

## PEFC ST 1003:2024 Alignment

**Country:** Congo Basin - Regional System

**Assessor:** Ambra Scodro

**Assessment start date:** 24/02/2025

**Internal Review date:** 27/02/2025

**Internal Reviewer:** Heidi Kagiali

### Revision Summary

The revision request was submitted by PAFC regional coordinator to PEFC on 07/02/2025, in line with the time-critical revision procedure described under PROC-001-2019-1 "*Procedure for the development of PAFC certification standards for the Congo Basin*".

The urgency is justified by the alignment to the EUDR regulation.

The following document has been revised: NORM-001-2019-1 - "*Sustainable forest management - Requirements*".

The assessment confirmed the alignment to the PEFC ST 1003:2024 requirements.

**PEFC Final Approval date:**

02/09/2025

				NGB to complete	Assessor to complete	Assessor to complete
Modification number	ST 1003 2018 ref.	ST 1003 2024 ref.	PEFC modification description	Reference to system documentation including quotation of relevant text)	Compliant? YES / NO / N.A.	comments
			Scope			
1	Chapter 1: Scope, page 6	Chapter 1: Scope, page 8	Replacing "covering all their products and services" with " <b>covering all their forest and tree based products and services</b> "	NORM-001-2019-1 p5 foreword Overall, the PAFC Congo Basin standards are structured around the following requirements: [...] Requirements for the sustainable production of forest products and tree based products and services	YES	The scope is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
			Terms and definitions			
2	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 7	3.3, page 9	Introducing the definition of " <b>Agricultural plantations</b> " <b>Agricultural plantations</b> - Tree stands in agricultural production systems, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantations, olive orchards and agroforestry systems. Note: Agricultural plantations are excluded from the definition of 'forest'.	NORM-001-2019-1 point 3 page 8 : added definition of agricultural plantation: "Tree stands in agricultural production system, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantation, olive orchards and agroforestry systems Note : Agricultural plantations are excluded from definition of "forest"	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
3	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 7	3.4, page 9	Introducing the definition of " <b>Agricultural use</b> " <b>Agricultural use</b> - Use of land for the purpose of agriculture, including for agricultural plantations, and includes livestock and set-aside agricultural areas.	NORM-001-2019-1 point 3 page 8 : added definition of agricultural use Use of land for the purpose of agriculture, including for agricultural plantations, and includes livestock and set-aside agricultural areas	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
4	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8	3.7, page 9	Introducing the definition of <b>Ecologically important non-forest areas</b> : <b>Ecologically important non-forest areas</b> 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	NORM-001-2019-1 , term and definition p9 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 and abundance of naturally occurring species.	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
5	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8	3.10, page 10	Updating the definition of " <b>Forest</b> " <b>Forest</b> - 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.	The definition of forest in the NORM-001-2019-1 standard is already in accordance to FSO definition: "In the absence of a national definition, land occupying an area of over 0.5 hectares with trees reaching a height of over 5 metres and a canopy cover of over 10%, or with trees capable of reaching these thresholds in situ. Land for predominantly agricultural or urban use is excluded."	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
6	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8	n.a.	<b>Removing</b> the definition of " <b>Forest conversion</b> "	removed and replaced by the next one	YES	The updates are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
7	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8	3.11, page 10	Introducing the definition of " <b>Forest conversion to agricultural use</b> " <b>Forest conversion to agricultural use</b> : 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 <del>was harvested or other species that were present</del>	NORM-001-2019-1 Term and definition P9, Forest conversion to agricultural use: "Direct or indirect human-induced or not change of a forest to agricultural use Note: the regeneration by direct planting or seeding and/or human promotion of natural seed sources, from the same dominant species as those harvested or other species present in the historical mix of species is not considered a conversion to agricultural use."	YES	The updated definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
8	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 8	3.12, page 10	Introducing the definition of " <b>Forest conversion to other land use</b> " <b>Forest conversion to other land use</b> Direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest and non-agriculture uses.	NORM-001-2019-1 add the definition p9, Forest conversion to other land use: "Direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest and non agricultural uses".	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
9	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 9	3.13, page 10	Introducing the definition of " <b>Forest degradation</b> " <b>Forest degradation</b> - Structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of: a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or b) primary forests into planted forests.	NORM-001-2019-1 add in definition p10 Structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of : a) natural forest or naturally regenerating forest into plantation forest or into other wooded land; or b) natural forest into planted forest  Note : definition of "primary forest" as per PEFC ST1003:2024 is calibrated as "natural forest" for the Congo basin region+E16 Note 4 : The national interpretation guide will precise this aspect according to the law applicable in the country	YES	The definition has been included as per PEFC ST 1003:2024.
10	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 9	3.28, page 13	Updating the definition of "Forest plantation" to " <b>Plantation forest</b> " <b>Plantation forest</b> - 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 <del>which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble</del>	NORM-001-2019-1 add in definition p10, "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 forest 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 : in case of absence of national definition, interpretation guide should precise this aspect."	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
11	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 10	3.16, page 11	Introducing the definition of " <b>Geolocation</b> " <b>Geolocation</b> - 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.	NORM-001-2019-1 p11 part 2 definition: "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 mote than 4 ha 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"	YES	The definition matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
12	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 10	3.22, page 12	Introducing the definition of " <b>Naturally regenerating forest</b> " <b>Naturally regenerating forest</b> - 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 Note : The national interpretation guide will precise this aspect according to the law applicable in the country	NORM-001-2019-1 Terms and definition p 13 <b>Natural regenerative forest</b> 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 : The national interpretation guide will precise this aspect according to the law applicable in the country	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
13	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.24, page 12	Updating the definition of "Non-wood forest products" with removing the text "and Trees outside Forests source: following FAO 2017")	NORM-001-2019-1, Terms and definition p 13 Non-timber forest products : "Non-timber forest products of biological origin other than wood, derived from forest"	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
14	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.25, page 12	Introducing the definition of " <b>Non-wood products from TOF areas</b> " <b>Non-wood products from TOF areas</b> - Products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from trees.	NORM-001-2019-1 p13 definition added : "Non-timber products from TOF areas - Products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from trees"	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024



