



PEFC news

IN THIS ISSUE - HIGHLIGHTS

PEFC global statistics

New staff members at PEFC International

Two 'International Chain-of-Custody Standard Revision workshops' announced

Comprehensive revision of core documents

Stakeholder Forum

UK, Dutch public procurement policies

National news

PEFC Update

Demand for certified forest products is increasing despite the global credit crunch. We are pleased therefore to announce the endorsement of national forest certification systems in Malaysia and Gabon to PEFC International's sustainability benchmark requirements, which will ensure that this increasing demand can be met.

Also, both the Chilean and Australian schemes have nearly completed their re-endorsement process against PEFC's sustainability benchmark requirements.

On the supply side, PEFC International has been active in providing input and advise into the development of both the Chinese and the Indian forest certification schemes. In addition, training courses for certifiers, auditors, and companies have been provided in China and Japan.

While these developments are important in promoting sustainable forest management globally and ensuring robust implementation, it is at the same time essential for an international certification system to constantly improve itself to ensure that its standards reflect the latest common understanding of society's expectations of sustainable forest management. In addition PEFC needs to ensure that the service it provides adds real value to stakeholders and customers.

To this end, a [Standards Revision Stakeholder Dialogue](#) has been organised in Geneva on 27th May to which a wide range of stakeholders, including environmental and social NGOs, and procurement officials, amongst others have been invited to share their expectations of the periodic PEFC Standards Revision process.

Furthermore, PEFC will hold global public consultation seminars on its international chain of custody standard, which is the vital link between sustainably managed certified forests and the final consumer, in Europe ([Paris, France](#), 13 May & [Hanover, Germany](#), 22 May), and Asia and North America (dates to be announced).

All stakeholders are encouraged to participate in these two revision processes and use these opportunities to provide input into the respective processes.

PEFC Council Global Statistics

(As of 31st March 2009 – updated data available at pefc.org)

| Countries | Endorsed certified forest area (ha) | Number of CoC certificates |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Australia | 8 732 945 | 62 |
| Austria | 1 955 799 | 242 |
| Belgium | 281 052 | 166 |
| Brazil | 2 051 247 | 11 |
| Canada - CSA | 82 170 408 | 0 |
| Canada - SFI | 37 041 045 | 0 |
| Canada (PEFC total) | 119 211 453 | 134 |
| Chile | 1 911 920 | 22 |
| China | 0 | 48 |
| Colombia | 0 | 1 |
| Czech Republic | 1 883 149 | 167 |
| Denmark | 218 628 | 38 |
| Egypt | 0 | 1 |
| Estonia | 0 | 3 |
| Finland | 20 719 735 | 128 |
| France | 4 960 654 | 1 115 |
| Germany | 7 336 096 | 811 |
| Hungary | 0 | 4 |
| India | 0 | 2 |
| Indonesia | 0 | 5 |
| Ireland | 0 | 21 |
| Italy | 704 170 | 155 |
| Japan | 0 | 120 |
| Latvia | 0 | 2 |
| Lithuania | 0 | 3 |
| Luxembourg | 26 202 | 14 |
| Malaysia | 0 | 3 |
| Monaco | 0 | 1 |
| Morocco | 0 | 1 |
| Netherlands | 0 | 92 |
| New Zealand | 0 | 11 |
| Norway | 8 289 902 | 25 |
| Philippines | 0 | 1 |

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Poland | 0 | 11 |
| Portugal | 0 | 10 |
| Romania | 0 | 6 |
| Singapore | 0 | 1 |
| Slovak Republic | 1 220 576 | 15 |
| South Africa | 0 | 1 |
| South Korea | 0 | 1 |
| Spain | 1 083 131 | 151 |
| Sweden | 7 613 134 | 100 |
| Switzerland | 433 844 | 81 |
| Turkey | 0 | 1 |
| UK | 0 | 830 |
| United Arab Emirates | 0 | 1 |
| USA - ATFS | 9 977 841 | 0 |
| USA - SFI | 22 558 739 | 90 |
| USA (PEFC total) | 34 329 336 | 167 |
| Total | 222 962 977 | 4 930 |

New staff members at PEFC International

Natalie Faulkner joined PEFC in December 2008 as the full time Office manager. Previously, she was working in the United States for various companies as a Personal Assistant. Natalie holds dual nationality (French and Swiss), and is a certified teacher with Berlitz International School of Language.



