PEFC-RO ST 8000:2024-v4

PEFC Romania Sustainable Forest Management Certification Scheme

National Standard for Forest Management

PEFC Romania

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Foreword

PEFC, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, is a global organisation promoting sustainable forest management through forest management certification and labelling of forest products. Products with a PEFC declaration and/or label provide assurance that the raw materials that have been used in their manufacture come from sustainably managed forests and non-forest trees (TOFs), recycled and controlled sources.

The PEFC Council approves national and regional forest management certification schemes that comply with the requirements of the PEFC Council. The systems shall be subject to periodic assessments.

This document was developed through an open, transparent, consultative, consensus-based process, including a wide range of stakeholders, some included in the PEFC Romania Forum. Suggestions and comments from the 60-day public consultation process, which was open to all stakeholders, were taken into account.

PEFC Romania publicly commits to comply with PEFC standards for sustainable forest management and other relevant certification system requirements and to improve the sustainable forest management system.

This document cancels and replaces the 2017 version of the PEFC Romania requirements on sustainable forest management (PEFC RO STD 8000:2017).

PEFC Romania is the governance body of the national certification scheme and the standardization body. Its tasks are, in particular, to develop and further develop the Romanian certification system.

PEFC Romania members represent important interest groups from forestry, forest services, forestry unions and mountain areas.

Introduction

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

PEFC is a leading global alliance of regional and national forest management certification schemes. As an independent, international, non-profit and non-governmental organisation, it is dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification.
PEFC works along the entire forest supply chain to promote responsible forestry practices and ensure that timber and non-wood forest products are valued in compliance with the highest environmental, social and ethical standards.
At the heart of the activity is forest management certification. PEFC is the largest forest management certification scheme in the world, predominantly chosen by smallholder forest owners. PEFC was founded by small forest owners based on intergovernmental processes (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Montreal Process and ATO/ITTO process). Ensuring that small forest owners have access to forest management certification has always been at the heart of our work.
Small property owners face specific challenges, and our certification system provides solutions to meet these challenges.
As an umbrella organisation, PEFC supports regional or national forest management certification schemes that have been developed through multi-stakeholder processes and adapted to local priorities and conditions.
While national systems are developed locally, they need to be internationally recognised.
To ensure consistency with international requirements, before they can obtain approval, all national forest management certification schemes undergo rigorous third-party assessment against the sustainability criteria of the PEFC.
The imperative 'shall' is always used in this document when requirements are considered mandatory, whereas optional 'should' refers to requirements which, although not binding, will contribute decisively to meeting requirements. Likewise, the option "could" denote a permission granted by this standard, while "may" refers to an ability of the standard user or an opportunity open to the standard user.

PEFC Sustainability Milestones – Setting Global Standards

The development of international standards and guidelines is at the heart of PEFC's work. We call these standards PEFC sustainability benchmarks. All other PEFC activities are based on these standards, from providing certification solutions to assessing conformity with standard requirements and approving national systems.
Each national standard goes through a detailed and rigorous development process, is evaluated after no more than five years and revised if necessary. When developing or revising a standard, we ensure that stakeholders are invited to participate. This means that all stakeholders are represented, decisions are taken by consensus, through an open and transparent process, without any stakeholder imposing their interest from a dominant position.
The PEFC offers a wide variety of opportunities and channels to ensure that all stakeholders can be involved and stay abreast of changes to standards.
These may include:

- Participation in a standard-setting working group. Working groups are the strongest structures involved in this process, as participants are responsible for any review work;
- Regular updates, published on the PEFC website;
- Conferences and stakeholder dialogue, which can provide additional opportunities to contribute to this process;
- Outline of any standard is subject to a global public consultation 60 days.

As an association of members, all technical documentation requires the official approval of the PEFC Board of Directors and the General Assembly of PEFC Romania association members. Neither of these

two bodies has the capacity to amend the final draft submitted by the working group; they can only approve or reject it as a whole. PEFC standards, once approved, are published on the PEFC website together with a standardized report, which provides comprehensive information about the development process.

National Forest Management Certification System - Adaptation of standards to local conditions

The development of national standards in accordance with international requirements is carried out through national forest management certification systems. These include a number of standards and guidelines, such as requirements for sustainable forest management, group certification, standards setting, and more.
Through its national systems, the PEFC ensures that the sustainable forest management requirements of each country are adapted to the specificities of forest ecosystems, the legal and administrative framework, the socio-cultural context and the needs of other relevant actors.
This ensures a good representation of all stakeholders in the process; parties participating in determining what sustainable forest management means in the context of our country and how sustainable forest management can best be implemented at local level. Aspects that are locally relevant but not included in PEFC international benchmarks are also incorporated into these national standards. This is essential for PEFC as it allows those who manage certified forests to do so according to the standards they themselves have participated in developing.
Like international standard-setting processes, national standards are developed through multi-stakeholder working groups with balanced representation. These processes shall be open and transparent, led by consensus; None of the stakeholders can impose their own interest, but they can use ample opportunities for involvement.

Alignment of national standards with PEFC sustainability standards

The criteria and indicators evaluate the forest management system based on the international requirements referred to in PEFC ST 1003:2018 and are an integral part of the Romanian Forest Management Certification Scheme developed using PEFC procedures. This document replaces the "Romanian Forest Certification Scheme 2017 PEFC RO STD 8000:2017".
The development process of this standard took place between **July 2023 and May** 2024.

The criteria and indicators have been classified from I to VI, according to the main criteria for sustainable forest management. They were adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Lisbon, Portugal, 1998. The main criteria, also known as the Helsinki Criteria, are:

• Maintain and adequately improve forest resources and contribute them to global carbon cycles
• Maintaining the health and vitality of forest ecosystems
• Maintaining and encouraging the productive functions of forests (in terms of wood and non-wood products)
• Maintaining, conserving and adequately improving biological diversity in forest ecosystems
• Maintain and adequately improve protective functions in forest management (especially soil and water functions)
• Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions

PEFC approval process - Ensure alignment of national standards with the PEFC sustainability benchmark

To ensure that PEFC requirements are consistently applied at national level, all forest management certification schemes applying for PEFC approval go through a comprehensive and thorough independent evaluation and quality assurance process. This process takes an average of nine months and includes the following steps:

1. An independent assessment of the system's compliance with PEFC requirements, including a broad public consultation;
2. A quality assurance process;
3. After a system has successfully passed the evaluation and quality assurance process, the PEFC General Assembly shall vote on its approval.
The documentation on all approved systems, including the full assessment report, shall be made publicly available on the PEFC website.
Through this process, PEFC can ensure that standards meet globally accepted sustainability criteria. In practical terms, this means that wood or non-wood forest products certified under a forest management certification scheme are considered PEFC certified anywhere in the world and, when sold in the certified chain of custody, are eligible to bear the PEFC label.

Certification – Demonstration of compliance with the requirements of the standard

Certification is the actual process of validating that individuals or organisations seeking PEFC forest or chain of custody certification comply with our requirements.

Certification, in order to be credible, requires certification decisions to be impartial, independent and competent. This means that standard-setting, certification and accreditation must be completely separate to eliminate the risk of conflicts of interest and ensure the highest level of competence:

- The setting of standards and the process for defining certification requirements are carried out by PEFC Romania in collaboration with stakeholders.
- Certification, the process of verifying that a forest administrator or company meets certification requirements, is carried out by a certification body.
- The accreditation, i.e. the process of assessing the competence of the certification body, is carried out by an accreditation body with membership in the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) or by an IAF regional accreditation group.

