

# Framework Document

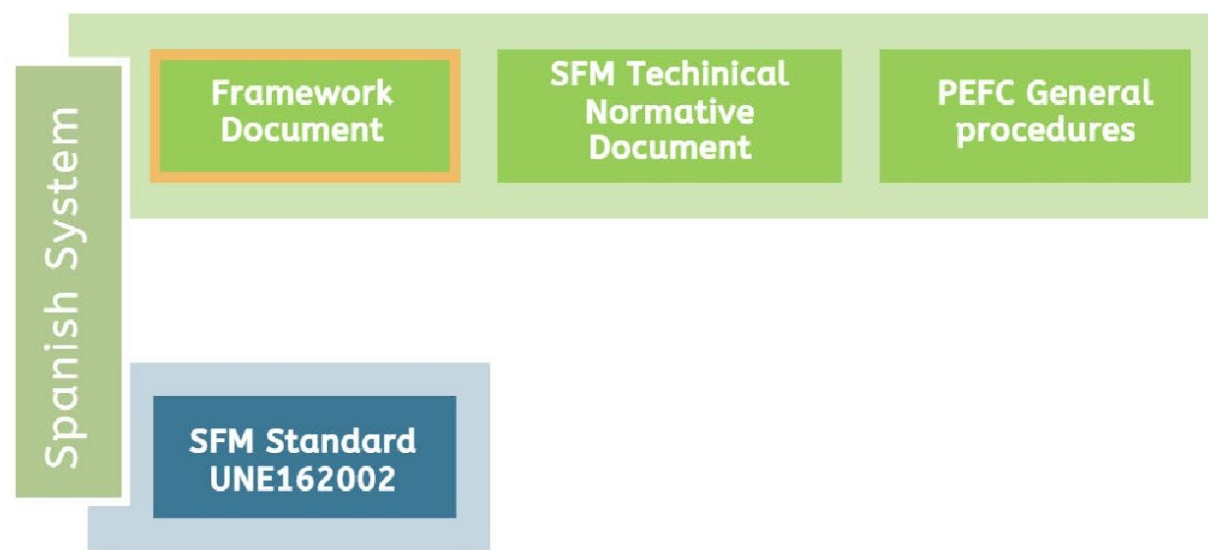


## SPANISH FOREST CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

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This document has been prepared in Spanish and translated into English, in case of doubt, the English language version prevails.

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## 1. Contextual framework

The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) constitutes a voluntary enterprise initiated by the forestry sector. It serves to institute a harmonised framework for the development of shared principles pertaining to forest management and the traceability of forest products, culminating in the end consumer. The PEFC puts forth mechanisms to mutually acknowledge certification systems devised by the various participating countries and offers a consolidated emblem, the PEFC seal, which signifies that a particular forest product originates from a sustainably managed forest.

The key associations representing the Spanish forestry sector collectively agreed to participate in the PEFC initiative in November 1998, thereby representing Spain. They formally established themselves in May 1999 as the "Association for Spanish Forest Certification" (in Spanish, CEF), which was later renamed PEFC Spain and is currently known as the "Spanish Association for Forest Sustainability". During the inauguration of the PEFC International Council (PEFCC) in Paris in June 1999, this association was officially recognised as the National Entity of PEFC in Spain.

PEFC Spain encourages the involvement of all stakeholders interested in Sustainable Forest Management, encompassing forest owners, managers of public and private forests, and any national or sectoral association of foresters, forest producers, industrialists, traders, consumers, professional associations, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Its primary aim is to promote and disseminate sustainable management practices in Spanish forests through the implementation of PEFC Forest Certification in Spain.

To this end, PEFC Spain is dedicated to the development and recognition of the Spanish Forest Certification System (hereinafter referred to as the Spanish System), which outlines the application requirements in Spain for the certification of forest masses and the traceability of the products derived from them.

