

# Terms and definitions



**PEFC**  
**Normative  
document**

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**Document title:** Terms and definitions

**Document number:** PEFC DK 007-3

Approved by: **PEFC Denmark**

Date: **01.10.2022**

Approved by: **PEFC Council**

Date: **31.08.2022**

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# 1. Introduction

This document is part of the Danish PEFC certification system for sustainable forest management. This document defines the fundamental terms relating to certification of sustainable forest management.

The following definitions are primarily Danish translations of the relevant English definitions found in the PEFC Council's technical document, Annex 1 "PEFC Terms and definitions". The definitions are as far as possible based on the existing references, within various international standardisation and certification processes. A number of Danish definitions have also been added.

## 2. Definitions

**Non-conformance:** Conditions that are not in compliance with a given criterion.

**Accreditation:** A procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition that a body or person is competent to carry out specific tasks in accordance with detailed guidelines.

**Accreditation body:** A body that conducts and administers an accreditation system and grants accreditation.

**Non-wood products:** Forest products other than wood. This may, for example, include berries, moss, Christmas trees from non-intensive production, etc.

**Appeals committee:** An organisation that is required to deal with appeals, disputes and complaints.

**Audit:** A systematic, documented and objective assessment of adherence to specified guidelines. The audit is performed by one or more persons who are independent of what is audited.

**Auditor:** A person who is qualified to perform audits.

**Audit team:** A group of auditors, or a single auditor, designated to perform a given audit. The audit team may also include technical experts and auditors-in-training.

**Audit plan:** A plan jointly prepared by the applicant and certification body for carrying out an audit.

**Audit report:** A report containing observations on compliance of operations with the criteria. The report focuses on information on non-conformities.

**Activities impacting negatively on particularly vulnerable areas:** Activities of an intensity and/or form that may threaten the forest's natural amenities, cultural values or potential for cultivation, such as when mountain bikes are allowed to leave roads and paths.

**Significant damage caused by machines:** Damage due to the use of machines resulting in erosion, changing the natural flow of water, creating deep tracks that alter the soil structure on soft ground, inflicting damage in areas with particular valuable natural amenities or of particular significance for recreation.

**Biodiversity area:** Biodiversity areas are areas of forest and nature containing particular biological values that have to be given priority in the management of the property. The area may consist of forest and other nature types and habitats in the certified area. The purpose of biodiversity areas is to preserve or create areas where biological considerations take precedence over traditional management considerations. Biodiversity areas may include both entirely undisturbed areas and areas with active nature management that helps to ensure and enhance biodiversity and natural amenities. This may, for example, include:

- Undisturbed forest
- Old management practices that benefit nature, e.g. coppiced forest or regeneration cutting around old oaks
- Grazing meadows
- Managed heathland
- Old forest fringes dominated by broadleaved species
- Wetlands with a high natural value

**Biologically rich nature associated with continuity of forest canopy cover and/or stable hydrology:**

Presence of a flora and fauna associated particularly with continuity in the forest canopy cover, undisturbed soils and stable hydrological conditions. It will typically be present in undrained locations that have not been regenerated by means of clear cutting operations over the last two rotations nor regenerated by means of vigorous soil scarification.

**Sustainable forest management:** The administration and use of forests and forest land in a way and at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity and vitality and their potential to fulfil relevant ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels both now and in the future and does not cause damage to other ecosystems. Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE).

**Certificate:** A document issued according to the rules of a certification system, providing confidence that a duly identified product, process or service is in conformity with a specified standard or other normative document.

**Certification:** A procedure by which an independent third party gives written assurance that a product, process or service conforms to specified requirements.

**Certification body:** An independent third party that assesses and certifies organisations with respect to forest management or chain of custody standards and other supplementary documentation required pursuant to the system.

**Certified forest:** A forest area to which a certification body or group has granted certification.

**Management plan:** Insight into the documentation required by the standard relating to forest management, with the exception of confidential and personal information.

**Deep soil scarification:** Soil scarification that reaches deeper into the soil than the top parts of the mineral soil, typically with a view to breaking up root barrier layers and/or bringing deeper soil layers up to the surface. Trench ploughing is one example of a deep soil scarification method.

**Degraded forest:** A degraded forest and its site has been exposed to unsustainable operations, utilization or other destructive impacts to an extent that the capacity of its structures or functions to supply products and/or ecosystem services in accordance with management objectives have been reduced.