Entities seeking to obtain PEFC certification shall demonstrate compliance with PEFC approved standards. Where compliance is demonstrated, the certification body shall issue a certificate valid for up to five years, after which operators must recertify.

Additional checks shall be carried out through annual surveillance audits to proactively verify continued compliance with PEFC requirements. Only if forest management practices and operations undertaken by the organisation continuously meet the requirements of PEFC-approved standards do entities earn the right to declare themselves "PEFC certified" and use the PEFC label.

At PEFC, we are aware that, as with any programme or activity, there may be issues of compliance with PEFC standards for forest management from time to time.

Referrals against certified entities are dealt with through complaints and redress procedures set up by certification bodies. Issues that remain unresolved at this level need to be raised to the next level of appeals to national accreditation bodies and subsequently - as a third level of appeal - to the IAF.

If a certified entity does not comply with the requirements of the PEFC, its certificate may be suspended or withdrawn. If it is considered that the certification body or an accreditation body itself has not dealt properly with a complaint, it risks losing its operating licence.

1. Scope

This document defines the Romanian national sustainability requirements for sustainable forest management, covering all ecosystem services (wood and non-wood products supply services, ecosystem regulation and cultural services). The requirements presented in this document apply to forest owners and administrators, as well as contractors and other operators operating in forests whose management is PEFC certified. They cover all management system-specific processes aimed at sustainable forest management, from forest management to harvesting of wood and non-wood forest products.

Forest owners and administrators must ensure that they have implemented certification scheme requirements demonstrating compliance with forest management standards. The minimum period for keeping records demonstrating, on the basis of evidence, compliance with these standard requirements is 5 (five) years.

Following the implementation of the requirements of the PEFC certification scheme, it is possible to use the claim "100% PEFC certified".
The claim "100% PEFC certified" can only be used by forest owners or administrators who hold a valid PEFC certificate or are members of a group certificate.
PEFC trademarks shall be used in accordance with PEFC standard ST 2001:2020 PEFC Trademark Rules – Requirements.

2. Normative references

ILO No. 87, *Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise,* 1948 ILO No. 29, *Forced Labour Convention,* 1930
ILO No. 98, *Convention on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining* 1949 ILO No. 100, *Equal Pay Convention,* 1951
ILO No. 105, *Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labour,* 1957
ILO No. 111, *Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention,* 1958 ILO No. 138, *Minimum Age Convention,* 1973
ILO No. 169, *Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples,* 1989 ILO No. 182, *The Worst Forms of Child Labour,* 1999
ISO/IEC Guide 59:2019: Recommended practices for standardisation by national bodies
ISO/IEC 17021-1, Conformity *assessment — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems — Part 1: Requirements*
United Nations, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,* 2007 United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights,* 1948
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2004
PEFC ST 1001, *Setting standards — Requirements*
PEFC ST 1002, *Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements*
PEFC GD 1007, *Mutual approval and recognition of national schemes and their revision*
PEFC ST 2001, PEFC Trademark Rules – Requirements
PEFC ST 2002, *Forest Products Based Chain of Custody - Requirements*
ISO Guide 2, *Standardisation and related activities — General vocabulary*
The Constitution of Romania,
The 2024 Forestry Code (as currently amended) and subsequent regulations,
Hunting Act 407/2006 (as currently amended)
Nature protection regulations, including the Natural Protected Areas Act 57/2007 (as currently amended)
Water Act 1996 (as currently amended)
Legislation on plant protection products and substances
Tax Code of 2015 (as currently amended)
Labour Code 2003 (as currently amended)
Technical regulations (norms) in forestry
International treaties and declarations ratified by Romania
Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Law no.171/2010 (as currently amended) on the establishment and sanctioning of forestry contraventions
Minister order 2533/2022 TECHNICAL RULES of September 28, 2022 regarding the compositions, schemes and technologies of forest regeneration and afforestation of degraded lands

To ensure compliance with PEFC ST 1003:2018, this standard provides an overview of applicable legislation and its relation to specific requirements within PEFC-RO ST 8000:2024. The table below links key legislative elements to the relevant sections of the standard, ensuring that each requirement is substantiated by legal provisions.

Legislation	Relevant Legal Provisions	Corresponding PEFC-RO ST 8000:2024 Requirement
Forest Code (Law 331/2024, updated)	Defines forest management regulations, sustainable use, and conservation obligations.	Sections 4.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3.1, 8.1 (Sustainable Forest Management, Harvesting Limits, and Forest Protection)
Hunting Act (Law 407/2006, updated)	Regulates wildlife management and hunting within forests.	Section 8.2 (Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality)
Protected Areas Act (OUG nr. 57/2007/Law 49/2011, updated)	Establishes protected areas and restrictions on forest exploitation in conservation zones.	Section 8.4 (Maintenance or appropriate improvement of protective functions in forest management (especially soil and water))
Water Act (Law 107/1996, updated)	Protects water bodies and requires forest management practices to maintain water quality.	Section 6.2 (Water Protection and Soil Conservation)
Law no.171/16.07.2010 Chapter IV Art.9 letter b) on the establishment and sanctioning of forestry contraventions	It is consider an offence - lighting a fire in the national forest fund in places other than those specially arranged and marked or at a distance of less than 30 meters from the forest boundary	Section 8.2.3 (Using fires in the forest)
Labour Code (Law 53/2003, updated)	Ensures workers' rights, health and safety in forestry operations.	Section 6.3.4, 8.6.3 (Health, safety and working conditions)
Minister order 2533/2022 TECHNICAL RULES of September 28, 2022 regarding the compositions, schemes and technologies of forest regeneration and afforestation of degraded lands	Art.4 alin (1) When choosing the species for afforestation, the correlation of the functions that the respective crops must fulfill with the requirements of the species and the specifics of the natural conditions is taken into account. alin. (4) The ecological group is determined according to the floor or bioclimatic zone and the data from the forestry management, as follows: a) the type of resort (TS) is determined based on: (i) elements obtained by drawing up the station record and eventually by special station charting; (ii) the indications provided by woody and herbaceous vegetation - type of forest, type of indicator flora; (iii) stationary factors that limit growth; b) the fundamental	Section 8.1.6 (a-h) of the Benchmark - conversion of degraded forests to forest plantations is not applicable in the context of Romania as legislation prevents it.

	natural type of forest (TP) is determined based on: (i) data from forest management plans or other documents/studies; (ii) the characterization elements of the existing natural vegetation; (iii) investigations carried out in neighboring stands, with similar seasonal conditions; (iv) the characterization elements of the indicator flora specific to the fundamental natural type of forest; (v) other information.	

3. Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions in ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 shall apply together with the following definitions:

3.1. Affected Stakeholders

An individual, group, community that could be directly affected by changes in living and/or working conditions as a result of the implementation of a standard, or an entity that could use a standard and therefore be subject to its requirements.

Note 1: Affected stakeholders include forest-neighbouring communities, forest workers, etc. However, having an interest in the application of the standard (e.g. NGOs, scientific community, civil society) is not considered to be affected by the application of the standard.

Note 2: A stakeholder who could be a user of the standard is likely to become a certified entity, e.g. a forest administrator in the case of a forest management standard or a timber processing company in the case of a chain of custody standard.

3.2. Afforestation

Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land that, until then, was under a different land use, implies a transformation of land use form non-forest to forest. (source: FAO 2018, Terms and definitions FRA 2020).

