

PEFC Explained



Who they are

The PEFC Council (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization, founded in 1999 to promote sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. It shares many of FSC's aims but takes a different approach. In effect, PEFC is a global umbrella organisation that assesses and endorses national forest certification schemes.

PEFC describes its approach as multi-stakeholder and lists among its core values respect for all forest ownership structures and the social, cultural, environmental and economic values they provide, respect for the social infrastructures of forest based communities, belief in free and fair market systems and recognition of the importance of economic as well as social and environmental realities.

PEFC believes that by motivating and enabling people to manage their forests sustainably - and by endorsing and certifying that process - it can provide assurance to purchasers of wood and paper products that they are promoting sustainable forest management and give society confidence in that process.

What they do

PEFC defines a framework of the standards required from national or regional forestry certification schemes and provides accreditation services for companies and organizations who meet those standards. By granting the right to certified companies to use its logo, PEFC aims to promote responsible forest management and the consumption of timber and timber products as renewable and environmentally friendly.

Support and Impact

35 national members and 30 endorsed national certification systems - in Africa, Asia, Europe, North & South America and Oceania - have joined forces under the PEFC umbrella to promote sustainable forest management. These schemes account for more than 244 million hectares of forests, producing millions of tonnes of certified timber. In addition, around 8,500 companies and organizations have achieved PEFC Chain of Custody certification, enabling PEFC to state that they are the largest global certification scheme.

For more information go to www.pefc.org