The first Spanish System was unanimously approved by the PEFCC General Assembly on May 27, 2002, subsequent to an international evaluation conducted by the independent consultancy firm INDUFOR OY. It has been operational since then, with the first revision initiated in 2006 and approved by the General Assembly of PEFC Spain and subsequently by the PEFCC on October 31, 2008. This revision integrated changes in the indicators of Sustainable Forest Management agreed upon at the Vienna Ministerial Conference in 2003. The second revision, among other matters, endeavored to enhance its applicability to small land ownership and was approved by the Spanish and international General Assemblies on April 3 and June 30, 2014, respectively. Both the first and the second revisions were independently evaluated by the consulting firm FORM International.

This third revision of the Spanish Forest Certification System (henceforth, the Spanish System) is designed to align with the latest international PEFC regulations: ST PEFC 1003, 1001, 1002. These documents, under the auspices of PEFC, adapt to the emerging international obligations, requirements, and trends in forest policy within the present milieu. They specifically focus on the criteria established by the European Union (EU), which must be incorporated into national objectives. Additionally, this revision leverages the experience gained over the past two decades since the Spanish System's initial recognition as a PEFC system. It also benefits from the technological transformation and digitization of processes.

## 2. Introduction to the System Revision

PEFC Spain has successfully navigated substantial challenges, owing to the collaborative efforts of all partners and stakeholders, who accurately represent the current dynamics of the forestry sector. The PEFC Spain's strategy pivots around commitment to foresters and forest managers, product diversification within the forestry industry, market demand, consumer recognition, and digitalization, which has enhanced user experience. This strategy is being implemented at a time of increasing environmental consciousness, in parallel with the evolution of international forest policy, such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among other processes. Herein, forests and their resources are pivotal to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and responsible production and consumption.

With the most extensive implementation at both international and national levels, PEFC has seen a substantial increase in the area of certified forest in recent years. PEFC Spain positions itself as an agent of change towards a more modern, resilient, sustainable, and competitive socio-economic model, grounded in public-private collaboration. Forests, their natural resources, and ecosystem services are solutions for recovery and transformation towards resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economies. This is where decarbonization, biodiversity recovery, and the narrowing of inequality gaps frame the sustainability agenda of organizations.

In the context of Spain's decarbonization targets for 2050, **Sustainable Forest Management** will play a crucial role in positioning forests as carbon sinks. It will also significantly contribute to biodiversity conservation and restoration, where the connectivity of forest spaces and green infrastructures are essential to ecosystem recovery. Moreover, the **circular bioeconomy** of forest products through new products and recycling will enable sustainable use of forests and the creation of green value chains.

Therefore, the challenges and opportunities for Sustainable Forest Management and PEFC certification are numerous. These opportunities and challenges present themselves as a multifunctional tool for climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and recovery, natural disaster reduction, soil and water protection, the maintenance of ecosystem services (pollination, water, natural capital, etc.), and as a driver of social economy and sustainable development. Socially, its contribution to demographic challenges is significant thanks to the creation of an economic fabric and green employment for individuals living in forests and rural areas, but also in more urban environments, as nature is increasingly represented in cities. Additionally, the significance of forests for people's health will set one of the trends for the coming years.

To help halt deforestation and achieve a decarbonized economy, companies need to integrate sustainability into their supply chains. In this regard, the PEFC system is well-positioned and adds value to companies seeking to demonstrate responsible supply chain management through sustainably managed and certified sources. Compliance with the Due Diligence of forest products and equality, diversity, and labor rights policies will increasingly become important, where transparency and shared value of certification are key to their development. It contributes to meeting the ESG criteria of companies, which is of paramount importance for the financial sector, promoting responsible investment in sustainable development.

Digitalization will facilitate decision-making in the field of forest sustainability, and PEFC certification will offer quality data and transparency. Sustainability is becoming the key to the success of organizations in the future, with society backing this change. At PEFC Spain, we aim to connect forests with consumers through responsible consumption and a healthy lifestyle, mobilizing the entire forest value chain for this purpose.

This is why this third revision of the Spanish System is timely, as it incorporates the new reality and objectives into forest certification in Spain.

The new Spanish System was debated and unanimously approved by the General Assembly of PEFC Spain at a meeting held on 22 of April, 2025.