3.3. Certified surface

The forest area included in the forest management certification scope in accordance with this standard (PEFC-RO DST 8000:2023).

3.4. Degraded forest

Land with long-term significant reduction of the overall potential to supply benefits from the forest, which includes carbon storage, wood, biodiversity and other goods and services (definition based on FAO 2003).
Structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of:
a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests; or
b) primary forests into planted forests (EUDR).
Note: primary forest means virgin forest or qvasi-virgin forest..

3.5. Ecologically important forest areas

a) virgin and quasi-virgin forests included in the National Catalogue of Virgin and Quasi-Virgin Forests;
b) scientific reserves;
c) stands in nature reserves with strict protection regime;
d) stands declared natural monuments;
e) stands in strictly protected and fully protected areas of natural protected areas;

f) junipers from the national forest fund (NFF).

Note: Are considered ecologically important: habitat trees, trees of special value identified as such in various normative acts, outstanding trees outside national forest fund, trees from ageing islands and such, as well as natural marginal habitats of conservative value found on non-productive land in NFF.

3.6. Ecosystem services

Benefits obtained from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fibre; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling (based on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005).

3.7. Forest

Is considered to be forest, land in the national forest fund with an area of at least 0,5 ha, covered with trees reaching a minimum height of 5 m at maturity under normal growing conditions.
The following shall be assimilated to forests:

a) land classified in the national forest fund as forests or as protective forest belts, even if they do not meet the area criterion;

b) land included in the national forest fund on which junipers are installed, even if they do not meet the minimum height criterion.

3.8. Forest conversion

Direct man-made change of forests to land for another purpose or forest plantations.

Note: Regeneration by planting or direct seeding and/or human promotion of natural seed sources for those dominant species that existed in the past is not considered a conversion.

3.9. Forest plantation

Forest plantation means a 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, which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble naturally regenerating forests (EUDR)

3.10. Planted forest

Planted 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 (EUDR)

3.11. Fundamental ILO conventions

Eight conventions (ILO 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182) identified by the ILO's Governing Body as "fundamental" in terms of principles and rights at work: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

3.12. Genetically modified trees

Trees in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination, taking into account applicable legislation providing a specific definition of genetically modified organisms.

Note 1: The following techniques are considered as genetic modifications resulting in genetically modified trees (EU Directive 2001/18/EC):

1) recombinant nucleic acid techniques involving the formation of new combinations of genetic material by the insertion of nucleic acid molecules produced by whatever means outside an organism, into any virus, bacterial plasmid or other vector system and their incorporation into a host organism in which they do not naturally occur, but in which they are capable of continued propagation;
2) techniques involving the direct introduction into an organism of heritable material prepared outside the organism including micro-injection, macro-injection, and micro-encapsulation;
3) cell fusion (including protoplast fusion) or hybridisation techniques where live cells with new combinations of heritable genetic material are formed through the fusion of two or more cells by means of methods that do not occur naturally.

Note 2: The following techniques are not considered as genetic modifications resulting in genetically modified trees (EU Directive 2001/18/EC):

1) in vitro fertilization;
2) natural processes such as: conjugation, transduction, transformation;
3) polyploidy induction.

3.13. Integrated pest management (MID)

Careful consideration of all available plant protection methods and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of populations of harmful organisms and keep the use of plant protection products and other forms of intervention to levels that are economically and ecologically justified and reduce or minimise risks to human health and the environment (Directive 2009/128/EC, 21 October 2009).

3.14. Landscape

A socio-ecological system that consists of a mosaic of natural and/or human-modified ecosystems, with a characteristic configuration of topography, vegetation, land use, and settlements that is influenced by the ecological, historical, economic and cultural processes and activities of the area. (source: Scherr et al. 2013).

3.15. Forest management plan

Documented information specifying objectives, actions and control arrangements concerning the management of ecosystem resources and services for a set period of time.

3.16. Management system

Set of procedures and documents used by the organisation to implement certification objectives

3.17. Non-forest ecosystem

Land that does not meet the criteria for defining forest.

3.18. Non-wood forest products

Products consisting of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from forests and trees outside forests (source: FAO 2017 follow-up).

3.19. Organisation

The entity or group of entities that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its objectives.

Note 1: An organisation applies for PEFC certification and is responsible for compliance with PEFC sustainable forest management requirements and can be responsible for several forest management units.

Note 2: An administrator is the person who legally leads, controls, and represents an organisation.

Note 3: The owner can also take on the role of an organisation.

Note 4: For the purposes of the standard, the organisation is a clear structure that applies/wishes to implement the requirements of the PEFC standard.

3.20. Reforestation

Process of renewal of stands by replacing an old generation of trees with a new one; It can be done naturally, artificially or mixed.

Note 1: Artificial regeneration: renewing forest stands through artificial means, such as direct seeding or planting of seedlings, cuttings, or saplings

Note 2: Natural regeneration: The process of renewing forest stands through natural means, such as seedlings, shoots, or suckers.

3.21. Interested parties

An individual, group, community or organisation that is interested in the development, content and application of the standard.

3.22. Standardising body

Body that has recognised activities in standardisation.

Note: A standardising body for a forest management certification system/standard is a body which is responsible for the development and maintenance of standards for the forest certification system. In the case of Romania, the role of the standardization body is fulfilled by the National Governance Body of the PEFC standard, represented by the PEFC Romania Association.

3.23. Audit

Systematic, independent, and documented process for gathering the necessary information to objectively assess them, in order to determine the extent to which the requirements of the standard have been met.

3.24. PEFC certificate

Document issued for certification of an organisation by an independent certification body, declaring conformity with the requirements of PEFC standards.

3.25. Criteria for forest management assessment

Conditions that should be met to confirm that the area included in the certification is managed sustainably.

3.26. Indicators

Quantitative, qualitative or descriptive parameters used to assess compliance with criteria defined by PEFC standards.

3.27 Specific forestry activities

All planned operations related to forest management, including silviculture, harvesting, conservation, infrastructure maintenance, and monitoring, aimed at ensuring sustainable use and protection of forest resources.

3.28 Production fund

Production fund refers to the totality of trees and forest stands within a forest, to the extent that they serve as a means of production or perform protective functions.

4. Management system requirements

In this and subsequent chapters, the term "organisation" refers to the natural or legal person who implements the requirements of this Standard.

4.1. General requirements

4.1.1. The organisation shall establish and maintain a management system to ensure compliance with the requirements of the standard.
4.1.2. The organisation shall determine the scope (purpose) of the management system by defining its boundaries and responsibilities.
Note: The requirements of sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 shall be implemented by organisations seeking individual certification for sustainable forest management under PEFC. For group certification of sustainable forest management according to PEFC-RO DST 8010:2023, compliance with these requirements is the responsibility of the Group Administrator, not its members.
4.1.3. The organisation shall provide evidence of compliance with the requirements of this standard.
4.1.4. The management system shall be clear, performance based and auditable;

