

Advancing sustainability reporting. Together.

Supporting companies to deliver sustainability progress with PEFC forest certification.



PEFC

PEFC/01-00-01

Leading sustainability institutions recognise PEFC as an indicator for sustainability progress related to forests and forest products



Did you know? PEFC certification is officially recognised as an indicator for SDG 15.2.1, which measures progress towards sustainable forest management.

More info: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment



The PEFC forest management standard serves as a metric to measure progress on Ecosystem Services and Impacts within the IFRS Guidance for Climate-related Disclosures.

More info: www.ifrs.org



PEFC certification is acknowledged in key benchmarks such as the Climate Bonds, an investor-focused labelling scheme for bonds, which leverages PEFC certification for its forestry criteria.

More info: www.climatebonds.net



ABOUT PEFC

Imagine a world where the full contribution of sustainable forests is valued

PEFC is the leading global alliance of national forest certification systems promoting sustainable forest management.

We empower forest owners to implement sustainable practices and business to source forest materials responsible through third-party certification.



28,000+

PEFC-certified
companies



290M+

hectares of
certified forests



55

national
governing bodies

PEFC enables nature and social progress

As sustainability reporting increasingly takes centre stage, driven by regulations and stakeholder expectations, companies are required to not only meet but exceed the evolving non-financial reporting standards. Now, more than ever, organisations need robust tools to enhance and transparently report their sustainability performance.

PEFC standards offers a comprehensive framework to elevate performance across crucial sustainability topics. By becoming PEFC-certified or sourcing PEFC certified materials, companies can fulfil global sustainability disclosure requirements, improve their ratings, and demonstrate a strong commitment to their corporate social responsibilities responsibilities.

Sustainability Topics Supported though PEFC Standards



Environmental sustainability

- Climate mitigation
- Deforestation
- Reforestation
- Biodiversity
- Water conservation
- Chemical use
- Recycling



Social responsibility

- Fair and ethical working conditions
- Rights and livelihood of communities
- Local economic development



Governance excellence

- Stakeholder engagement
- Supply chain transparency



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

From climate change to biodiversity

PEFC provides rigorous standards designed to help companies manage their environmental impact. Our requirements addresses critical areas such as climate change mitigation, deforestation, reforestation, biodiversity protection, and controlled chemical use.

Climate mitigation

PEFC certification provides a robust framework to enhance performance on key climate topics, particularly in mitigating climate change. By promoting sustainable forest management, PEFC strengthens forests' carbon-capturing capacity and resilience. The standards emphasise balancing harvesting and growth, minimising soil disturbance, and maintaining deadwood for carbon storage.

PEFC requires the protection and restoration of ecosystems, safeguarding high-carbon stock areas and prohibiting forest conversions. This ensures forests continue to act as carbon sinks, while supporting biodiversity and preventing deforestation.

PEFC certification also helps companies monitor and report carbon initiatives, enabling transparent communication of their contributions to climate mitigation. By sourcing PEFC-certified materials, companies can meet sustainability disclosure requirements, improve ESG ratings, and demonstrate commitment to addressing climate change.

Deforestation and forest degradation

PEFC certification offers a robust tool for enhancing companies' reporting on

deforestation and forest degradation. Companies are expected to disclose their strategies to prevent deforestation and degradation in their operations and supply chains. PEFC standards require forest operators to inventory, map, and plan forest resources, identifying and conserving ecologically important areas. By implementing sustainable forest management plans, PEFC ensures a balance between wood harvesting and forest growth, preventing deforestation and preserving carbon stocks. The standards also prohibit forest conversions, reducing deforestation risks and maintaining healthy ecosystems. PEFC certification supports companies in committing to sustainable practices and enhancing their reporting on forest conservation and responsible sourcing.

Restoration and reforestation

Recent sustainability reporting standards place greater emphasis on companies' restoration and reforestation efforts, requiring detailed disclosures on the scope, scale, methodologies, outcomes, and the environmental, social, and economic impacts of these initiatives. PEFC standards support forest restoration and reforestation, vital for maintaining healthy ecosystems and biodiversity. Our standards ensure successful regeneration through natural processes or planting while prioritising

native species. PEFC certification promotes sustainable forest management, fostering long-term ecological balance. By adhering to PEFC standards, companies can meet non-financial reporting requirements with a comprehensive framework for documenting their restoration and reforestation efforts. This alignment not only helps companies transparently report their activities but also demonstrates their commitment to restoring degraded ecosystems and contributing to broader sustainability goals.

Biodiversity

PEFC certification supports biodiversity protection and compliance with recognised directives, facilitating comprehensive sustainability reporting. By sourcing PEFC-certified products, companies can demonstrate their commitment to endangered species protection. PEFC standards require safeguarding ecologically important forest areas to preserve ecosystems, planning activities to maintain biodiversity, and prohibiting the commercial exploitation of protected species. PEFC promotes traditional management practices, bans genetically modified trees, and integrates directives like the Convention on Biological Diversity and CITES to prevent invasive species. PEFC certification facilitates comprehensive biodiversity reporting for nature-related initiatives.