### 3. Spanish forestry landscape

**Note:** Unless another source is cited, the data included in this chapter comes from the Spanish Forest Strategy 2050 (December 2022).

In Spain, forests account for more than half of its total land area. The most recent consolidated figures, derived from the Spanish Forest Map (MFE) and publications of the National Forest Inventory (IFN), indicate that slightly **over 28 million hectares are forest areas** that meet the legal definition of mountains (accounting for 55.8% of the total territory). Within this area, over 18.7 million hectares are forested, representing 66% of the forest area and approximately 37% of the terrestrial territory. Forests have been expanding year after year, with the continuous growth of the wooded mountain area being particularly noteworthy. Since 1999, the forested area has increased by almost 1.5 million hectares.

According to the most recent data estimated by the National Forest Inventory (IFN), Spanish forests host a timber **volume of nearly 1,140 million cubic meters with bark**, stocks that have a **slightly higher annual growth than 47 million m<sup>3</sup> cc**, with significant variations according to biogeographic regions. Fast-growing forests (IAVC above 7.5 m<sup>3</sup> cc per hectare per year), from the Atlantic region, which occupy less than 6% of the national forested area, contribute more than 30% of the total growth. In contrast, in most of the Mediterranean region (both humid and dry), growths rarely exceed 2.5 m<sup>3</sup> cc per hectare per year, except for forests in mountainous areas. To the timber stocks present in the mountains, a volume of firewood of 118.8 million m<sup>3</sup> cc is added.

Spain, the second country in the European Union with the largest forest area and the third with the largest extension of forests, harbors a great diversity of forest habitats. This diversity allows our country to have the **greatest species diversity at the European level**, as 56% of the habitat types identified in the EU Habitats Directive are present.

More than **40% of the Spanish forest area** (11.3 million hectares) **is included in a protected area**, Natural Protected Area (ENP) and/or Natura 2000 Network (RN2000), subject to priority conservation criteria, according to the mandatory management, use, and handling instruments that regulate them. Approximately 67% of the protected land area is forested. 87% of the area protected by ENP are forest spaces and 80% of the areas of special protection and conservation of the RN 2000 are forests.

Regarding ownership, it has been determined that around **72% of the forests would be privately owned**, individually or collectively (over 60% by individuals), and the remaining 28% publicly owned, mainly by local entities (over 20% by municipalities). The considerable lack of knowledge of private forest ownership (especially of individuals, whose forests are fragmented and dispersed, many of small size or unknown ownership) hinders efficient management of these mountains and the traditional use of their resources, which favors their abandonment.

In 2020, **the forest area subject to management instruments** exceeded 5.7 million hectares (20.3% of the national forest area). While the percentage of the area of ordered public mountain is 43.9% (just over 3.3 million hectares), in the case of private mountain that value represents 11.7% (just over 2.3 million hectares).



Regarding PEFC forest certification, in 2020 almost **2.5 million ha** were certified in Spain, corresponding to 35% to private management area and 65% to public management area.

On the other hand, forests and other forests are increasingly threatened by **global change, both climatic and socio-economic**, and by a process of absolute abandonment motivated by different causes.

**Wildfires** are the most evident consequence of this change, becoming one of the main threats to society due to their destructive power, even risking the lives of people living in rural areas and professionals working to extinguish them.

The mountains that we enjoy today are the result of the intense human interaction to which they have been subjected until recent times, constituting in many cases cultural landscapes that have been maintained for centuries through their agrosilvopastoral use, and which have not been oblivious to all the historical vicissitudes suffered in our country (wars, industrial development, etc.).

Parallel to the abandonment of the traditional agricultural system, knowledge about the ecology and economy associated with forests and other forests has developed, which has allowed to articulate and develop extensive experience **in silviculture, planning and forest restoration, which have decisively contributed to the improvement of the ecosystem services offered by the forest**. To stop doing sustainable management of our forest ecosystems implies assuming very high risks and uncertainties about their own future, which only favor increasingly adverse scenarios that transcend the forest scope itself, such as emergencies produced by wildfires, desertification processes, loss of biodiversity or regulation of the water cycle.