4.2. Communication on origin and sale of certified products.

4.2.1. Only organisations holding a valid PEFC Forest Management Certificate may communicate PEFC-certified origin data of products originating from an area included in the certification scope.
4.2.2. The organisation shall use the "100% PEFC certified" statement to communicate to customers the PEFC-certified origin of products in an area covered by the certificate scope.
Note: In case of customers from Romania and Moldova, the claim can be translated into Romanian language "100% certificat PEFC "; abbreviations and translations approved by the PEFC Council, of the statement "100% PEFC certified", are available on the www.pefc.org website.
4.2.3. Only products originating from areas covered by the PEFC certificate shall be marketed with the claim "100% PEFC certified". The use of this claim is excluded when selling products from areas not included in certification scope.
4.2.4. Upon delivery, the organisation shall provide the customer holding a valid PEFC Chain of Custody certificate, allowing him to register the PEFC-certified origin of products, a document that shall include the following:
a) Identification elements of the supplier;
b) Product identification elements (species, assortment);
(c) The quantity of products;
d) Delivery information: delivery date, delivery period or payment due date;
e) Identification elements of the recipient;
(f) The "100% PEFC certified" claim for each product originating from an area included in the certification scope;
g) Number of valid PEFC certificate.
Note 1: The document may be represented by the invoice, the transport document, or any other document containing the above information.
Note 2: The PEFC certificate number is a numeric or alpha-numeric combination and is a unique identifier thereof.
4.2.5. The organisation shall provide the client holding a PEFC Chain of Custody certificate with any relevant information requested (such as the geolocation of the plot or the polygon in case of area larger than 4 hectares) allowing him to carry out information collection and risk analysis within his PEFC Due Diligence System (PEFC DDS).
4.2.6. The organisation shall identify stakeholders relevant to sustainable forest management and their needs and expectations. In case of group PEFC certification, this activity is performed by the Group Administrator.

4.3. Certified log-yards

4.3.1. If certified timber is transported by the organisation to its own log-yard without changing ownership, when there is a risk of mixing it with other materials, the organisation shall apply the method of physical separation of certified and non-certified timber and may use the forest management certification number when selling certified material from the log-yard.

Note1: The physical separation method is defined by PEFC standard ST2002:2020 for PEFC Chain of Custody.
Note 2: If the timber is processed (timber, beams, chipping, etc.), then the organisation shall apply for Chain of Custody certification. For the sale of round wood and firewood assortments, there is no need to certify the chain of custody.

5. Leadership

5.1. The organisation shall provide a written commitment that:

a) comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the certification system (see PEFC-RO DS 8000 2024 Commitment);

b) continuously improve the sustainable forest management system.

5.2. Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.

5.3. The commitment shall be made publicly available.

Note: In case of group certification, the requirements of sections 5.1 and 5.3 are implemented by signing a contractual commitment or agreement of each participant and publishing it on the PEFC Romania website or, if available, on its own website.

5.4. The organisation should promote and explain as much as possible what forest certification and voluntary commitment to it is, including signage on information boards displayed in certified forests and the use of PEFC promotional labels.

6. Planning

6.1. Actions to address risks and opportunities

6.1.1. The organisation shall consider risks and opportunities concerning compliance with the requirements for sustainable forest management. The size and scale of the organisation's operations shall be taken into account.
6.1.2. The inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained in accordance with applicable legal requirements and in accordance with the requirements described in this standard.
6.1.3. For the service providers, such as harvesting of timber or non-wood products, planting and execution of forestry works and management activities, the organisation shall ensure that providers have contractually committed to comply with sustainable forest management requirements according to PEFC standards.

6.2. Management plan

6.2.1. The management plan is equivalent to „Amenajament silvic” - the forest management plan elaborated according to Romanian legislation.
Note: Only forests that have a management plan (Amenajament) can be PEFC certified.
6.2.2. Management plans shall:
a) elaborated and periodically updated or continually adjusted;
b) correspond to the size and use of the forest area;
c) based on applicable local, national and international legislation as well as existing land-use or other official plans; and
d) adequately covering forest resources
6.2.3. The management plan shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area.
6.2.4. The management plan shall include at least a description of the actual production unit, the long-term objectives and the allowable harvest, including its justification.
6.2.5. The allowable annual possibility of non-wood forest products shall be included in the

management plan, where non-wood forest products will be economically exploited, this will be made at a sustainable level in the long term.
6.2.6. Management plans shall specify ways and means to reduce to minimum the impact on forest ecosystems.
6.2.7. A summary of the management plan shall be publicly available and shall include information on the general objectives and principles of forest management.
Note: The summary of the publicly available management plan may exclude commercially and personally confidential information and other information rendered confidential by applicable legislation for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive features of natural resources.

6.3. Compliance requirements

6.3.1. Legal compliance

6.3.1.1. The organisation shall identify and have access to applicable forestry legislation and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the organisation.
6.3.1.2. The organisation shall comply with applicable local, national and international legislation on forest management, including but not limited to forest management practices, nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights, affected local communities or other stakeholders; occupational health and safety issues, anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.
6.3.1.3. Upon detection of illegal activities, the organisation shall immediately inform the competent state authorities and take appropriate measures to prevent them.
6.3.1.4. The organisation shall implement measures to ensure the protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, fires and other illegal activities.
6.3.1.5. In the situation where violations of the law occur, namely in the case of crimes to the forestry regime, of corruption or fraud, where the criminal investigation has been initiated, the owners or administrators of the area in question will not sell certified materials from these areas. This restriction is valid as long as there is a suspicion that the possible crime has been committed by its own personnel who are still within the organisation and participate in the forest management process. The restriction also applies in the case of serious violations of occupational safety and health legislation due to the fault of the organisation's own staff, which led to incapacity to work or death, according to the legislation.
Note 1: Compliance with occupational safety and health (SSM) legislation required for PEFC certification is not the responsibility of the forest owner or administrator if the persons involved are employed by other organisations performing activities in certified areas.
Note 2: By serious violations of occupational safety and health legislation mean legally established intent or gross negligence on the part of the forest owner or administrator.

6.3.2. Legal, customary and traditional rights related to forest land

6.3.2.1. Land ownership rights shall be clearly defined, documented and established. Legal, customary and traditional rights related to forest land shall also be clarified, recognised and respected.

Note: Guidelines for the management of property agreements can be obtained from the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. FAO.com-2022).
6.3.2.2. Specific forestry activities shall be carried out in compliance with the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights, as outlined in ILO 169, which shall not be infringed upon without the free, prior and informed consent of the right, including the provision of compensation where applicable. If the status of rights is not yet resolved or is in dispute, there are lawsuits for a fair and equitable settlement.
6.3.2.3. Specific forestry activities shall respect human rights as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Note: In Romania, the requirements of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been incorporated into laws and regulations.

6.3.3. ILO Core Conventions

6.3.3.1. Specific forestry activities shall comply with ILO (International Labour Organisation) core conventions.

Note: In Romania, ILO core conventions have been incorporated into laws and regulations.

6.3.4. Health, safety and working conditions

6.3.4.1. Specific forestry activities shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accidents risks to be identified, followed by the application of all reasonable measures to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.

6.3.4.2. Working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those with a task in forestry operations. Working hours and leave shall comply with national law or applicable collective agreements.

Note: Guidelines for specifying national standards can be obtained from the ILO Code of Good Practice: Safety and Health in Forestry-ILO.org-1998.

6.3.4.3. Wages of local and migrant forest workers as well as of contractors and other operators operating in PEFC certified areas shall exceed at least the national minimum wage required by legislation or, as the case may be, collective agreements.

6.3.4.4. The organisation shall be committed to ensuring equal opportunities and eradicating discrimination, unwanted sexual harassment behaviour and disrespect. Gender equality shall be promoted.

Note: Unwanted sexual harassment behaviour and disrespect consists of any unwanted verbal, non-verbal or sexual harassment and/or disrespect behaviour in the workplace, if the purpose or result of such conduct is to violate a person's dignity, humiliate or create an offensive environment.