Will Ramsay joined PEFC International in January 2009 as Communications Officer. He has over 4 years experience working on environmental issues with a particular focus on web-based communications tools, and previously worked at an international design agency.



Two 'International Chain-of-Custody Standard Revision workshops' announced

PEFC's *International Chain of Custody (CoC)* allows companies to identify and control their sources of PEFC certified material and assures customers that they meet PEFC's strict requirements for non PEFC certified material.

Since 2004, more than 5000 companies have achieved PEFC CoC certification against the current standard, and their insights, knowledge and best practices are a valuable part of the revision process.

The revision is part of PEFC's commitment to continuous improvement and aims at ensuring that the needs and expectations of businesses, consumers and other stakeholders are incorporated while the robustness of the delivery of claims is maintained.

The workshops offer participants the unique opportunity to share experiences, develop a deeper understanding of the Chain of Custody, and help shape the criteria of the revised Chain of Custody Standard, scheduled to take effect in 2010.

All stakeholders of PEFC's International Chain of Custody Standards are invited to attend:

- Users and potential users
- Procurement professionals from government and business
- Certification bodies
- Accreditation bodies
- Consultants
- NGOs and other interested parties

The [first workshop will be held in Paris](#), France on the 13th May, 2009, and the [second workshop in Hanover](#), Germany, on the 22nd May, 2009.

Comprehensive revision of core documents

The first [Standards Revision Stakeholder Dialogue](#), to be held on the 27th May in Geneva, Switzerland, aims at gathering expectations, input and comments from all interested parties for the revision of two of PEFC's core documents.

The documents deal with PEFC's global criteria for sustainable forest management and its standard setting procedures at the national level.

For PEFC, as a voluntary mechanism promoting the responsible management of the world's forests, it is vital that its international sustainability benchmarks are periodically reviewed and revised to reflect best practises and incorporate the latest knowledge and expectations by society. All stakeholders are invited to attend.

PEFC's forest management criteria (Annex 3: Basis for Certification Schemes and their Implementation) are based on requirements developed by intergovernmental processes. These processes best reflect society's expectations of sustainable forest management and are the results of wide-ranging and comprehensive multi-stakeholder negotiations.

The revision of PEFC's standard setting procedures (Annex 2: Rules for Standard Setting) will focus on optimising the criteria for open and transparent multi-stakeholder processes, and delivering consensus on sustainable forest management at national and local levels.

PEFC will also organize further stakeholder dialogues and engage in direct and public, global consultations at various stages of the revision process, which is scheduled to be finalized in the autumn of 2010, to secure the widest possible participation. This work is part of a comprehensive revision of PEFC's technical documentation and complements the ongoing revision of PEFC's Chain-of-Custody Standard.

For information on becoming a member of the working group, please contact [Jaroslav Tymrak](#)

PEFC Stakeholder Forum

PEFC has expanded the role of forest leaders within its governance structure and calls on all interested parties to become actively engaged in shaping the future of forest certification with the establishment of a Stakeholder Forum. The forum offers a unique opportunity for international non-governmental and governmental organizations, companies, UN agencies and

others to collaborate on forestry-related issues and to provide positive contributions to the workings of PEFC. Additionally, it also has direct impact on the governance of the organization as it holds 1/3 of the total votes at the GA and will provide a minimum of two members to the board.

The [2008 PEFC Governance Review](#) first recommended implementing a Stakeholder Forum. This is a unique platform as it provides a neutral meeting place for global forest leaders to collaborate, influence, and advance the agenda on sustainable forest management (SFM) related issues in general, and its certification in particular.

It differs from other important fora such as The Forest Dialogue or WWF's Global Forest Trade Network by enabling participants to directly influence the strategic direction of the world's largest forest certification organization. That PEFC established it as an integral part of its structure within only a few months demonstrates the importance and the value that PEFC members place in it. The Development Unit is currently working with various parties to ensure that diverse interests are represented in this new body.