15	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.27, page 12	Introducing the definition of “ <b>Other wooded land</b> ” <b>Other wooded land</b> - 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. Note: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.	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. Note: The national interpretation guide will precise this aspect according to the law applicable in the country	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
16	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.29, page 13	Introducing the definition of “ <b>Planted forest</b> ” <b>Planted forest</b> - 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.	p14 added the definition of 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. Only native species can be use."	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
17	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.30, page 13	Introducing the definition of “ <b>Primary forest</b> ” <b>Primary forest</b> - 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.	NORM-001-2019-1 p13 definition added of natural forest definition "In the context of this standard, the natural forests are tropical, non-planted forests with intrinsic diversity in terms of horizontal and vertical structures, biodiversity, and genetic variability at the scale of the whole ecosystem. Natural forest are 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 : the definition of "primary forest" as per PEFC ST1003:2024 is calibrated as "natural forest" for the Congo Basin Region"  Also added in the p6 1.scope that the definition of natural forest fit with the primary forest definition use in the PEFC ST 1003 2024 Note : In the context of Congo basin the terminology of primary forest doesn't exist. In the forestry code or in the interpretation documents related. The only terminology used is natural forest.	YES	The definition is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
18	Chapter 3: Terms and Definitions, page 11	3.34, page 13	Updating the definition of “Trees outside Forests TOF)” Trees outside Forests TOF) - Trees growing outside areas of forest land. Such areas will normally be classified as other wooded land, agricultural use or urban environment.	NA - not in scope	N/A	TOF is not in scope
<b>Chapter 4 - Context of the national standard and the organisations applying a PEFC endorsed standard</b>						
19	Chapter 4, page 14	4.3.3, page 15	Introducing new requirement on geolocation: <b>4.3.3</b> 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.	NORM-001-2019-1 add p20 6.2.6 The organisation shall maintain an inventory of geolocation data related to the certified area where forest product and tree-based products are harvested. Note: the geolocation data can be limited to active operational sites of the organisation	YES	The requirement matches PEFC ST 1003:2024
<b>Chapter 6: Planning</b>						
20	Chapter 6: Planning, page 15	6.2.5, page 16	Updating requirement 6.2.5 with <b>removing text “degradation and”</b>	7.3.8 p 26 removed : degradation and	YES	The updates are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
21	Chapter 6: Planning, page 15	6.3.1.2, page 16	Updating requirement 6.3.1.2 with <b>adding text “, trade, customs”</b>	5.2.1 added and custom "including for its transport and trade and custom activities"	YES	The requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
<b>Chapter 8: Operation</b>						
22	Chapter 8: Operation, page 18	8.1.4, page 19	Following the further structured forest conversion related definitions, the former <b>8.1.4 is separated into two requirements, first</b> addressing the 'forest conversion to agricultural use': <b>8.1.4</b> The standard requires that forest conversion to agricultural use shall not occur.	7.3.7 p 25 added the point : forest conversion for agricultural use shall not occur	YES	The requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
23	Chapter 8: Operation, page 18	8.1.5, page 19	Following the further structured forest conversion related definitions, the former <b>8.1.4 is separated into two requirements, second</b> addressing the 'forest conversion to other land use': <b>8.1.5</b> The standard requires that forest conversion to other land use shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion...."	Point 7.3.6 change conversion by conversion to other land use. In the event of a forest conversion to other land use within the FMU, it must be justified and: - Complies with national land use and forest management policies and regulations and comply with the management plan; - does not destroy forests with a significantly high carbon stock; - cannot exceed 5% of the production series area; - Cannot be located in conservation series. - Does not have negative impact on EIFA, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas - Contributes to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits - Includes consultation with affected stakeholders.	YES	The updates are in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
24	Chapter 8: Operation, page 18	8.1.6, page 19	Introducing <b>new requirement on forest degradation:</b> 8.1.6 The standard requires that human-induced forest degradation shall not occur. Note 1: Plantation forests established by converting primary forest or naturally regenerating forests after 31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification. Note 2: Planted forests established by converting primary forest after 31 December 2010 are not eligible for certification. Note 3: This requirement is not applicable for 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 Note 4: Incorporation of the definition into regional, national or subnational standards may consider the context of national forestry terminology and legal requirements. This can result in system-specific clarifications and guidance, as long as this delivers at minimum an equivalent outcome to the intended outcome of the definition.	NORM-001-2019-1 p22, 7.1.1 added Note : Human-induced degradation shall not occur.  Notes added in p10 terms and definitions : notes 1-2-3 are the same but 4 is adapted : the standard may consider the context of national forestry terminology and legal requirements. This can result in a system specific guidance, as long as this delivers at minimum an equivalent outcome to the intended outcome of the definition.	YES	The requirement is in line with PEFC ST 1003:2024
25	Chapter 8: Operation, page 19	n.a.	Removing the former 8.1.6 requirement on converting severely degraded forest into forest plantations	NA	YES	No such a requirement in place.
<b>Appendix 1</b>						
26	Appendix 1, page 27	n.a.	Removing the interpretation option for the former 8.1.4 requirement on forest conversion	NA	N/A	Under 7.3.8 is specified: "Note: forest plantations are not eligible for certification."
27	n.a.	Appendix 1, page 27	Introducing the interpretation option for the 8.1.7 requirement on afforestation with the text “ <b>with plantation forests</b> ” The requirement for the “reforestation and afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems” means that ecologically important non-forest ecosystems reforested or afforested with plantation forests after 31 December 2010 in other than “justified circumstances” do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.	NA	N/A	Under 7.3.8 is specified: "Note: forest plantations are not eligible for certification."
28	Appendix 1, page 28	n.a.	Removing the interpretation option for the former 8.1.6 requirement on requirement on converting severely degraded forest into forest plantations	NA	N/A	Under 7.3.8 is specified: "Note: forest plantations are not eligible for certification."