7. Support

7.1. Resource

7.1.1. The organisation shall establish and provide the resources necessary for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continuous improvement of the sustainable forest management system.

7.2. Competence

7.2.1. The organisation shall ensure that forest managers, forest owners, employees and contractors receive regular training applicable to all relevant jobs and/or sufficient information on sustainable forest management (including training on environmental protection, maintenance of biodiversity as well as forest regeneration and care, etc.).

Note: If the organisation is the owner, the requirement refers to the administrator, and if the organisation is the administrator, the requirement refers to its employees.

7.2.2. The organisation should consider possibilities for participating in informative or educational campaigns on the multi-purpose use of wood resources, including renewable energy.

7.2.3. The organisation should be regularly informed about innovations and novelties in forest management, especially those related to adaptation to climate change, maintenance of soil functionality, conservation of biodiversity, maintenance of species and habitats.

7.2.4. The organisation shall provide training for personnel involved in forestry activities to ensure the application of the requirements of PEFC standards, the importance of quality work in the forest and basic first aid techniques.

7.2.5. In the case of group certification for forest management, the organisation shall:

a) be able to respond to complaints received directly by the participant regarding forestry operations, land use rights and working conditions.

b) to be able to respond to complaints received indirectly through the Group

Administrator in order to facilitate its resolution.
7.2.6. In the case of individual certification for sustainable forest management, the organisation shall be able to respond to and resolve complaints related to forest operations, land-use rights and working conditions.
7.2.7. The organisation shall maintain all relevant documents, keep them up to date and archive them in order to document operations performed and choices made in relation to the current standard for a period of 5 (five) years.

7.3. Communication

7.3.1. The organisation shall maintain communication with affected stakeholders and stakeholders about sustainable forest management, answer their questions, and maintain documented information.

Note 1: Documented information includes minutes of meetings as well as mutual correspondence.

Note 2: The exchange of information in writing will be kept for at least 5 years.

7.4. Complaints

7.4.1. The organisation shall establish appropriate publicly available mechanisms for dealing with complaints relating to forest management operations, land-use rights and working conditions. Written and documented complaints regarding forest management will be evaluated and will receive a written response within 30 days of submission.

7.5. Documented information

7.5.1. The organisation's management system shall include documented information required by the standard and established by the organisation as necessary to confirm the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.
7.5.2. The documented information shall be relevant and updated as appropriate, to the activities of the organisation.

8. Operation

8.1. Criterion 1: Maintenance or appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle

8.1.1. Sustainable use of forests according to assigned functions

8.1.1.1. For areas over 10 hectares included in the certification scope, there shall be forest management plans approved and updated in compliance with technical norms and guides of good practice in the field.

Specific indicators: 3.4.a, 1.1.a, 1.2. a

8.1.1.2. The area included in the certification scope shall be identifiable in relation with the categories of use and functions assigned.

Specific indicators: 1.1. c, 1.1. d, 5.1. a, 5.2. a, 5.3. a, 5.4. a

8.1.1.3. The management measures provided shall take into account the functions assigned by forest management plans.

Specific indicators: 1.1.d, 3.5.a, 3.5. b

8.1.1.4. Where appropriate, forest owners and/or administrators should take all necessary steps to find solutions and harmonize the measures established in forest management plans and management plans of protected natural areas.

Specific indicators: 3.4. a, 4.2. d

8.1.1.5. The conversion of forests to other land uses will only take place in justified circumstances where it will not have a negative impact on threatened forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas.

Forest conversion shall take place only in justified circumstances where:

a) is in compliance with applicable national policy and legislation for land use and forest management and is the result of national land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority.

b) is established following a process, where affected stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to conversion decisions through transparent and participatory consultation processes;

c) entails a small proportion (not more than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area;

d) does not have negative impact on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas or other protected areas;

e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and

f) contributes in the long term to conservation, economic and social benefits.

Specific indicators: 4.2.a, 4.2.b, 4.2.c, 4.2.d, 5.4.a, 6.5.a, 6.6.a

8.1.1.6. Afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:

a) is in accordance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is the result of national land-use planning governed by a governmental authority, or by another official authority;

b) is established following a process, where affected stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to conversion decisions through transparent and participatory consultation processes;

c) does not have a negative impact on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) non-forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas;

d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by organisation;

e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic and social benefits.

Specific indicators:1.1.a, 4.2.d

8.1.2. The production fund is maintained or increased qualitative and quantitative

8.1.2.1. Through forest management plan shall be ensured that the size of the production fund is increased in accordance with the economic, ecological and social functions established.

Specific indicators: 1.2.a, 1.2.b

8.1.2.2. The forest management plan shall ensure that forest resources and the forest's carbon storage capacity are maintained in the medium and long term, through a balance between harvest and growth.

Specific indicators: 1.2.a

8.1.2.3. The volume of wood harvested as principal products in a management unit

may not exceed the possibility of this unit, established through forest management plan, for its period of validity, according to the legislation in force.

Specific indicators: 3.1.a, 1.2.b, 3.5.b

8.1.3. The structure of the stand and forest reflects the implementation of planning principles

8.1.3.1. The forest/forest found area included in the certification scope shall be identifiable in relation to its structure by age classes and the current character of the forest type.

Specific indicators: 1.3.a, 1.3.b

8.1.3.2. The technical solutions from the forest management plans aim to achieve a balanced distribution of forest area by age classes, ensuring continuity of harvests and long-term functions.

Specific indicators: 1.3.a

8.1.3.3. The forest owner/administrator shall implement appropriate management measures in order to reduce the share of total derived, partially derived and under-productive stands.

Specific indicators: 1.3.b, 2.2.b, 4.3.a

8.2. Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality

8.2.1. Surveillance of the health state and vitality of forest ecosystems

8.2.1.1. Forest management shall ensure the health and vitality of forests, and degraded forest ecosystems shall be rehabilitated whenever necessary, and to the extent that is economically possible making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures.

Specific indicators: 2.1.c, 2.1.d, 2.1.e, 2.1.f

8.2.1.2. Technical solutions in forest management plans shall aim to encourage or maintain a genetic diversity of species and appropriate structures in order to strengthen the stability, vitality and resilience of forests to adverse environmental factors and to strengthen natural regulatory mechanisms.

Specific indicators: 4.1.b, 4.1.c, 4.1e

8.2.1.3. All abiotic, biotic or anthropic factors that affect the health, productivity, and stability of the forest shall be continuously monitored, tracking the area affected, the frequency and intensity of the factor, as well as the impact it creates on the stand.

Specific indicators: 2.1.a

8.2.1.4. The occurrence, evolution and harmful influences on forests shall be monitored for the following factors:

- Abiotic factors: wind and snow (downfalls, ruptures), very low negative temperatures, drought, high temperatures, landslides; floods and fires;

- Biotic factors: microfauna (insects, mites, gastropods, etc.), phytopathogens, animals of hunting interest and macrofauna species (rodents, birds, herbivorous mammals, etc.), domestic animals;

- Anthropic factors: forest management (e.g. exploitation damage) and forms of pollution, inorganic waste and garbage.

Specific indicators: 2.1.b, 2.1.c, 2.1.d, 2.1.e, 2.1.f

8.2.2. Integrated control of forest damaging factors

8.2.2.1. Integrated forest protection is based on systematic prevention and adequate

control from ecologically point of view of harmful factors. It consists of preventive and curative protection measures, complemented by preventive silvicultural measures, sanitary or other appropriate measures.

