



Family forest owners' views and expectations regarding forest certification



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An Assessment of Forest Certification Systems



- CEPF and 17 Family Forest Organizations in Europe
- An assessment of the two dominating forest certification systems, PEFC and FSC
- Outlines Family Forest Owners' views and expectations regarding forest certification

2019

European Family Forest Owners' views on Forest Certification

CEPF COSE
Cooperative of European Forest Owners
LAND & FORST
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Norges Skogeierforbund
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Verband der Waldbesitzer

Main Conclusions of the Assessment



- There are fundamental differences crucial for family forest owners in the structure of PEFC and FSC
- PEFC has a structure better suited to the needs of family forest owners
- FSC is designed to suit large-scale forest owners
- Linked to the FSC certification there is a risk of unequal competition through market barriers where family forestry in practice becomes excluded from parts of the market

The Future of Forest Certification Systems - from the Perspectives of Family Forestry



- **Large-scale landscape planning - no way forward**

History taught us that it is more important that many people do things in different ways, than that a few is deciding about an overall management plan according to the ideas that are currently considered "the right ones".

The large diversity of forest owners is the best guarantee for diversity in nature.

- **The need for simplification is striking**

Development of the systems has to a large extent become the same as addition of new rules. This gives an excessive degree of complexity and regulatory burden that makes the systems more comprehensive and unpredictable.

Simplification gives more transparency, reduced costs, broader commitment and stronger legitimacy.

The Future of Forest Certification Systems - from the Perspectives of Family Forestry



Moving forward from niche to mainstream – what PEFC must have in mind:

- a holistic view on sustainable development and a bottom-up perspective with local solutions and collaboration is a prerequisite for sustainable development in real,
- the environmental perspective on the forest needs to broaden from a unilateral focus on biodiversity to a holistic view of the forest's role in solving the climate challenge and to achieve a sustainable development.



Agenda 2030 and the SDG's should be the framework when further evolving PEFC as promotor for sustainable development.





THANK YOU!

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