It is therefore necessary to maintain all sustainable productive activities that offer future opportunities to the inhabitants of the forest areas, while ensuring, with the necessary investments, the balance, diversity and resilience of our mountains.

In general terms and for the whole country, **timber cuts are below the annual growth** of all the forests, in fact, the national extraction rate, an indicator of the "cut/growth balance", although it follows an increasing trend, is one of the lowest in EU countries. However, in most Spanish forests there are physical, environmental and socio-economic constraints that limit timber harvests. In 2019, the last year for which consolidated data is available (AEF), **18 million cubic meters with bark of wood were cut** (extraction rate of 39%). Conifer cuts approached 10 million m<sup>3</sup> cc, representing 55% of the total volume of timber harvested.

The forest sector's value chain integrates activities and sectors that are very diverse, linked to an increasingly wide variety of uses.

In addition to those pointed out, there are other uses of **non-timber forest products** (NTFPs) that are of considerable importance and whose rational and sustainable use promotes the use of the forest and its conservation, as well as the diversification of economic activity in rural areas. Among the most notable are the use of cork and resin, the obtaining of fruits (pine nuts, chestnuts), mycological use or wild medicinal, aromatic or honey plants.

Finally, and no less important, it is observed that, despite the extensive knowledge, experiences, and forest culture that exist, the existing situation in relation to **forest education and the dissemination of knowledge** and information on the Spanish forest reality is scarce and alarming. It is therefore essential to design and develop an appropriate strategy for forest education, information, dissemination, and communication, to improve accessible forest information to the public, knowledge and forest culture, as well as to expand its visibility before the media, opinion and public authorities.

## 4. Spanish Association for Forestry Sustainability, PEFC SPAIN

**PEFC Spain** is a non-profit entity, balanced in its constitution, and open to the participation of national, regional, or sectoral associations, silviculturists, forest producers, industry, commerce, consumers, or NGOs interested in Sustainable Forest Management.

**4.1** The organizational structure of PEFC Spain, an entity established for the development and administration of the Spanish Forest Certification System and recognized as such by the PEFC Council, consists of the following bodies:

1. **General Assembly**
2. **Board of Directors**
3. **Executive Committee**
4. **Secretariat – Registry**
5. **Arbitration Commission**

**4.1.1** The General Assembly of the Spanish Association for Forest Sustainability, PEFC Spain, is the supreme governing body in relation to the Spanish Forest Certification System, vested with the powers assigned to it in the statutes of the PEFC Spain association.

The corporate members of PEFC Spain are structured into the following groups:

- Public property or forest management.
- Private property or forest management.
- Industries of forest products, goods, and services.
- Consumers, NGOs, and other social agents.
- Regional Associations Promoting PEFC Forest Certification.

The **Regional Associations Promoting PEFC Certification, also referred to as PEFC Autonomous**, are the autonomous regional associations, recognized as such by PEFC Spain, established to promote and better administer the Spanish System in each Autonomous Community. They will be responsible for the potential drafting of **Regional Guidelines**, promoting a participatory and open forum for all interested parties.

Among others, members of the PEFC Autonomous can include representatives of managers and owners of private and public forests, auctioneers, primary and secondary transformation forest industries, scientific community, environmentalist groups, professional associations, and consumers of the respective Autonomous Community.

Additionally, PEFC Spain may delegate to the PEFC Autonomous, via agreement, the execution of some of its functions in the corresponding territorial scope, including the registration and license for the use of the PEFC trademarks.

**4.1.2** The **Board of Directors** of the PEFC Spain association, whose composition and functions are established in the statutes of this association, directs the administration of the Spanish System and, in this sense, assumes the functions of interpretation and supervision and control of the Spanish System and the establishment of working commissions, deciding on the consultations and resources that arise regarding the certification procedure or the Spanish System; it decides the composition and functions of the Arbitration Commission.

**4.1.3** The **Executive Committee** of the PEFC Spain association: as stated in the Statutes, its creation is by the Board of Directors and its structure and powers are determined by regulations.