For more information, please see the PEFC International [website](#) or contact [Will Ramsay](#)

Russia poised to contribute to global certified wood basket

PEFC International announced the [endorsement of the Russian National Forest Certification System \(RNCFC\)](#) in March.

Developed through a multi-stakeholder, consensus-driven decision-making process supported by the World Bank, the RNCFC will now be able to contribute significantly to the global certified wood fibre basket, and further to sustainable forest management in Russia.

This is encouraging despite the current global economic crisis: that there is still an increasing demand for certified wood based products that requires an increased supply of timber from certified, sustainably managed forests

Estimates predict that the engagement by global certification organizations in Russia may increase the area of certified forest globally by over a third over the next ten years to more than 400 million hectares.

The certification of Russian forests will also add significantly in the delivery of PEFC's strategic objective: consolidating clear market leadership, over the long-term and credible certification of sustainably managed forests. Furthermore, to leverage this leadership to the measurable benefit of its stakeholders and members throughout the whole forest products supply chain up to, and including, the final consumer.

Apart from the home market, the two key global markets for Russian timber are Asia, in particular China and Japan, and Europe. Given the rapid growth of certified Chain-of-Custody certifications especially in the Far East, the potential new supply of certified timber will be particularly welcome in this region.

For more information, please contact [Christian Kämmer](#)

Role of Panel of Experts formalized

The PEFC International Panel of Experts is a mandatory part of all reassessments and assessments of certification schemes. There are 4 main areas that the panel deals with: Forestry; Certification and accreditation processes; NGOs (Including social and environmental interests); and Market Access.

PEFC has further strengthened its transparency and robustness with guidelines for the ["Involvement of the Panel of Experts in the Endorsement of National Forest Certification Schemes"](#) in 2008. These guidelines provide procedures governing the appointment and work of the Panel of Experts that verifies the quality of the independent evaluations of national certification schemes via a peer-review system. As part of this formalization, PEFC International's Technical Unit hosted a Training Session for the new members and how best to implement the guidelines earlier this year.

Malaysia and Indonesia Meetings

Ben Gunneberg, PEFC Secretary General, went to Indonesia and Malaysia in March 2009.



Ben Gunneberg meets the Director and representatives of the Indonesian Eco-labelling Institute LEI

PEFC presented its programmes and explored collaboration activities with LEI and other actors in Indonesia. The organisations seek to have an ongoing dialogue, focusing in particular on a closer understanding of PEFC processes.

A meeting with staff from the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) focussed on the potential endorsement of its national certification scheme, MTCC, by PEFC. Transitional arrangements, communication and cooperation in a mentoring role with other applicant schemes, as well as participation and support for the PEFC Asia Promotions Office were discussed.



DEFRA confirms PEFC's sustainability status

The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) confirmed in December 2008 <http://www.flags.net/images/largeflags/MALS0001.GIF> that [PEFC's sustainable forest management standards and procedures continue to meet UK government requirements](#) for sustainable timber.



The assessment found that all forest certification schemes commonly encountered in tenders and sales to the UK central government – PEFC International as well as MTCC and FSC – meet the criteria for legality and sustainability set out

by the Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET). Certification to any one of these schemes is important for companies supplying timber for public sector projects, as from April 2009 the UK government requires its departments to procure legal and sustainable timber or FLEGT licensed timber only.

Since PEFC's initial rating as legal and sustainable by the UK Government in August 2005, PEFC certified forest area has increased by more than 60% globally and currently tops the 210 million hectares mark, making it the largest forest certification scheme in the world. The number of Chain of Custody certificates in the UK has risen sharply over the past two years, and to date more than 900 companies in the UK have chosen PEFC certification for their businesses.

The announcement by DEFRA follows a detailed, bi-annual review of forest certification schemes by CPET. The UK also announced its intention that for future reviews, PEFC endorsed schemes such as SFI and CSA will no longer be assessed separately.

Netherlands moves towards sustainable procurement of timber



The Dutch Ministry for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) announced the [results of its assessment](#) of forest certification systems for the upcoming Dutch Sustainable Timber Procurement Policy in late 2008.