Specific indicators: 2.2.a

8.2.2.2. The improvement and maintenance of the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and the rehabilitation (reconstruction) of degraded forest ecosystems shall be carried out, wherever possible, through silvicultural measures.

Specific indicators: 2.2.b

8.2.2.3. Forest ecosystems disturbed due to the combination of the effect of harmful biotic, abiotic and anthropic agents shall be subject to restoration measures.

Specific indicators: 2.2.b

8.2.3. Biological and chemical control

8.2.3.1. The use of chemicals is limited by national and international regulations for use. It is not allowed to use herbicides and pesticides that are prohibited by international conventions. Usage of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides is prohibited.

Specific indicators: 2.3.a

8.2.3.2. Integrated pest management, appropriate silvicultural measures or biological methods shall be preferred, to minimise pesticide use. Any use of pesticides shall be documented.

Specific indicators: 2.3.b, 2.3.c

8.2.3.3. Fertilizers or growth-stimulating substances shall be applied in a controlled manner and in compliance with environmental conditions. Fertilizer use shall not be an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.

Specific indicators: 2.3.d

8.2.3.4. All chemicals shall meet standards, thresholds and conditions (hygienic, toxicological and ecological) for nature protection.

Specific indicators: 2.3.a

8.2.3.5. The use of pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their destination, as well as any pesticides prohibited by international agreements is prohibited.

Note: 'Pesticides banned by international agreements' are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Specific indicators: 2.3.a

8.2.3.6. The use of pesticides shall follow the manufacturer's instructions and be used with appropriate equipment by trained personnel.

Specific indicators: 6.3.b

8.3. Criterion 3: Maintaining and encouraging the productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood products)

8.3.1. Growing and harvesting of wood

8.3.1.1. The volume of harvested wood shall not exceed a level that can be quantitatively sustained in the long term, and the use of forest products will be done in an optimal way, taking into account the extraction of nutrients.

Specific indicators: 3.1.a

8.3.1.2. There shall be a balance between growth and harvested volume over the last 10 years; felling may exceed the growth only in cases provided for by the regulations in force.

Specific indicators: 3.1.a

8.3.1.3. Economic performance shall be followed, taking into account the possibilities provided by new markets and economic activities capitalising on all relevant goods and services of the forest.

Specific indicators: 3.3.a

8.3.1.4. Management, harvesting and regeneration operations shall be carried out at a time and in a manner that does not reduce production capacity, for example by avoiding damage to standing soil and trees.

Specific indicators: 3.5 c, 3.5d

8.3.2. Non-wood products

8.3.2.1. The quantity of non-wood products harvested from forest flora or fauna shall not exceed a level that can be sustained in the long term, and the use of forest products will be done in an optimal way, taking into account the extraction of nutrients.

Specific indicators: 3.2.a, 3.2.b

8.3.2.2. The use of non-wood products shall be limited to an ecologically sustainable level.

Specific indicators: 3.2.a, 3.2.b, 3.2.c

8.3.2.3. The extraction of forest products, of non-biological origin, is done on the basis of legal approvals, in compliance with environmental requirements.

Specific indicators: 3.2.b

8.3.2.4. Harvesting resin for commercial purposes is not allowed in certified forests.

Specific indicators: 3.2.b

8.3.3. Marketable forest services

8.3.3.1. The marketable services (tourism services, leasing, educational services, etc.) shall only be used to an extent which will not jeopardise sustainable forest management, taking into account all available market studies and possibilities provided by new markets and economic activities in relation to relevant ecosystem services in the forestry sector.

Specific indicators: 3.3.a

8.3.4. Managed forests

8.3.4.1. The forest management system is based on a detailed study, maps and forest management plans according to legal requirements.

Specific indicators: 3.4.a

8.3.4.2. Periodically, monitoring of the implementation of the management plans is carried out, and their results shall be taken into account when developing new plans.

Specific indicators: 3.4.a

8.3.5. Management techniques and technologies

8.3.5.1. Silvicultural treatments, tending and conducting forest stand shall be carried out in such a manner that maintains the long-term productivity of the stand and is carried out using appropriate silvicultural measures and preferring techniques that minimise adverse impacts on forest resources. Whenever possible, practical measures shall be taken to maintain or enhance biological diversity.

Specific indicators: 3.5.a, 3.5.b

8.3.5.2. Adequate infrastructure, such as forest roads, collecting routes or bridges/culverts, shall be planned, built and maintained to ensure efficient transport of goods and services. It aims to minimize the negative impact on the environment. In terms of management objectives, measures are being taken to balance the pressure of wildlife and domestic animal populations on forest regeneration, growth and development, as well as biodiversity.

Specific indicators: 3.5.c, 3.5.d

8.4. Criterion 4: Maintaining, conserving and adequately improving biological diversity in forest ecosystems

8.4.1. Structural diversity

8.4.1.1. Maintaining and/or installation of mixed stands with tree species adapted to local stationary conditions shall be promoted. Pure, naturally established stands (from seed, stump shoots, drajons) are an exception to this recommendation.

Specific indicators: 4.1.a

8.4.1.2. The target composition of the stand shall include a sufficient proportion of tree species of the fundamental natural forest type.

Specific indicators: 1.3.b, 4.1.a

8.4.1.3. By applying tending and conducting forest stands activities and silvicultural treatments, rare species of trees and shrubs shall be promoted.

Specific indicators: 4.1.g

8.4.2. Threatened species

8.4.2.1. Special measures shall be taken to identify and manage forests in order to protect representative forest ecosystems, stands in protected areas, threatened species of wild animals and plants. Protected, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. If necessary, measures shall be taken to protect them and, where possible, to increase their population size.

Specific indicators: 4.2.a, 4.2.c, 4.2.d

8.4.2.2. Maps/plans of areas with high concentrations of representative ecosystems, endemic species, threatened species (of animals and plants), Natura 2000 sites, national parks, nature parks, nature reserves, UNESCO reserves, virgin and quasi-virgin forests shall be available.

Specific indicators: 4.2.b

8.4.2.3. Infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.

Specific indicators: 3.5.d, 4.2b

8.4.3. Forest regeneration

8.4.3.1. The natural regeneration of stands from seed shall be preferred. If necessary, gaps in naturally established regeneration from seed can be filled in by planting provided it is adapted to the site conditions and satisfactory from a qualitative and quantitative point of view.

Specific indicators: 4.1.a, 4.1.b, 4.3.a

8.4.3.2. Allochthone tree species can be used in artificial regeneration in compliance with the provisions of good practice guidelines/ specific technical norms regarding regeneration/afforestation target compositions.

Specific indicators: 4.1.c

8.4.3.3. Allochthone tree species may be used in mixed stands if they do not affect by their natural regeneration the regeneration capacity of native tree species, that lead to their elimination.

Specific indicators: 4.1.c

8.4.3.4. Forest seeds and saplings used for the installation of forestry crops shall have known and verifiable origins. It shall come from stands – seed sources or forest plantations included in the National Catalogue of Forest Reproductive Materials.

Specific indicators: 4.3.b

8.4.3.5. Genetically modified trees shall not be used in artificial forest regeneration activities.

Specific indicators: 4.1.h

8.4.4. Biological diversity

8.4.4.1. Silvicultural treatments shall promote irregular and mixed stands, with diverse horizontal and vertical structures, will aim to maintain, conserve or improve biodiversity at landscape, ecosystem, species and genetics levels.

Specific indicators: 4.1.e

8.4.4.2. Clear-cuts shall only be applied on a small scale, to certain tree species, in small plots and under the conditions provided by the forestry legislation in force.