**Oak thickets:** Old oak stands characterised by grazing, coppicing or frost or wind damage. They may be old thickets or younger thickets growing over former moorland or pasture.

**Expert statement:** A written statement by a technical expert (researcher, consultant, etc.) with documentable knowledge of the subject on which information is sought.

**External audit:** An audit performed by an external party, such as a certification body.

**Group certification of forest management:** Certification of forest management for a group of small and medium-sized forest owners under one certificate.

**Group leader:** An organisation that organises and manages group certification of forest properties pursuant to the Danish PEFC scheme. The group leader represents all the group members in the group in relation to the certification body and is responsible for ensuring compliance with PEFC Denmark's requirements.

All group members in a group must have a legal or contractual relationship with the group leader and be subject to continuous supervision by the group leader in order to ensure compliance with PEFC Denmark's Forest Management Standard.

This means that the group leader has the right to take corrective action with regard to any member of the group when necessary.

**Group members:** Forest properties that have signed a written agreement with a group leader on participation in a group certification and are prepared to comply with the requirements in the Danish PEFC scheme.

**Grazing forest:** Forest areas grazed or previously grazed by domestic animals (horses, sheep or cattle) or deer. Typical grazing forest is open, with wide-crowned trees and thorny bushes.

**Habitat trees:** Trees that are valuable or may become valuable in terms of:

- Biodiversity or
- perception of landscape or cultural history

**Native species:** The species listed in Annex 2 are considered native tree species, while trees and bushes that may be used in forest fringes (inner and outer) are listed in Annex 3.

**Indicator:** A quantitative or qualitative parameter that can be assessed in relation to criterion. It describes a relevant element of a criterion, objectively and unambiguously.

**Stakeholder:** An individual or group of individuals with a common interest concerned with or influenced by the efforts and achievements of an organisation.

**Intensive management:** Management that is dependent on a continuous supply of consumable materials (pesticides and/or fertilisers), such as Christmas trees, ornamental foliage, feeding crops, etc.

**Internal audit:** An audit performed internally at the forest property or within the group.

**Typical old trees:** Trees that are very old, given the species and location, and are valuable in relation to:

- biodiversity or
- perception of landscape or
- cultural history

**Consensus:** A general agreement characterised by the absence of sustained opposition from major stakeholders to significant issues and the need to take into account the views of all parties in the process, as well as attempting to resolve any conflicts. Consensus does not assume unanimity.

**Criterion:** A requirement according to which conformity assessment is performed.

**Long-term potential for cultivation:** Describes the long-term development of the location (over decades, centuries); i.e. the fact that the growth of the forest for a given tree species will be maintained in the long term, as long as there is appropriate silviculture and hence maintenance of the forest climate and the soil structure in general, for example. The opposite is done when degrading the location.

**Management system:** A system that includes organisational structure, planning activities, distribution of responsibilities, practices, procedures, methods and resources to develop, implement, achieve, review and maintain described policies and criteria.

**Locally adapted:** The tree species and provenance are known to be adapted to the growing location – i.e. soil conditions (water and nutrient supply, drainage) and climate (temperature, precipitation, wind/storm, salt, etc.).

**Continual improvement:** A process that reinforces the management system and management in order to achieve improvements in the economic, environmental and social aspects of forest management.

**Poor and good soils:** See the map in Annex 1.

**Mark:** A declaration indicating specific conditions for a product.

**Natural regeneration:** Regeneration based on natural seedfall. Artificial aids usually involve just felling operations.

**Natural succession:** Natural overgrowth of larger, bare areas after disturbance of the existing ecosystem (e.g. due to clear cutting or windfalls), for example.

**Natural amenities:** Forests or areas with high biodiversity or that are home to rare animals/plants are considered to be natural amenities.

**Forests that are naturally of particular value:** Forest with natural amenities that go beyond the average and ordinary. That is to say, forests that are of particular importance for preserving biodiversity in Denmark at system, species and genetic level. This may also be forest that is of other particularly high natural history value (e.g. in terms of natural geography or geology).<sup>1</sup>

**Natural elements:** Biologically valuable structures and elements in the forest. Including large old trees (standing or recumbent), trees with many microhabitats, trees with many woodpecker holes, old stumps from large trees, large anthills, large stones covered in moss and small waterholes.

