

PCSN I

Netherlands PEFC Standard



PEFC[™]
PEFC/30-01-01

pefc.nl info@pefc.nl

Note

The English version of the PEFC Certification System Netherlands (PCSN) is the only valid version. Translations can be used but only for information purposes.

Document name: PEFC Standard Netherlands

Document title: PCSN I

Issue date: 06-11-2020

Next periodic review: 05-11-2025

Application date: 05-11-2021

Transition date: 05-11-2022

Amended: 04-02-2022; 30-06-2023

Content

- Foreword..... 4
- Introduction 5
- 1. Scope of the standard 6
- 2. Normative references 6
- 3. Definitions..... 7
- 4. Context and scope of the standard 9
- 5. Leadership and communication 9
- 6. Planning and regulations 10
- 7. Operation..... 11
 - 7.1 Criterion 1: Conservation and appropriate improvement of forest resources and their contribution towards the global carbon cycle 11
 - 7.2 Criterion 2: Conserving the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem 12
 - 7.3 Criterion 3: Safeguarding and promoting the productive aspects of the forest, for both timber and non-timber. 13
 - 7.4 Criterion 4: Conserving, protecting and making improvement to biodiversity in the forest ecosystem..... 14
 - 7.5 Criterion 5: Conservation and appropriate improvement of the protective aspects of forest management, in particular for soil and water 16
 - 7.6 Criterion 6: Conserving social, economic and cultural aspects and conditions 16
- 8. Evulation..... 18
- 9. IMPROVEMENT 20
- Appendix 1 Management plan..... 21
- Appendix 2 Interpretation of Trees Outside Forests (TOF) 23
- Annex 3 Abbreviations..... 36

FOREWORD

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) is a globally recognised certification system for sustainable forest management. PEFC is therefore making a valuable contribution towards achieving sustainable forest management.

This is the second version of the Netherlands PEFC Standard. This standard has been introduced by the National PEFC Forum, which represents a number of stakeholders involved in Dutch forestry.¹

The first version of the Netherlands PEFC Standard dates back to 2011. The new international PEFC benchmark standard, PEFC ST 1003:2018, was published in 2018, and this was also the official reason for revising the Netherlands standard. The revision also made it possible to respond to recent developments.

The Netherlands PEFC Standard is a concise document and remains consistent with the forest management practice in The Netherlands. This standard instils its core confidence in a sustainable approach by the forest owner as well as automatically applying Dutch legislation and regulation. The idea is that it is neither useful nor desirable to quantify every aspect of forest management on a constant and continuous basis. Sustainable forest management is an approach which can only partly be summed up in numbers, albeit one which is principally expressed through the attitude of the forest owner.

The new standard has been restructured to make it easier to read, and criteria have been added in areas such as ecologically important forest areas and in the role of forests in storing carbon. In particular, attention has also been paid to the certification of trees outside forests. The same criteria apply here - with a few exceptions. It is now also possible with these additions for local authorities and farmers, for instance, to demonstrate their sustainable tree management program in an independent fashion.

Wageningen, 26 October 2020

INTRODUCTION

This standard is based on the so-called ISO High-Level Structure. This means the chapter division largely follows this structure. Words in bold in this standard have definitions found in Chapter 3 "Terms and definitions". The criteria in Chapter 7 "Operation" are based on Standard 1003 "Sustainable Forest Management Requirements" from PEFC International. Chapters eight and nine are only applicable to individual certificate holders. On group level they can will be implemented according to chapter nine and ten in PCSN II.

The six principles of sustainable forest management are:

1. Preserving and, where appropriate, improving forest resources and their contribution towards the global carbon cycle;
2. Preserving the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem;
3. Preserving and promoting the productive aspects of forests, both timber and non-timber;
4. Preservation, protection and, where appropriate, improvement of biodiversity in forest ecosystems;
5. Preserving and, where appropriate, improving the protective aspects of forest management, in particular soil and water;
6. Preserving other socio-economic aspects and conditions.