Specific indicators: 3.5.a, 4.3.a

8.4.4.3. The coppice treatments (simple or stool) shall be applied only to certain tree species, under the conditions provided by the forestry legislation in force.

Specific indicators: 3.5.a, 4.3.a

8.4.4.4. An adequate number of habitat trees (standing dry trees, hollow trees, trees of rare species) will be preserved and protected for the conservation of biological diversity. Their number shall not lead to economic disadvantages for the forest owner.

Note: Through adequate number to be understood a minimum of 5 trees/hectare.

Specific indicators: 4.1.d

8.4.4.5. When choosing biotope trees, aspects related to forest protection, occupational safety at forestry works and forest roads will also be taken into account.

Specific indicators: 4.1.d

8.4.4.6. Populations of game species shall be maintained at adequate levels in accordance with the legislation in force in order to avoid significant harm to young natural or artificial regeneration and standing trees.

Specific indicators: 2.1.a, 2.1.c

8.4.4.7. Grazing in the forest of domestic animals is possible only in compliance with the provisions of the forestry legislation in force.

Specific indicators: 2.1.a, 2.1.c

8.5. Criterion 5: Maintenance or appropriate improvement of protective functions in forest management (especially soil and water)

8.5.1. Water protection

8.5.1.1. The management of forests with water protection function shall ensure the support of the hydrological function of stands, avoiding negative effects on the quality and quantity of water resources, aquatic and riparian ecosystems.

Specific indicators: 1.1.c, 1.1d, 5.1.a, 3.5.a

8.5.1.2. Watercourses, sources of mineral and drinking water and accumulations of drinking or industrial water shall not be affected by forestry activities. Particular attention should be paid to riparian areas and to the quality of surface and deep waters within the perimeters of water sources.

Specific indicators: 3.5.c, 3.5.d

8.5.1.3. The management of stands in torrential river basins is a way to control runoff and reduce the impact of torrential floods on endangered social economic objectives.

Specific indicators: 1.1.d, 5.1.a

8.5.1.4. The management of forests with a water protection function shall lead to structures capable of improving the drainage regime and protect banks, floodplains of undammed watercourses, the dam-shore area and hydrotechnical installations for regulating large water courses.

Specific indicators: 1.1.d, 5.1.a

8.5.1.5. Timber harvesting technologies and related activities shall be chosen and executed in such a way that the impact on water drainage regime and water quality is minimised.

Specific indicators: 3.5.c, 3.5.d

8.5.1.6. Particular attention shall be paid to the management of harvesting debris, such as waste from forestry activities (oil, household waste, etc.), so that river beds and water remain clean. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or forestry practices that negatively influence water and its quality shall be avoided. The quantity of downstream water quality shall not be significantly affected by forestry activities.

Specific indicators: 5.1.c

8.5.1.7. In special situations, in order to ensure water protection, forest land management may include, along with specific silvotechnical activities, the implementation of complex biological, hydrotechnical and biotechnical measures in watercourses aimed to regulate runoff, retaining sediments, reduce flood discharges, etc.

Specific indicators: 5.1.b

8.5.2. Soil protection

8.5.2.1. The forest, as a land-use, ensures the best protection of soils against pluvial and wind erosion, having, under certain environmental and structural conditions, special functions of consolidating unstable terrains and soils and regulating the water balance in the soil. The way these forests are managed shall preserve and improve their protective capacities.

Specific indicators: 5.1.a

8.5.2.2. The management shall be focused on protecting the soil and reducing the

impact of forestry operations at soil level.

Specific indicators: 1.1.c, 1.1.d, 5.2.b, 3.5.a

8.5.2.3. On lands prone to erosion and landslides harvesting operations are prohibited from being conducted under thawed and moist soil conditions. Additionally, it is recommended that these operations are not carried out through skidding or dragging, regardless of soil conditions. The techniques and equipment used shall be suitable for such areas.

Specific indicators: 3.5.c, 3.5.d

8.5.2.4. In order to support forest vegetation in achieving land and soil protection objectives, forest management may also include special construction works (retaining walls, simple terraces, drainage, etc.) or biotechnical (terraces supported on brushwood fences, brushwood fascines, etc.) on vulnerable land areas and those adjacent to them.

Specific indicators: 5.2.b

8.5.2.5. The discharge of waste onto forest terrain is strictly prohibited. Inorganic waste and garbage of any kind shall be collected, stored in designated areas and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.

Specific indicators: 5.1.c

8.5.3. Infrastructure protection

8.5.3.1. In the case of forests located in the immediate vicinity of infrastructure elements of local or national interest (motorways, public roads, normal railways, waterways, cultural monuments, etc.), their management, logging techniques and technologies shall be applied without interruption of the protective effect on protected objectives, and specific technological processes shall not prejudice the forests.

Specific indicators: 5.3.a

8.5.3.2. The construction and maintenance of forest roads and access roads shall be carried out in such a way that the impact on the soil is minimal and the material resulting from excavations does not reach the watercourses. Bridges and culverts shall be used when crossing watercourses whose hydraulic section can ensure the transit of exceptional flows. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.

Specific indicators: 3.5.d

8.5.4. Other protective functions

8.5.4.1. Forest terrain drainage is recommended only in case of improving swampy or landslide-prone lands to be afforested, if there are no other viable solutions. Existing drainage may be maintained, but the protection and, where possible, ecological restoration of marshes and other wetlands of special value are encouraged.

Specific indicators: 5.4.a

8.5.4.2. For water and soil protection, the use of biodegradable hydraulic oils should be promoted. Oil or fuel leakage into water or soil during forest management operations shall be avoided. Emergency procedures shall be in place to minimise the risk of environmental damage resulting from accidental spills of oils or fuels.

Specific indicators: 5.1.c

8.5.4.3. Forests shall ensure protection against harmful climatic factors (especially those located in the steppe and forest-steppe of Romania), and against pollution.

The management of these forests must lead to strengthening the specific protective capacities of each forest area and to the creation of structures that have a positive effect on harmful climatic and industrial factors. Climate positive practices in management operations, such as greenhouse gas emission reductions and efficient use of resources shall be encouraged.

Specific indicators: 1.1.c, 1.1.d, 3.5.a, 5.4a

8.5.4.4. Areas fulfilling specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be mapped and forest area management plans and operations shall ensure that these functions are maintained or improved.

Specific indicators: 5.4.a

8.6. Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic and cultural functions and conditions.

8.6.1. Ownership, right of ownership and management

8.6.1.1. Ownership right shall be clear for any forest to be certified. The ownership right shall be full, legally indisputable and shall not be subject for further disputes, in order to not compromise the sustainability of the certified forest management.

Specific indicators: 1.1.b, 6.1.a

8.6.1.2. Forest areas for which ownership is not clarified and are in dispute shall not be included in the certification process.

Specific indicators: 6.1.a

8.6.1.3. In the case of forest areas subject to certification, regardless of the type of property, they shall be managed based on a legally accepted form of forest management planning.

Specific indicators: 3.4.a

8.6.1.4. For forest areas subject to certification, regardless of ownership form, they shall be managed/administered by a legally recognized public or private entity hereinafter referred to as the 'certified area administrator.' Only areas for which there is a service/administration contract prepared in accordance with legal provisions may be included in the certification process.

Specific indicators: 6.1.b

8.6.1.5. The administrator/owner of the certified forest shall demonstrate that the certified area has clear boundaries, materialized both on the planning map and on-site through boundary markings. Within these boundaries, property rights shall be clearly defined and proven through ownership documents.

