.*

18. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11)**

Introducing the definition of “Planted forest”

3.28 Planted forest

*Forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding, provided that the planted or seeded trees are expected to constitute more than 50% of the growing stock at maturity; it includes coppice from trees that were originally planted or seeded.*

*Note: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.*

19. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11)**

Introducing the definition of “Primary forest”

3.29 Primary forest

*Naturally regenerating forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities, and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.*

*Note: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.*

20. **Modification (Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11)**

Updating the definition of “Trees outside Forests (TOF)”

3.33 Trees outside Forests (TOF)
Trees growing outside areas of nationally designated forest land. Such areas will normally be classified as other wooded land, agricultural use or urban environment.

21. **Modification (Chapter 4: Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard, page 14)**
   Introducing new requirement on geolocation:
   
   4.3.3 *The organisation shall maintain an inventory of geolocation data related to the certified area where forest and tree-based products are harvested.*  
   *Note: The geolocation data can be limited to active operational sites of the organisation.*

22. **Modification (Chapter 6: Planning, page 15)**
   Updating requirement 6.2.5 with removing text “degradation and”

23. **Modification (Chapter 6: Planning, page 15)**
   Updating requirement 6.3.1.2 with adding text “, trade, customs”

24. **Modification (Chapter 8: Operation, page 18)**
   Following the further structured forest conversion related definitions, the former 8.1.4 is separated into two requirements, first addressing the ‘forest conversion to agricultural use’:
   
   8.1.4 *The standard requires that forest conversion to agricultural use shall not occur.*

25. **Modification (Chapter 8: Operation, page 18)**
   Following the further structured forest conversion related definitions, the former 8.1.4 is separated into two requirements, second addressing the ‘forest conversion to other land use’:
   
   8.1.5 *The standard requires that forest conversion to other land use shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion....

26. **Modification (Chapter 8: Operation, page 18)**
   Introducing new requirement on forest degradation:
   
   8.1.6 *The standard requires that human-induced forest degradation shall not occur.*
Note 1: [Forest plantations]/[Plantation forests] established by human-induced forest degradation after 31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification.

Note 2: Planted forests established by human-induced forest degradation after 31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification.

Note 3: This requirement is not applicable for [forest plantations]/[plantation forests] established for protection or ecosystem restoration, as well as forests established through planting or seeding which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble naturally regenerating forests.

27. **Modification (Chapter 8: Operation, page 19)**

Removing the former 8.1.6 requirement on converting severely degraded forest into forest plantations.

28. **Modification (Chapter 8: Operation, page 21)**

Updating the Note of requirement 8.4.2 by replacing “that” with the text “used for supporting the conservation and protection efforts, and”

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 used for supporting the conservation and protection efforts, and do not damage the important ecologic values of those biotopes.

29. **Modification (Appendix 1, page 27)**

Removing the interpretation option for the former 8.1.4 requirement on forest conversion.

30. **Modification (Appendix 1, page 27)**

Updating the interpretation option for the 8.1.7 requirement on afforestation with the text “with [forest plantations]/[plantation forests]”

The requirement for the “reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems” means that ecologically important non-forest ecosystems reforested or afforested with [forest plantations]/[plantation forests] after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.

31. **Modification (Appendix 1, page 28)**

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PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Working Group
Removing the interpretation option for the former 8.1.6 requirement on requirement on converting severely degraded forest into forest plantations

32. Modification (Appendix 1, page 28)
Removing the interpretation option for the 8.4.2 requirement on ecologically important forest areas

33. Modification (Appendix 2, page 30)
Updating the interpretation option for the 6.2.5 requirement on management plans linked to Modification proposal 22.

34. Modification (Appendix 2, page 30)
Updating the interpretation option for the 6.3.1.2 requirement on management plans linked to Modification proposal 23.

35. Modification (Appendix 2, page 31)
Introducing the interpretation option for the 6.2.4 requirement on allowable use of non-wood products

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

36. Modification (Appendix 2, page 31)
Introducing the interpretation for the 8.1.4 requirement on forest conversion to agricultural use

8.1.4 TOF Agriculture area established by forest conversion to agricultural use after 31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification.

37. Modification (Appendix 2, page 31)
Introducing the interpretation for the 8.1.5 requirement on forest conversion to other land use
8.1.5 Non-agriculture TOF area established by forest conversion after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.

Note: For TOF Agriculture category, see 8.1.4

38. Modification (Appendix 2, page 32)
Removing the interpretation for the former 8.1.6 requirement on requirement on converting severely degraded forest into forest plantations

Updating the interpretation option for the 8.3.1 requirement on non-wood products by removing “forest” from the TOF interpretation

40. Modification (Appendix 2, page 32)
Introducing the interpretation option for the 8.3.4 requirement on harvesting levels of non-wood products

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