Appendix 2 - TOF						
29	Appendix 2, page 30	Appendix 2, page 30	Updating the interpretation option for the 6.2.5 requirement on management plans linked to Modification #20.	NA	N/A	TOF is outside the scope of the standard
30	Appendix 2, page 30	Appendix 2, page 30	Updating the interpretation option for the 6.3.1.2 requirement on management plans linked to Modification #21.	NA	N/A	TOF is outside the scope of the standard
31	n.a.	Appendix 2, page 30	<b>Introducing the interpretation option for the 6.2.4</b> 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.	NA	N/A	TOF is outside the scope of the standard
32	Appendix 2, page 31	Appendix 2, page 31	<b>Introducing the interpretation for the 8.1.4</b> 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.	NA	N/A	TOF is outside the scope of the standard
33	Appendix 2, page 31	Appendix 2, page 31	<b>Introducing the interpretation for the 8.1.5</b> 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	NA	N/A	TOF is outside the scope of the standard
34	Appendix 2, page 32	n.a.	<b>Removing the interpretation for the former 8.1.6</b> requirement on requirement on converting severely degraded forest into forest plantations	NA	N/A	TOF is outside the scope of the standard
35	Appendix 2, page 32	Appendix 2, page 32	<b>Updating the interpretation option for the 8.3.1</b> requirement on non-wood products by removing "forest" from the TOF interpretation	NA	N/A	TOF is outside the scope of the standard
36	n.a	Appendix 2, page 32	<b>Introducing the interpretation option for the 8.3.4</b> 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.	NA	N/A	TOF is outside the scope of the standard