PEFC Finland, PEFC Germany, and FSC are accepted, while the assessment of PEFC International is still not concluded. This ensures that Dutch public authorities can procure about 30% of their needs for timber and wood products from sustainably managed forests. Forest degradation and deforestation are responsible for almost 20% of global carbon emissions, therefore better forest management plays a key role in addressing the climate change challenge.

"The objective of the Netherlands is to procure 100% of its timber from sustainable sources by 2010 at the very latest," emphasised Professor

Helias Udo de Haes, Chairman of TPAC, and former President of the Leiden University Institute of Environmental Sciences.

TPAC's initial feedback is greatly appreciated and forms an important input into the revision of PEFC's technical documentation. This revision is already underway, as mentioned above, and due for completion once the global stakeholder consultations are concluded in 2010. The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) is a multi-stakeholder process to which all European governments have signed up, and which forms the basis for PEFC's benchmark requirements. PEFC is anticipated to "receive a positive assessment once the MCPFE has been concluded," said Ben Gunneberg, PEFC Secretary General.

Australian total Chains of Custody head towards a Century!



There has been a significant growth in the print & publication sector based on imported PEFC certified products which utilises PEFC's International Chain of Custody (CoC) standard for CoC certification in Australia. One certification body has been promoting dual certification (both FSC & PEFC) to satisfy clients' demand to provide a range of certified products to their customers that reflects a product of an internationally recognised forest certification scheme.

As CoCs in Australia pass the 50 mark and head rapidly towards 100, the drive for certified products in the Australian market has taken off. A number of significant primary processors have or are in the process of achieving CoCs: like Boral Timber with 12 sawmills that process wood from native forests in New South Wales, along with their allied processors of Boral Plywood and Sawmillers Exports. The range of supply chain organizations cover primary processing through to the wholesale merchant sector, and the major industry sector coverage is sawn timber, engineered timber, panel & ply products, pulp & paper, and printing/publication.

To cater for this growth and promote the benefits of CoCs, a series of 7 brochures have been produced for the Australian market. Based on the Australian CoC standard – AS 4707 – they outline the business case for CoC certification in those 7 sectors and specifically, the case for AFCS CoC.

Of course, being a PEFC endorsed scheme, PEFC's international recognition is recognised in the brochure, with the added advantage of being printed on a CoC certified product!

For more information, please contact [Kayt Watts](#)

Update from Belgium

PEFC Belgium gives PR agencies food for thought; guides local authorities in their wood purchases; and passes a landmark number of CoCs!



Breakfast sessions for PR agencies

Communicating their environmental and social commitment is becoming increasingly important for companies. To assist public relations agencies in better advising their clients on "green" communications, PEFC Belgium organised three breakfast sessions, informing participants about the sustainability aspects of PEFC-certification and the benefits it offers to companies. Overall, more than eighty people participated in the events.

Guidance for local authorities' purchases of wood-based products

PEFC Belgium has further strengthened its outreach programme and developed a procurement guide for wood products and paper specifically targeted to local communities. This guide contains comprehensive information about how to certify a municipality's forest; how to integrate PEFC in procurement policies; and how to inform citizens of engagement in sustainable forest certification. It was distributed to all 262 communes in the Walloon region.

More than 200 Belgian companies with CoCs!

PEFC Chain-of-Custody certification is becoming increasingly important for Belgian companies as indicated by growing demand for such

certification in recent months. Currently, more than 200 companies are certified in Belgium, with almost 5000 companies certified globally to PEFC.

For more information, please contact [Mieke Vercrujse](#)

Chamex launched in Brazil

International Paper (IP) has launched its first CERFLOR-certified paper line in Brazil.



CERFLOR, the Brazilian Program of Forest Certification is overseen Inmetro, the National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality and endorsed by PEFC. The benefits of PEFC certification for IP include strengthening the company's business sustainability guidelines in terms of their regular readers, the corporate segment, and stakeholders.

To communicate CERFLOR certification, 66 national circulation newspapers and magazines in Brazilian media carried the slogan, "I knew it. Chamex, the first CERFLOR certified paper by Inmetro."