**4.1.4** The **Secretariat** is constituted as the administrative department of the Spanish System. At the helm of it is the General Secretary whose appointment and functions are assigned to him in the statutes of the PEFC Spain association. The Secretariat is the depository of the registry of forest management certifications and of the Chain of Custody, of the accredited and authorized certification entities, recognized training entities, and of the students who have passed the theoretical training required of forest auditors, as well as of the provisions, texts and official internal and external communications; it will keep the minutes of the sessions of the General Assembly, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Arbitration Commission.

**4.1.5** The **Arbitration Commission**. PEFC Spain has developed written procedures to establish a conflict resolution body that addresses complaints related to the application of the System or the certification procedure, which cannot be resolved through the Conflict Resolution Procedures of the accredited certification entity or the accreditation body, as appropriate.

**4.2** The partners who, at the date of approval of this document, are the corporate members of PEFC Spain, are grouped as follows:

**4.2.1** Public property or forest management:

- Community of Madrid
- Government of Aragon
- Government of Cantabria
- Government of Navarra
- Board of Andalusia
- Board of Castilla-La Mancha
- Board of Castilla y León
- Xunta of Galicia
- Región de Murcia
- Generalitat Valenciana

**4.2.2** Private property or forest management:

- COSE - Confederation of Silvicultural Organizations of Spain

**4.2.3** Industries of forest products, goods, and services:

- ASPAPEL - National Association of Pulp, Paper, and Cardboard Manufacturers

#### 4.2.4 Consumers, NGOs, and other social agents, as well as investors and the financial sector:

- Forest Technology Center of Catalonia
- C.O.I.T. Forestales - Official College of Forestry Engineers
- College and Association of Forestry Engineers
- E.T.S.I of Forests
- CESEFOR Foundation

#### 4.2.5 Regional Associations Promoting PEFC Forest Certification, PEFC Autonomous:

- PEFC Asturias – Association Promoting Regional Forest Certification in the Principality of Asturias.
- PEFC Catalonia – Catalan Association Promoting Forest Certification
- PEFC Euskadi - Regional Association for the Promotion of PEFC Certification in the Basque Country
- PEFC Galicia - Galega Association Promoting PEFC Forest Certification

## 5. Spanish System Structure

**5.1** The Spanish System is based on complying with the regulatory documentation approved by PEFC International listed below:

- a) PEFC ST 1001, Establishment of standards - Requirements.
- b) PEFC ST 1002: 2018, standard and system requirements for group forest management certification
- c) PEFC ST 1003: 2024, standard and system requirements for Sustainable Forest Management

In addition, it takes into account:

- a) ISO/IEC 17021-1, Conformity assessment. Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems. Part 1: Requirements
- b) ISO/IEC 17011, Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

**5.2** The Spanish System describes the requirements for the certification of Spanish forests and the traceability of their products in the processing industries located in Spanish territory. This System consists of:

- a) The Framework Document, which includes general information on the System
- b) The Sustainable Forest Management Technical Normative Document, which sets out the specific requirements for the certification of forest area in Spain.
- c) Standards UNE 162.002 for Sustainable Forest Management, Criteria e Indicators.
- d) General Procedures, through which PEFC Spain, once approved by its Board of Directors, details the operating guidelines of the different areas of the System, such as authorisation of certification bodies, licensing of PEFC trademarks, sampling ratios, etc.

**5.3** In addition to the requirements explicitly included in this Spanish System, the certified entities must comply with the laws, regulations, programs, and national and autonomous policies that apply to them, including those related to the fundamental conventions of the ILO, and that have a direct relationship and impact on the criteria for Sustainable Forest Management or the traceability of forest resources and any apparent violation of the legislation must be considered in the auditing and certification processes.

There are legal regulations at the state and autonomous level, whose compliance guarantees the adequacy of management to the criteria of Sustainable Forest Management, and therefore, the certified entities will have to observe the compliance of these laws or those that are promulgated, developed or replaced at the time, especially those referred to in Normative Appendix 1, applicable Spanish legislation of special interest.