Specific indicators: 3.4.a

8.6.2. Forest's contribution to rural development

8.6.2.1. Forest planning shall aim to respect the multiple functions offered by the forest to society, taking into account the role of the forest in rural development. Therefore, the forest planning process shall give high importance to the proper identification of all social, economic and ecological functions according to the functional zoning criteria existing in the technical norms in force at the time of certification.

Specific indicators: 3.4.a, 1.1.c, 1.1.d

8.6.2.2. Forest management and forestry operations are carried out by employing, to the extent possible, local workforce. Where feasible, local contractors will be preferred for logging and primary wood processing.

Specific indicators: 6.2.a, 6.2.b

8.6.2.3. In the forest management process, it is also recommended to capitalize on non-wood products owned by the forest land owner as an alternative source of income for both the owner and local communities.

Specific indicators: 3.2.b, 3.2.c

8.6.3. Working conditions, health and safety at work

8.6.3.1. Both the owner and administrator of the certified areas shall ensure employment under non-discriminatory conditions, in accordance with the conventions initiated by the International Labour Organisation and implemented by Romanian legislation.

Specific indicators: 6.3.a

8.6.3.2. The prevention of accidents and occupational diseases in the forestry sector is an important social aspect of sustainable management. The certified area administrator shall systematically implement and monitor occupational health and safety activities in accordance with the provisions of national legislation.

Specific indicators: 6.3.b

8.6.3.3. Work accidents occurring in the process of managing the certified area shall be recorded and analysed (in number, causes and severity). The documentation of the resolution of the causes and consequences of these accidents shall comply with legal provisions.

Specific indicators: 6.3.c

8.6.4. Forestry education and research

8.6.4.1. The administrator of the certified areas and/or the owner shall formally inform the forest contractors about the conditions imposed by the certification standard in carrying out the contracted works.

Specific indicators: 6.4.a

8.6.4.2. In Romania, forestry professional training is provided at all levels. However, the administrator of certified areas shall ensure that all employees benefit from continuous training activities that enable understanding and implementation of certification requirements stipulated in this standard.

Specific indicators: 6.4.b

8.6.4.3. The certified area administrator will support research and data collection activities necessary for sustainable management of the administered forests.

Specific indicators: 6.4.c

8.6.4.4. In the forest planning and silvicultural work execution process, the results of relevant research activities obtained either internally or disseminated by research organizations shall be used.

Specific indicators: 3.4.a

8.6.5. Recreational services

8.6.5.1. Recreational activities involving the use of motorized vehicles are allowed only with the consent of the forest owner and administrator. The administrator/ owner of certified areas will ensure access to marked trails and will appropriately signal the areas where public access is restricted to avoid potential conflicts between the public and the owner.

Specific indicators: 6.5.a, 6.5.b

8.6.5.2. In areas located in protected areas, the access of motorized vehicles shall be restricted, according to the legal provisions.

Specific indicators: 6.5b

8.6.5.3. The forest planning system shall aim to maintain and increase the quality of recreational services offered by the forest, respecting the principles of functional zoning.

Specific indicators: 1.1.c, 1.1.d, 6.5.a

8.6.5.4. In areas identified in management plans as having a recreational role, elements of structural and compositional diversity will be promoted to increase the aesthetic value of the forest.

Specific indicators: 1.1.d, 6.5.a, 3.5.a

8.6.6. Historical, spiritual and cultural values of forests

8.6.6.1. Functional zoning shall aim to assign recreational functions to forests in the vicinity of recognized historical/cultural monuments.

Specific indicators: 6.6.a

8.6.6.2. The administrator/owner of the certified area shall conduct an assessment of areas with historical, cultural, and spiritual values that may not be identified through management plans, in order to integrate forests with historical, literary, or cultural significance attested by legal documents.

Specific indicators: 6.6.a

8.6.6.3. In forest areas identified through management plans or by the administrator/owner as having historical, cultural, and spiritual values, silvicultural works will be applied to conserve the natural structure of the forests.

Specific indicators: 3.5.a

8.6.7. Public participation and information

8.6.7.1. The administrator/owner of the certified area shall develop and make available to interested parties a summary of the management bases used in the certified area, containing information regarding: the assigned functions, established production subunits, exploitable age, target composition, and treatments applied in the certified area.

Specific indicators: 6.7.a

8.6.7.2. The administrator of the certified area and/or the owner shall conduct at least once a year a consultation with interested parties (local communities, NGOs, institutions, logging and processing companies) regarding the impact of forest management.

Specific indicators: 6.7.a

8.6.7.3. The administrator of the certified area shall record, document, and address any complaints regarding deviations from the implementation of the provisions of management plans, in accordance with legal provisions.

Specific indicators: 6.7.b

8.6.7.4. Forest management planning shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or near forests, supported, where appropriate, by the involvement of local communities.

Specific indicators:6.6a

8.6.7.5. The forest experience and knowledge of innovations and traditional practices, such as those of forest owners, NGOs, and local communities, shall be optimally utilized. Fair sharing of benefits arising from the use of this knowledge is encouraged.

Specific indicators: 6.7.a, 6.7.b

8.6.7.6. The administrator/owner shall duly consider the role of forestry in local economies. Special attention is given to new opportunities for training and employment for locals.

Specific indicators: 6.2.a, 6.2.b

9. Performance evaluation

9.1. Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation

9.1.1. The monitoring of forest resources and the evaluation of their management, including ecological, social and economic effects, shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.

9.1.2. The health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.

9.1.3. Where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/administrator and included in forest management, the use of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.

9.1.4. Working conditions shall be regularly monitored and adapted as necessary.

9.2. Internal audit

9.2.1. Objectives

The organisation shall plan an internal audit programme at regular intervals providing information demonstrating that the management system:

a) conforms to:

• the organisation's requirements for its management system;

• the requirements of the national sustainable forest management standard

b) is effectively implemented and maintained.

The objectives and organization of internal audit, as well as the management of non-conformities and the implementation of corrective measures are set out in the national standard **PEFC-RO ST 8010:2024 "Group certification – Requirements"** and are also fully applicable to the individual certification of the organization.

9.2.2. Organisation

The organisation shall:

a) plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit programme(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits;

b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit;

c) select the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;

d) ensure that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management;

e) retain documented information as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.

9.3. Management review

9.3.1. The management system shall be reviewed annually and shall contain at least:

a) the status of actions from previous management system reviews;

b) changes in external and internal issues that are relevant to the management system;

c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in:
• non-conformities and corrective actions;
• monitoring and measurements results;
• audit results;
d) opportunities for continual improvement.

9.3.2. The results of the management review shall include decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system.

9.3.3. Documented information as evidence of the results of management reviews shall be retained for the period of validity of the certificate.

10. Improvement

10.1. Non-compliance and corrective actions

10.1.1. When a non-compliance occurs, the organisation shall:

a) react to non-compliance and, as applicable:
   i. take action to control and correct it;
   ii. deal with the consequences;

b) evaluate the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by:
   i. reviewing the nonconformity;
   ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity;
   iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;

c) implement any action needed;

d) review the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;

e) make changes to the management system, if necessary.

10.1.2. Corrective actions shall be appropriate to the effects of the non-conformities encountered.

10.1.3. The organisation shall keep documented information for 5 years as proof of:

a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken;

b) the results of any corrective action.

10.2. Continuous improvement

The compliance, adequacy and efficiency of the sustainable forest management system and sustainable management of the forest shall be continuously improved.

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