For more information, please contact [Maria Teresa Resende](#)

LAN USES CERTIFIED PAPER "IN" ITS MAGAZINE

LAN, a Chilean-based global airline, has launched its magazine "IN" with CERTFOR/PEFC certified paper in January.



The magazine is now available in all domestic and international flights.

The magazine is also available at www.in-lan.com.

PEFC China Initiative Office 4th Wood Flooring Summit, Shanghai



Mr. Benson Yu, the Director of PEFC China Initiative, presented the benefits of PEFC certification to wood flooring companies at the 4th Wood Flooring Summit in Shanghai late last year.



Download the presentation [here](#).

PEFC International Technical Department goes to China

The PEFC China Initiative Office and the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) jointly hosted an International Workshop on China's National Plantation and Bamboo Forest Certification Standard Setting in March 2008.

Jaroslav Tymrak, PEFC International's Head of Technical Unit provided an overview of PEFC certification and outlined PEFC requirements for standard setting in detail. Participants came from the State of Forestry of Administration (SFA), the standard drafting team of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the PEFC China Initiative, PEFC Council, and the University of British Columbia (UBC) among others.



For more information, please contact [Benson Yu](#)

PEFC Denmark Growing interest for PEFC Chains of Custody in Denmark



The number of Chain of Custody certificates has almost doubled in Denmark over the past year. Primarily sawmills and trading companies gained certificates, with retailers ([STARK](#)), printers ([Narayana Press](#)), furniture-makers ([Tvillum-Scanbirk](#)), and window manufacturers ([Velux](#)) also being certified.

New members for PEFC Denmark

As a result of growing public interest in sustainable forest management and certification, 5 organizations have joined PEFC Denmark since the summer of 2008,

Access to direct information on certification, a broader understanding of certification systems, and a network incorporating other likeminded companies' contacts with the same interest are available to members.

For more information on membership or EPFC Denmark, please contact: [Tanja Blindbæk Olsen](#)

Private forest owners in Estonia await certification



Private forest owners from all over Estonia are enrolled as pioneers for PEFC forest certification in Estonia, due to take place this year, under the auspices of AS Metroserf. The group comprises 44 forest owners of differing sizes, with a combined forest area of around 55000 hectares. The Private Forest Center, an institution that supports and directs state and EU subsidies to private forestry in Estonia, is co-financing the project.

"We are glad to have had such a positive response from private forest owners," says Kalle Põld, the Estonian Forest Certification Council's (EMSN's) Chairman. The project offers "new possibilities for private forestry in Estonia and strengthens our position on a political level," continues Ants Varblane, the Managing Director of the Estonian Private Forest Union (PFU). Even though the process will have its own challenges, EMSN and PFU are optimistic that group certification will be finished by the autumn of 2009. However, to a large extent, "this also depends upon the national accreditation body," states Andres Martma, from the certification body AS Metroserf. EMSN welcomes support and advice from its partners in Germany (PEFC Deutschland) and Finland (FFCS). Cooperation with Germany ought to be further strengthened after the Estonian Forest Certification Council Secretary General, Christiane Herty, attended PEFC Germany's General Assembly in January.

"We are glad to have such a strong and experienced partner on our side," explains Christiane Herty.

EMSN is planning several seminars and international conferences over the course of the year. These will be held in cooperation with the Private Forest Centre, and EMSN hopes to have the chance to exchange views with national and international experts and give them an overview of Estonian conditions. Furthermore, 2009 will also see a review process and eventual changes of the Estonian standard, which will be modified to accommodate changes in Estonian forestry laws. EMSN hopes to finish this review over the course of the year.

For more information: [Christiane Herty, EMSN Secretary General](#)



The revision of the PEFC forest certification criteria is complete



The PEFC Forest Certification Standard Setting Working Group approved unanimously the revised forest management requirements for PEFC forest certification in Finland. The Working Group consisting of 40 different parties with an interest in forests and their sustainable management (annex 1) initiated last year.