**Normative document:** A document that defines criteria, rules, guidance and characteristics of activities or their outcomes. It covers documents such as standards, technical specifications, codes of practice and regulations.

**Key biotopes:** Key biotopes are areas of importance to the preservation of biological value in the forest as they contain habitats, structures, elements or species that help to safeguard biodiversity. The following are considered to be key biotopes:

- Natural fox dens and badger setts
- Lake shores 30 m wide
- Forests that are naturally of particular value ("Article 25")

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<sup>1</sup> [https://mst.dk/media/132958/p25\\_skovnoegle.pdf](https://mst.dk/media/132958/p25_skovnoegle.pdf)



- Undisturbed forest
- Areas with known occurrences of rare or endangered animals/plants
- Areas with old management practices
- Article 3 areas, including areas not registered with the authorities
- Oak thickets, see Article 26 of the Danish Forest Act
- Small biotopes of significant proportions, see Article 28 of the Danish Forest Act
- Forest fringes dominated by broadleaved species, see Article 27 of the Danish Forest Act

**Observation:** Observations are conditions that are not compliant with the Forest Management Standard but that not significant enough to cause a non-conformance.

**Areas with a high natural preservation value:** Habitat, breeding and resting areas for protected<sup>2</sup> or red-listed<sup>3</sup> plant and animal species, as well as rare and endangered ecosystems.

**Follow-up audit:** An audit performed to verify whether a corrective measure has been implemented.

**Termination:** An action where an owner, group leader or group member terminates a certification agreement with no non-conformances in respect of the standard, e.g. following the sale of the forest.

**Superficial soil scarification:** Soil preparation that operates in the top layers of the soil. Typically, the purpose is to break a grass cover or layer of litter and mix this with the topmost layer of mineral soil to ensure beneficial conditions for self-regeneration. Treatment with a Lindenberg spading harrow is an example of shallow soil scarification.

**Selective felling:** This is essentially the earliest form of forest management, where the products needed were selected from the forest and the forest was then left to regenerate. All stands in forests characterised by selective felling contain trees of different ages and dimensions, and there are no clear cutting operations.

**Clear cutting:** Simultaneous felling of all trees over a larger area, often followed by planting as the method of regeneration.

**Forest manager:** An individual or organisation that is responsible for the management, planning and supervision of operations in a forest area.

**Member number:** The group leader must issue a member number to the forest owners included in group certification. A member number is not the same as a certificate.

**Forest fringe:** There are inner and outer forest fringes.

Outer forest fringes are characterised by enormous variety in species of herbs, bushes and broadleaved trees – in many cases small trees of species typical for the region – and are thus usually easy to distinguish from the production stands behind, which typically consists of one or a few tree species. The age of the trees and bushes in forest fringes may vary, while the production stands behind are normally of consistent age.

Broadleaved trees in the outer boundary of the forest do not always form part of a forest fringe, and can only be characterised as such if the above conditions are present. Trees with low crowns on the edge of the forest are therefore not normally covered by the provision relating to forest fringes, but retaining these edge trees is generally advisable due to their landscape value and often poor wood quality.

<sup>2</sup> <https://mst.dk/natur-vand/natur/natura-2000/natura-2000-omraaderne/beskyttede-arter-og-naturtyper/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://bios.au.dk/forskningraadgivning/temasider/redlistframe/roedliste-2019/roedlistestatus/>



Forest fringes established in connection with afforestation projects differ from the above criteria in that they are of consistent ages; but the choice and distribution of species will usually be significant.

Where a large public road transects a forest area, forest fringes on either side of the road will be considered to be outer fringes (from the Guide to the Danish Forest Act).

Inner forest fringe are fringes around lakes, meadows, heathlands and similar open areas that constitute a natural part of the forest.

**Forest certification:** A procedure for assessing the quality of forest management according to criteria in a forest management standard.

**Forest certification system:** A set of standards, guidelines and rules covering forest management criteria, chain of custody for wood and wood products (where applicable), certification arrangements and procedures and criteria for certification bodies.

**Forest owner:** An individual or organisation with legal ownership of a forest area (State, municipality, foundation, industry or private).

**Forest meadows:** Open areas of grassland in the forest, not included in a silvicultural managed area. Forest meadows are valuable whether they lie undisturbed, grazed or cut, but they are vulnerable to fertiliser spraying and overgrowth.

