

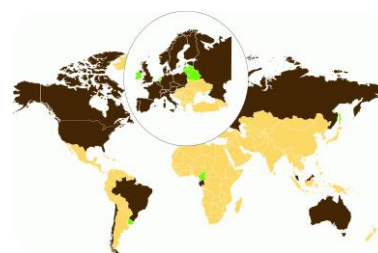
# PEFC in short

## What you should know about PEFC

### What is PEFC?

PEFC, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes, is a worldwide non-profit, non-governmental organization promoting sustainable forest management. PEFC's aim is to create a world in which people manage forests sustainably. By means of certification forest owners can show that they manage their forest sustainably according to the PEFC standard. From PEFC certified forest, certified wood can be harvested.

Chain of Custody certification for processing companies is in place to trace PEFC certified products from the certified forests through the supply chain to the final product.



### How does PEFC work?

PEFC has developed a Sustainability Benchmark for sustainable forest management based on international principles. PEFC assesses independent national certification schemes to be in compliance with the Sustainability Benchmark. Approved national schemes are endorsed and mutually recognized under the PEFC label.

PEFC currently has member offices in 35 countries of which 30 have a PEFC endorsed national scheme for certification of sustainable forest management. Every five years the national schemes have to be revised nationally and again re-assessed by PEFC thus guaranteeing continuous improvement. The PEFC Sustainability Benchmark is also subject to regular revision.

### What are PEFC's criteria?

The Benchmark criteria are not developed by PEFC itself, but consist of over 250 criteria from international intergovernmental processes in which 148 countries in total have participated.

Examples of these multistakeholder processes are: Forest Europe (European/temperate forests), ATO/ITTO (African forests) and ITTO/IUCN (tropical forests). The Benchmark also contains references to numerous international conventions: Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), CITES and the KYOTO Protocol.

In addition to economic and ecologic criteria, PEFC also demands strict social criteria:

- ❖ PEFC is the only system that requires compliance with all fundamental ILO conventions in forest management worldwide
- ❖ Forest owners shall respect the ownership and use rights of local and indigenous people
- ❖ Forest owners are required to make their management plans publicly available.



Equal attention to people, environment and economy





- ❖ Obligation to contribute to local economic development

#### Some figures:

- ❖ About 500.000 forest owners are PEFC Certified. They manage over 240 million hectares of forest, making PEFC the worlds' largest forest certification scheme. Over 8.500 companies obtained PEFC Chain of Custody certification.
- ❖ In total over 380 million ha are certified worldwide through credible third party certification (including FSC). This is almost 10% of total forest area, of which 85% is in the northern hemisphere. The challenge to increase sustainable forest management is in tropical forests.
- ❖ During the last decade an average of 13 million ha of forest has been destroyed every year.
- ❖ 80% of all animal and plant species depend on forests for their survival.



1/3 of all certified timber on the Dutch market is from PEFC certified forests

#### What makes PEFC unique?

- ❖ PEFC maintains a strict separation of standard setting, certification and accreditation in order to assure independence. Certification and accreditation are performed according to ISO standards. Certification is done by independent auditors.
- ❖ National PEFC schemes have always been developed with invitation and participation of all relevant stakeholders. All have an equal say in the consensus based decision making process.
- ❖ PEFC's provisions for regional and group certification make it the number one choice for small private and family forest owners.
- ❖ PEFC is the only scheme to have social requirements for companies in the Chain of Custody, protecting peoples' and workers' rights not only in the forest but through the whole timber, paper and biomass supply chains. This provides additional confidence to buyers of PEFC certified products.

#### Acceptance of PEFC

- ❖ **EU:** PEFC is stated as proof of sustainable origin in the EU Green Public Procurement toolkit.
- ❖ **Dutch government:** The Dutch minister of environment has accepted PEFC for public procurement, based on a positive assessment by the Timber Procurement Assessment Committee.
- ❖ **Other EU Countries:** Likewise PEFC is accepted in numerous other EU countries e.g. in Belgium, Germany, France, Finland, Denmark and the UK.
- ❖ **Dutch Green Building Council:** in BREEAM NL PEFC is a Tier one level for sustainable origin of timber.

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