"The new criteria on harvesting of energy wood, multiple uses of forests and the employment of foreign workers reflect the recent changes in the operational environment for forestry sector. Also the role of forests in carbon sequestration has been emphasised (in the current standard)" says Ms. Sirkka Hautojärvi, the chairperson of the Standard Setting Working Group. The certification requirements are listed in 29 criteria (annex 2), which together define the standard for ecologically, socially, culturally and economically



Mr. Esa Silvennoinen, of Map Suomi Oy, receiving the first PEFC logo license to be awarded to a paper distributor in Finland

sustainable forest management in PEFC certified forests.

"The finalisation of the criteria is an important benchmark in the revision of the Finnish PEFC system. The standard indicates explicitly the general objectives of forestry in Finland" states Ms. Ritva Toivonen, the chairperson of PEFC Finland – Finnish Forest Certification Council, who received the revised criteria from the Working Group.

The revised criteria and other system documents will be sent to the international PEFC in autumn 2009 for evaluation and re-endorsement. The revised standards will be implemented in forest management after the PEFC endorsement and independent certification bodies will assess the conformity to it in the audits of the year 2011.

For more information please contact [Martti Kuusinen](#), Secretary of the Standard Setting Working Group (tel: +358 20 772)

PEFC France emphasizes the importance of Chain-of-Custody certification



In 2009, PEFC celebrates its ten year anniversary. To show appreciation to stakeholders that have promoted and contributed to the success of forest certification, PEFC France presented custom-made panels to each PEFC Chain-of-Custody certified company in France



"Forest certification as a market based approach allows customers and consumers to make the right choice by buying certified products from sustainably managed forests," says Stéphane Marchesi, Secretary General of PEFC France. "Companies are of fundamental importance in this context as they are the ones that deliver such certified products onto the marketplace."

The commemorative accolades have been personalized for each company and include their

individual PEFC logo license number.

PEFC France keeps increasing the printing sector awareness



For the second consecutive year, PEFC France was present at Intergraphic, one of the most famous French fairs dedicated to printers, communication groups, and paper makers.

This trade fair reinforced PEFC's standing in the industry, which is well aware of the importance of forest certification, and has been placing high emphasis in highlighting the benefits of PEFC certification.

For more information, please contact [Audrey Leveau](#)

PEFC Italy's first catalogue of PEFC certified forest products and companies is successful



The success of PEFC Italy's first edition of their catalogue (available [here](#)), featuring Italian-based PEFC certificate holders indicates the value that such a national directory of offers. It has proven to be is an excellent tool for those who wish to find Italian PEFC certified products and forests.

The catalogue will be re-distributed at all the trade-fairs at which PEFC Italy is to be present, and will also be distributed to Green Public Procurement Policy professionals in public administration to assist them in locating suppliers of PEFC certified products.

In response to requests by stakeholders, PEFC Italy has published the 2009 edition, [available here](#), in Italian, with a view to providing an English translation later in the year.

The Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) gets endorsed!



The Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) has become the first tropical timber certification scheme in the Asia Pacific region, and the second in the world after the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme, to be endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC).

"The endorsement of MTCS is a significant achievement for the sustainable forest management community as whole. While the certification movement has its origins in efforts to protect tropical forests, over 90% of the world's certification today takes place in the temperate forests of Europe and North America", explained Ben Gunneberg, PEFC Secretary General. "Yet tropical forests in the Southern hemisphere offer the most benefits to tackling some of society's biggest challenges, including climate change, combating deforestation and forest degradation, and maintaining the world's precious biodiversity."

Dato' Dr. Freezailah Che Yeom, Chairman of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), which operates the MTCS, said, "MTCC is indeed pleased and proud to have obtained the PEFC endorsement, which shows that the various aspects of the MTCS, such as the institutional arrangement and certification standards used, have met the stringent requirements of the PEFC. It gives further assurance that forests certified under the MTCS are implementing the best management practices and contributing towards the challenging efforts to ensure sustainable forest management, particularly for the tropical rainforests".

Dr. Freezailah added that the endorsement enables the MTCS to achieve mutual recognition with 26 other PEFC-endorsed certification schemes. This means that the MTCS-certified timber product manufacturers and exporters will soon be able to combine PEFC-certified material from Malaysia with other PEFC-certified material under the PEFC logo.