**5.4** In relation to the regulatory framework, there are multiple **references** both at the national and autonomous level to the importance and value of **forest certification**, especially highlight for its national scope the Law 21/2015 of Forests, approved on July 20, by which modifies Law 43/2003, of November 21. The Forest Law, which encourages public authorities to promote the development of voluntary, transparent, and non-discriminatory forest certification schemes.

**5.5** Moreover, the 2050 Forest Strategy, ratified in December 2022, includes in Axes V: Forest Governance Model: normative, administrative, and instrumental framework of Spanish forest policy, action line: promotion of **forest certification** to have the technical references and verification mechanisms that allow the validation of planning and sustainable forest management. To provide a suitable scenario for increasing the forest ordered or subject to an equivalent management instrument and **promote accreditation of sustainable forest management** through the free adoption of **voluntary certification systems**.

The Forest Strategy 2050 is accompanied by the Forest Plan and the Common Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management, in which it alludes to and details the criteria and indicators of the UNE 162.002 Standard and cites "On the other hand, the incorporation of sustainability indicators in the forest management instruments of the forest or group of forests can facilitate future audits in case they join a **certification system of the SFM according to the Criteria and Indicators** of FOREST EUROPE (like the one promoted by PEFC Spain - Association for the Spanish Forest Certification). "Furthermore, their integration into the structure and contents of these instruments by the autonomous communities would contribute to the promotion of the certification referred to in Article 35 of the Law of Forests, which establishes that public administrations will promote the development of forest certification systems."



## 6. Certification application levels

**6.1** The **Spanish Forest Certification System** adopts the types of certificates established by PEFC International, thus encompassing the certification of Sustainable Forest Management and Chain of Custody.

### 6.2 Sustainable Forest Management Certification

**6.2.1** Forest Management certification involves an independent third-party audit of the forest management undertaken in the UGFs associated with the certified entity. This verifies compliance with the applicable legislation, the Regulatory Document of the Spanish System, and the UNE 162.002 standard of GFS Criteria and Indicators.

**6.2.2** The criteria and indicators of the national Standard UNE 162.002 of GFS Criteria and Indicators must be applicable to the management unit, or another appropriate level, to ensure compliance with all of them at the management unit level.

This UNE 162 Standard has requirements that are:

- a) clear, based on real application and auditable,
- b) applicable to the activities of all forest operators in the forest area defined in the management unit,
- c) demonstrably in compliance with forest management standards,
- d) inclusive of an overview of the applicable legislation, if the requirements of this benchmark are not reflected in the regional, national or subnational standard, because they are already addressed through legislation.

**6.2.3** The entity certified in Sustainable Forest Management can be regional, group, or individual in type. In the case of a regional or group certified entity, the forest managers who voluntarily join, participate, and commit in writing to comply with the requirements of the certification.

### 6.3 Chain of Custody Certification

**6.3.1** The Chain of Custody Certification permits traceability of forest and tree products originating from a sustainably managed and certified area to the final product.

**6.3.2** In relation to Chain of Custody Certification, the Spanish Forest Certification System fully applies the international regulations of the PEFC Council. This regulation includes the current version of the approved standards and all those that are developed.

**6.3.3** This certification is applicable to all organizations involved in the process, from the resource exploitation in the forest to its final marketing and necessitates the implementation of a traceability system that controls the origin of the materials and a management system that includes social requirements and occupational health and safety.

6.3.4 The certificate can be individual, if it only includes one facility, or multisite, if it includes more than one facility.

6.3.5 Annual internal audits are conducted by the certified organization and external audits by the corresponding accredited certification entity.

6.3.6 Organizations wishing to certify in the Chain of Custody must comply with the standards "PEFC ST 2002 - Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Products - Requirements" and "PEFC ST 2001 Rules for the use of PEFC marks", as well as having the corresponding application guides such as the "PEFC GD 2001:2022 - Application guide for Chain of Custody standards".

6.3.7 Certification Entities must be accredited and authorized according to the standard "PEFC ST 2003 - Requirements for Certification Entities performing certification in accordance with the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard".