**Forest climate:** The forest is a complex ecosystem that is dependent on light, climate, soil and water, and all living organisms interact. The balance between these different elements creates the forest climate. Compared to open land, the forest is less windy, there are fewer temperature fluctuations and the humidity is higher; so overall, the conditions are more favourable for tree growth and the other flora and fauna of the forest.

**Social elements:** Employee rights, education, recreational activities, nature experiences and landscape and cultural historical elements are included under the umbrella of social elements.

**Standard:** A document established by consensus and approved by a recognised organisation for common and repeated use, specifying criteria and guidelines or characteristics for activities or their outcomes, with the aim of achieving an optimal degree of order in a given context.

**Paths and roads in forests:** Man-made tracks for traffic. These must be viewed in contrast with temporarily visible tracks after transport, thinning and similar activities, as well as animal tracks (Guide to the Nature Conservation Act).

**Coppiced forests:** Typically old hazel forests with oak and hornbeam, alder forests, oak thickets and mixed forests of ash, oak, hazel, etc., where the ability of the trees to form root suckers is utilised, thereby making it possible to manage the forest in regular rotation without having to plant new trees.

**Stump removal:** Removal of stumps after felling. Removal of uprooted root systems of fallen trees after storms is not considered stump removal.

**Suspension:** A situation where a certificate loses its validity for a defined period if significant non-conformances are found, for example.

**Special management:** Management where the main purpose of the management is something other than classic wood production with standard forest.

**Technical expert:** A person who contributes special knowledge or expertise to an audit but does not participate as an auditor.

**Withdrawal:** A situation where a certificate loses its validity permanently. This may come about due to gross misuse or failure to follow up on significant non-conformances.

**Sufficient stocking density:** This concept cannot be defined precisely by means of a number. The concept covers the fact that the forest's tree volume must be kept at a level so that a low tree volume in itself is not the main reason as to why a forest appears to be windswept and have no forest climate.

**Third party:** A person or body that is recognised as being independent of the parties involved in the matter to be assessed by the third party.

**Non-conformity:** Situations in which the audit certificate indicates that actions have not been performed in accordance with the certification criteria.

**Wood production:** The traditional production of forest wood products and includes logs, timber, firewood, wood chips, etc.

**Temporary worker:** An individual who has a contract of employment, i.e. is employed. This person may be found via a temporary employment agency. Here, the owner ensures payment of taxes and other social security contributions.

## Bibliography:

Guide to the Nature Conservation Act –

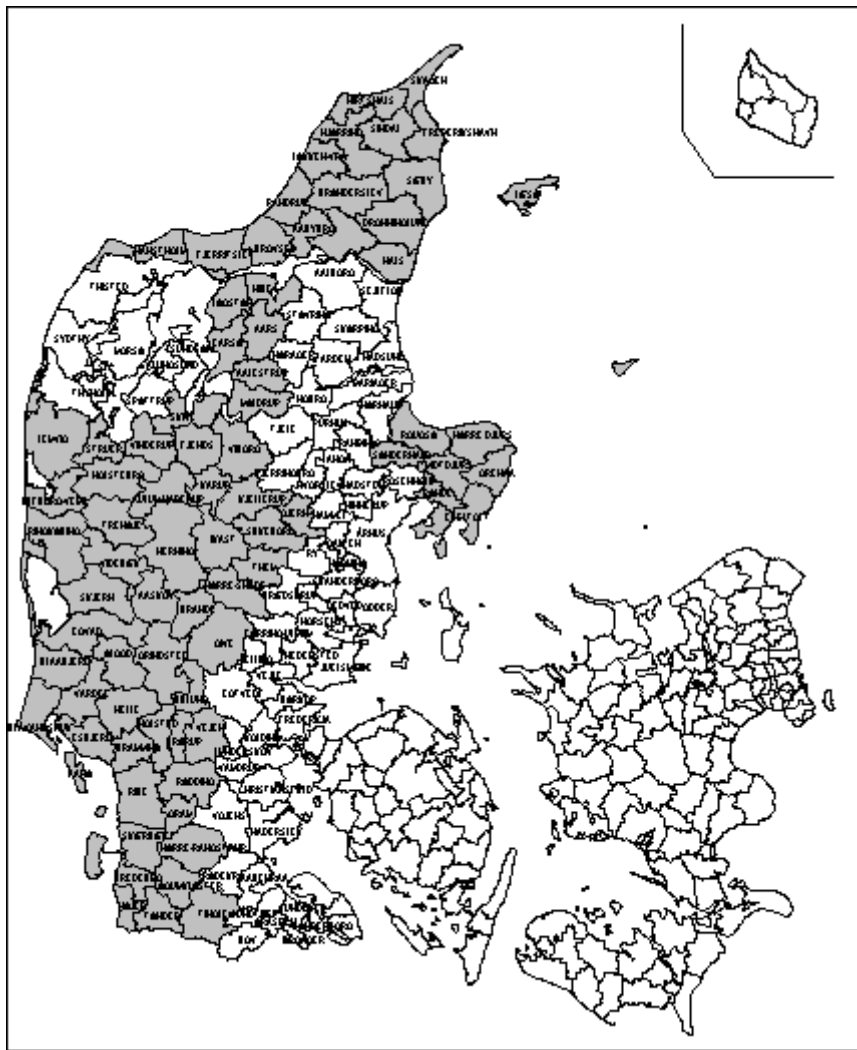
<https://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publikationer/2019/12/978-87-7038-139-0.pdf>