The decision to endorse the 2002 Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification was announced on 5 May 2009

following the outcome of the General Assembly vote among the PEFC members on the recommendation of the Board of Directors, based on an assessment of the MTCS by an independent assessor appointed by the PEFC Council.

The endorsement is valid for a five year period, with periodic review to ensure the continued compliance of the MTCS. The full report of the conformity assessment of the MTCS can be obtained from the PEFC website at www.pefc.org.

Chile standard re-endorsed



Following a comprehensive and rigorous assessment by an independent consultant, PEFC is pleased to announce the re-endorsement of the CERTFOR Chile Forest Certification Scheme, which now allows certification of forest plantations as well as native forests. "CERTFOR has proven itself to be a very robust and successful certification system. Since the initial endorsement in 2004, the forest area certified to the CERTFOR standard has increased to almost 2 million hectares, making it the largest certification system in Chile," commented PEFC Secretary General Ben Gunneberg.

In addition to the plantation standard, which was initially endorsed by PEFC in 2004, the revised standard also includes rules for sustainable forest management in native forests.

PEFC is the only global forest certification system that limits the duration of endorsements and insists on regular revisions and re-endorsement testing of national schemes. This cyclic approach ensures continuous improvement as new scientific knowledge, lessons from the application of the scheme in the field, and changing expectations by stakeholders continuously can be integrated.

PEFC España achieves re-endorsement



The Spanish Forest Certification Scheme has earned benchmark approval by PEFC International. The decision was announced at PEFC's General Assembly at the end of October in Canberra, Australia.

The re-endorsement verifies that the Spanish scheme continues to meet PEFC International's benchmark requirements and ensures that national forest owners and Chain-of-Custody holders benefit from the global acceptance of PEFC-certified products in green procurement policies. PEFC España is the country's largest forest certification scheme, with more than 1.2 million hectares of certified forests. "Spain is one of the oldest members of PEFC, so we are very glad that the independent assessment by a third-party assessor found that the scheme continues to meet our requirements," said Ben Gunneberg, PEFC Secretary General.

The re-endorsement is required to ensure that the latest scientific research and practical experiences from the field, but also evolving values, expectations, and aspirations of society towards sustainable forest management are systematically implemented at national, regional, and local levels.

Full documentation of the assessment is available [here](#)

PEFC Norway Revised Group Certification Rules



Norwegian Accreditation, the national accreditation organization, is revising the rules for Group Certification used by the PEFC Norway scheme. The PEFC system for group certification has proven very successful and cost-efficient, paving the way for PEFC certification in Norway, where practically all production forest in the country is PEFC certified.

The group certification scheme has meant that even small properties with a limited supply of wood have been able to gain PEFC certification.

The rules for group certification were originally developed out of the Living Forest process, and stakeholders participated in working groups, moderated by Norwegian Accreditation.

The revision will integrate experiences and lessons learned from years of experience with group certification. It will also include updates and clarifications of some of the group scheme rules.

Economics talks for PEFC Norway

The UK is of high importance for Norwegian forest owners and forest industries as an export market, yet it differs from the Norwegian market in terms of consumer expectations.

To enable Norwegian actors to better understand UK market demands, William Walker, National Secretary of PEFC UK, provided insights and updates to participants of a meeting organised by PEFC Norway.

Mr. Walker also highlighted recent positive developments in the UK market, which has been showing increasing demand for PEFC certification. Given the lead role that the UK market plays in Europe, Mr. Walker expressed his hope that this would serve as a signal for other European markets.

For more information, please contact [PEFC Norway](#)

Slovakian Technical Revisions, 2009



Over one hundred stakeholders representing environmental and social NGOs, forest owners, the wood industry, trade unions, and other associations were invited to participate in the public forum at the end of 2008, marking the start of the revision process of the Slovak Forest Certification System (SFCS).

The forum established a technical commission to guide process. Based on the SFCA guidelines on standard setting procedure, the commission members adopted specific procedures for the development of documents and the decision

making process, as well as the time schedule for this process. Drafts of revised standard setting documents should become available for public consultation shortly.