## 7. The UNE Standards and the Standardization Process of Sustainable Forest Management

**7.1** In Spain, since 2000, a review has been carried out, open to all of society, of the Criteria and Indicators agreed upon at the various Ministerial Conferences of FOREST EUROPE, as well as of the national laws, policies, and programs, in order to develop the successive Spanish standards of Sustainable Forest Management.

**7.2** For this purpose, the Technical Standardization Committee 162 of Sustainable Forest Management (CTN 162) was established in the national standardization entity, through the Resolution of the Ministry of Industry of January 12, 2000, and published in the Official State Gazette No. 37.

**7.3** All those interested in the sustainability of forest management are invited to participate in this CTN 162, and the final group must maintain a balanced and highly representative structure of the different interest groups.

**7.4** The standardization works are governed by the provisions of the UNE Regulations and Manuals, as well as by the specific operating agreements of the corresponding Committee.

**7.5** The first UNE Standards of Sustainable Forest Management were published in BOE No. 247, in the Resolution of September 10, 2001.

**7.6** Since then, they have been revised three times. The 2007 version integrated the indicators approved during the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, held in Vienna in 2003, while in the 2013 version special emphasis was placed on facilitating its applicability in small areas.

**7.7** The UNE 162.002 Sustainable Forest Management, Criteria and Indicators standard, approved in 2023, is the result of incorporating requirements agreed upon in substantive national and international processes and standards to Spanish forests, considering the latest scientific advances and emerging issues and improving its applicability.

**7.8** This standard is a fundamental part of the Spanish System, and is included as a normative Annex, it organizes the indicators of Sustainable Forest Management into 6 general criteria and includes for each indicator its justification, objective, parameters and sources of information.

**7.9** The process of elaboration of the UNE 162 Standard has followed the Work Program approved by the CTN 162, which includes preliminary work, elaboration of the draft standard, public information for 60 days by publication in the Official State Gazette, elaboration of the standard proposal and finally, registration, editing and dissemination.

**7.10** Given the area to be standardized and following the example of the Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the following interest groups have been considered substantive for the purpose of organizing the voices of the CTN 162:

- businesses and industry
- children and youth
- forest owners
- local authorities
- non-governmental organizations
- scientific and technological community
- women
- workers and unions

**7.11** UNE considered the proposal for Standard 162.002 and processed its consideration as a UNE Standard on 26 April 2023. The Standard was published in the BOE on 16 May 2023.

**7.12** Following this, with the aim of integrating the requirements of the EUDR Regulation and taking into account the improvement proposals received, an urgent review was initiated on 31 January 2025, which concluded with the approval of the UNE 162.002:2025 standard by the CTN on 17 April 2025, and its publication in the BOE on 19 May 2025. The next review must begin before May 2030.

**7.13** The UNE 162.002 Sustainable Forest Management. Criteria and Indicators is the intellectual property of UNE and, as such, may have different uses. The general official language of the standard is Spanish, however, for the purposes of forest certification as part of the Spanish System, its official version is English. This standard can be obtained through the usual UNE sales channels and is also available for free consultation at the offices of PEFC Spain.

## 8. Training

**8.1** Familiarity with the core tenets of Sustainable Forest Management, in addition to an understanding of the Spanish Forest Certification System and its associated standards, is a prerequisite for undertaking the certification process for forest management and the Chain of Custody.

**8.2** This requirement pertains to all individuals engaged in the certification process, commensurate with their roles and responsibilities.

**8.3** PEFC Spain, in coordination with PEFC International, has implemented a mandatory, recurring training program for auditors, reviewers, and those entrusted with decision-making authority regarding the certification of forest management and the Chain of Custody. The primary objective of this training is to ensure a comprehensive understanding and consistent application of the regulatory requirements.

**8.4** In addition, PEFC Spain conducts various courses, webinars, and training sessions targeted at entities certified in forest management and Chain of Custody. These efforts aim to facilitate the understanding of the standards by the certificate managers and other personnel within the certified organizations.

**8.5** Certified organizations are obligated to ensure that staff members involved in certification-related aspects receive adequate training commensurate with their functions.