Water conservation

Our standards help companies demonstrate their commitment to sustainable water management. PEFC standards require forest operators to enhance their roles in erosion control, flood prevention, and water purification. Measures include minimising soil erosion, retaining healthy trees during harvesting, and designing roads to protect soil health. By safeguarding forests' ability to provide fresh water and preserving watercourses, PEFC enhances water security and aligns with global targets on nature.

Chemical use

PEFC certification ensures responsible chemical use in line with sustainability requirements. Our standards mandate integrated pest management practices to minimise reliance on chemical treatments. PEFC prohibits highly toxic pesticides, including those banned by international agreements, and requires careful chemical management to protect sensitive soils and wildlife. This includes proper pesticide application and controlled fertiliser use, helping to reduce chemical pollution and promote sustainable forestry.

Recycling

PEFC certification promotes circular economy

practices and encouraging the use of recycled materials. It ensures responsible forest management, helping to protect biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and maintain forests as a renewable resource. Through PEFC's Chain of Custody certification, companies can verify and report the recycled content of their products, ensuring transparency and compliance with non-financial reporting standards. This process involves maintaining detailed records of input materials, certified content calculations, and product documentation in accordance with ISO/IEC 14021 standards.

By incorporating recycled and certified forest materials, companies can demonstrate their commitment to sustainable practices and contribute to a more circular economy.

DID YOU KNOW?

The PEFC certification covers 140 criteria to safeguard forests.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ethical and social practices along the chain

Operating in a socially responsible manner includes promoting ethical labour practices and community wellbeing. PEFC provides companies with a set of requirements to uphold high standards in these critical areas.



Fair and ethical working conditions

PEFC certification requires companies to protect workers' rights by emphasising worker safety, fair working conditions, and compliance with international labour standards. Our standards require forest operations to prioritise worker safety, identify and mitigate health risks, and adhere to national laws or collective agreements regarding working hours and leave. Comprehensive safety training and transparent discussions on wages and other rights, involving worker representatives, are mandatory. Adherence to fundamental ILO conventions—such as freedom of association, the elimination of forced and child labour, and non-discrimination—is required, even in countries that have not ratified these conventions.

Rights and livelihood of communities

Being PEFC-certified or sourcing PEFC-certified materials or products helps companies demonstrate their commitment to protecting Indigenous and local rights and fostering equitable relationships with Indigenous and local communities. Our standards require clear recognition and respect for property rights, tree ownership, and land tenure arrangements. PEFC mandates the recognition and protection of the legal, customary, and traditional rights

of Indigenous peoples, emphasising robust stakeholder consultation to mitigate risks. Certified forest operators must align with frameworks such as ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ensuring Indigenous rights are respected through free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) and providing compensation where applicable.

Local economic development

PEFC certification is rooted in fostering sustainable economic development for smallholders and SMEs, particularly in rural areas. By aiding forest owners in balancing economic viability with the impact of forestry on local economies, PEFC promotes long-term economic and community wellbeing. This includes providing training and creating employment opportunities, contributing to the sustainable development of rural communities.

GOVERNANCE EXCELLENCE

Knowing the supply chain and stakeholders

Effective governance is the foundation of sustainable forest management and essential for driving companies' corporate sustainability performance. PEFC certification ensures transparency and accountability throughout the supply chain and effective stakeholder engagement.

Supply chain transparency PEFC

certification is crucial for demonstrating compliance with transparency requirements in non-financial reporting. Our Chain of Custody certification ensures that companies can trace and verify the origin of materials throughout the supply chain, excluding controversial products and aligning with commitments on deforestation, biodiversity, and climate. Third-party audits enhance transparency, and certified material claims allow companies to accurately track responsibly sourced materials.

PEFC covers the entire supply chain, from logging to the final product. This helps to exclude materials from controversial sources such as illegal logging and human rights violations. Organisations must maintain comprehensive records of suppliers, materials, certified content, and internal audits for at least five years, ensuring transparency and adherence to global non-financial reporting requirements.

Stakeholder engagement

PEFC standards provide a robust framework for enhancing disclosures related to stakeholder engagement. Certified forest owners and operators must identify and understand the needs and expectations of affected stakeholders.

PEFC mandates proactive communication and consultation with local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and other relevant parties impacted by forest operations. For Indigenous communities, our standards require obtaining free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) and adherence to fundamental ILO Conventions, including collective bargaining rights.

DID YOU KNOW?

PEFC certification is officially recognised as an indicator for SDG 15.2.1, which measures progress towards sustainable forest management.

Why choose PEFC?

Founded in 1999 by small and family forest owners, PEFC has grown into the world's leading forest certification system. PEFC can strengthen companies' sustainability performance and helps achieve specific nature- and social-related targets. Our standards have been recognised by various global non-financial reporting initiatives, standards and frameworks.

Looking for tools to disclose your sustainability performance?

Strengthen your compliance by incorporate the PEFC certification into your non-financial reporting.

Leading global organisations have recognised PEFC in their sustainability benchmarks.

Be the next.

Want to learn more about our standards?
Reach out to our experts today

Contact us: info@pefc.org
Visit our website: [pefc.org](https://www.pefc.org)