Please contact [Hubert Palus](#) for more information

PEFC UK at Ecobuild & hosts press breakfast



PEFC UK & Ecobuild 09

In response to continuing strong demand for PEFC-certified timber products from the UK construction sector, PEFC exhibited at Ecobuild between the 3rd and 5th March 2009.



Exhibiting at this important trade show demonstrates PEFC UK's "commitment to high environmental standards and responsible sourcing,

and that the construction sector is increasingly looking to show its customers that the timber products it uses originate from legal and sustainable sources," said Peter Latham, PEFC UK's Chairman. "Sourcing from PEFC-certified forests provides the timber supply chain with such assurances."

Exhibiting at the UK's premier sustainable construction show was a first for PEFC.

For further information, please go to [Ecobuild](#) or contact [Hilary Khawam](#)

Press Breakfast

Engaging with the trade press is one of the most effective routes to spread the PEFC message to a wider audience.



So in February, PEFC hosted a press breakfast for journalists from the paper, print and publishing trade press at the Institute of Directors.

The seminar aimed to increase journalists' understanding of the PEFC programme, both in the UK and globally, gain a better understanding of the importance of chain of custody for paper purchasers and distributors and PEFC's future plans and challenges.

PEFC Director Ross Bradshaw presented the PEFC programme at national level while Secretary General Ben Gunneberg focused on the international picture. Williams Lea, the UK's largest print management company, represented by Christopher Rigg and Lee Henderson of James McNaughton talked about their companies' respective paper procurement policies.

For further information, please contact [Hilary Khawam](#)

Customers to more easily identify PEFC-certified products

UPM Raflatac, a world-leading supplier of self-adhesive label materials and part of UPM, one of the largest forest industry companies in the world, has announced that it will use "PEFC" within the brand name of some of its products to better communicate their sustainability aspects.



UPM supports and uses credible forest certification schemes and has built a global chain-of-custody model to monitor and report the share of certified fibre in its products. "More and more products are associated with environmentally sound practises and it is very important to us to provide our customers the possibility to include certified materials in their portfolio as well", says Simon Boddy, Marketing Manager for UPM Raflatac's paper products.

Among the UPM Raflatac range of PEFC-certified products consisting of the company's Vellum, Raflacoat and Raflabrite materials, "PEFC Raflacoat Plus RP 48 HG65" and "PEFC

Raflacoat Plus RP 5X HG65" promote the origin of the raw material in well-managed forests and controlled sources in their name.

UPM writes that it supports and uses reliable forest certification schemes and that most of the company's units, from forestry to production, already have a certified Chain-of-Custody system in place.

For more information, please contact [Simon Boddy](#)

PEFC US

A Busy year in the USA, PEFC growth in North America, Draft standards published for comments



2008 was a busy year which is reflected in significant growth for PEFC US. The most notable growth in certified area was due to the endorsement by PEFC International of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) standard and scheme and an increase of over 600% in PEFC Chain-of-Custody certificates from December 2007 to December 2008. Following in the footsteps of many other PEFC National Governing Bodies, PEFC US has now introduced PEFC Chain-of-Custody and logo use fees as of January 2009.

PEFC growth in North America



PEFC US and PEFC Canada are teaming up to support the steady PEFC growth seen in North America. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI Inc.) is working with the ATFS and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) to develop PEFC promotional material for North America such as a brochure and PowerPoint template that can be used to engage PEFC with its customers.



Draft standards published for comments

The draft SFI® 2010-2014 Standard can be found at www.sfiprogram.org. This process began in June 2008 and will lead to the SFI

2010-2014 Standard, which takes effect on Jan. 1, 2010. As part of its public review, the non-profit forest certification program is hosting seven workshops across North America:

- Sacramento, California
- Vancouver, British Columbia
- Minnesota
- Charleston, South Carolina
- Little Rock, Arkansas
- Portland, Maine
- Montreal, Quebec

For more information, please contact [Rachel Dierolf](#)

You can receive this Newsletter, further updates and current news by subscribing to the **PEFC mailing list** at www.pefc.org.

Further detailed information and news on PEFC member systems can be obtained directly from their websites whose links are available from the PEFC website: www.pefc.org.