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<https://mst.dk/erhverv/skovbrug/lovgivning/vejledning-om-skovloven/>

MCPFE Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Resolution H1, Helsinki 1993

# Annex 1: Maps showing poor and good soils:



	Municipalities with mainly poor soils
	Municipalities with mainly good soils

## Annex 2: Native tree species

<b>Dansk navn</b>	<b>Latinsk betegnelse</b>
Navr	Acer campestre
Spidsløn	Acer platanoides
Ær (Ahorn)	Acer pseudoplatanus
Rødel	Alnus glutinosa
Vortebirk	Betula pendula
Dunbirk	Betula pubescens
Avnbøg	Carpinus betulus
Bøg	Fagus sylvestris
Ask	Fraxinus excelsior
Skovæble	Magus sylvestris
Skovfyr	Pinus sylvestris
Bævreasp	Populus tremula
Fuglekirsebær	Prunus avium
Vintereg	Quercus petrea
Stilkeg	Quercus robur
Småbladet lind	Tilia cordata

Source:

[https://lbst.dk/fileadmin/user\\_upload/NaturErhverv/Filer/Tilskud/Projektilskud/Landdistrikter/PrivatSkovrejsning/Vejledning\\_om\\_tilskud\\_til\\_privat\\_skovrejsning\\_2020.pdf](https://lbst.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/NaturErhverv/Filer/Tilskud/Projektilskud/Landdistrikter/PrivatSkovrejsning/Vejledning_om_tilskud_til_privat_skovrejsning_2020.pdf)

## Annex 3: Trees and bushes for forest fringes

Forest fringes must consist entirely of broadleaved trees and bushes. At least 20% and no more than 40% of the plant must be bushes from the list below.

### Broadleaved species:

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)  
Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)  
Downy birch (*Betula pubescens*)  
Silver birch (*Betula pendula*)  
Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)  
Common oak (*Quercus robur*)  
Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*)  
Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)  
Wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*)  
Sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*)  
Small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*)  
Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)  
Field maple (*Acer campestre*)  
Goat willow (*Salix caprea*)  
Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)  
Crab apple (*Malus silvestris*)

### Bush species:

European spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)  
Downy oak (*Lonicera xylosteum*)  
Hazel (*Coryllus avellana*)  
Sea buckthorn (*Hippophaë rhamnoides*)  
Woodland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*)  
Common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)  
Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)  
Bird cherry (*Prunus padus*)  
Common holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)  
Common dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)  
Viburnum (*Viburnum opulus*)  
Bay willow (*Salix pentandra*)  
Grey willow (*Salix cinerea*)  
Creeping willow (*Salix repens*)  
Eared willow (*Salix aurita*)  
Mountain currant (*Ribes alpinum*)  
Glaucous dog rose (*Rosa dumalis*)  
Dog rose (*Rosa canina*)  
Burnet rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*)  
Sweet briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*)  
Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)  
Alder buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*)  
Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*)

Source: *Bæredygtig skovdrift – tilskud til foryngelse af nåletræesarealer*, guide no. 2, annex 2, Danish Forest and Nature Agency