The Dutch Standard is an elaboration of these international criteria in the Dutch context, where the following aspects, among others, play an important role:

- Population density and the corresponding recreational role of forests,
- The social need to develop the value of nature and natural processes
- The original situation where forests found on land are often depleted by man over centuries, and where ecosystems and soil are now being built up once again.
- The extent to which many aspects are already ingrained in legislation and regulation.
- The role of trees and woods in the current climate debate

Landowners who manage their forests or trees in accordance with this standard may participate in PEFC certification.

This standard does only form part of the PEFC NL forest management certification scheme. The full scheme can be viewed by visiting www.pefc.nl.

1. SCOPE OF THE STANDARD

This standard has been introduced to manage forests and trees outside forests. Forest plantations as defined by this standard are not eligible for PEFC-certification in the Netherlands.

It is intended for several types of users:

- Forest owners: the standard for forest owners includes the requirements and guidelines they shall follow to obtain PEFC certification for sustainable forest management.
- Owners or managers of Trees outside Forests (TOF) areas. This standard includes specific requirements and guidelines which TOF owners or managers shall follow in order to obtain PEFC certification.
- Certification bodies & group managers: the standard includes requirements for certification bodies and group managers, on which management levels of individual forest owners are assessed.

2. NORMATIVE REFERENCES

- PEFC ST 1003, *Sustainable Forest Management – Requirement*
- PCSN II: 2020, PEFC Group Certification – Requirements

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Stakeholder

An individual or a group of individuals with a common interest affected by the actions of the owner/manager.

3.2 Forest

An area larger than 0.5 hectares, with trees in excess of 5 meters tall, with a canopy cover greater than 30%, or with trees which can reach these defining values. This includes recent clearing areas, forest paths and permanent wooden stacks. It does not include areas predominantly deployed for urban or agricultural use. Orchards and Christmas tree farms are classed as agricultural use.

3.3 Trees outside Forests (TOF)

Trees that grow outside **forest** areas and mostly in areas designated as agriculture or settlement. These include landscape plantings, row and avenue plantings, and urban green space.

3.4 Non-forest area

Any area which does not meet the definition of **forest**, and where there are no **trees outside forests**.

3.5 Compensation

Any area which has been felled is considered to be compensated should an area of the same size be replanted. Ideally, this will take place within the **certified area**, but otherwise clearly outside. The types which are replanted shall potentially have the same features as the types which have been felled. The replanted area shall also meet the requirements of this standard.

3.6 Ecologically important forest areas

Forest areas which have been granted special status through legislation and regulation (Natura2000), and forestry reserves and A-locations.

3.7 Ecologically important non forest areas

Non forest area (Any area which does not meet the definition of **forest**) which have been granted special status through legislation and regulation (Natura2000)

3.8 Native tree types

Tree types according to the Dutch list of tree varieties.

3.9 Mixed forest

A **forest** with a mixture of trees where other tree types account for at least 20% of the land area, including a range of ages, whether separately or in groups.

3.10 Carbon storage

The actual amount of carbon sequestered and stored in the forest and in the soil.

3.11 Certified area

A **forest** or **trees outside forests** area whose management is certified in accordance with the PEFC standard in The Netherlands.

3.12 Forest plantation

A **forest** with a regularly spaced, even-aged monoculture without undergrowth and whose sole purpose is the production of timber.

3.13 Management System

The way the owner manages the interrelated parts of his property to achieve his objectives.

4. CONTEXT AND SCOPE OF THE STANDARD

- 4.1 The owner/manager shall only attach the following information to products sourced from the **certified area**:
- a) Customer identification
 - b) The name of the owner/manager as the supplier of the product
 - c) Product identification
 - d) Quantity of products
 - e) Delivery identification based on the date of delivery, delivery period or accounting period
 - f) The “100% PEFC certified” claim
 - g) The certificate number of the owner/manager
- 4.2 The owner/manager shall:
- a) identify the **stakeholders** who are relevant to the sustainable management of the area (e.g. local residents and users); and
 - b) identify the relevant requirements and expectations of these **stakeholders**
- 4.3 The owner/manager shall have adequate procedures in place for handling complaints and disputes relating to forest work and working conditions.

5. LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

- 5.1 The owner/manager shall issue a declaration stating:
- a) that the owner/manager meets the standard for sustainable forest management and other requirements in the Netherlands PEFC Certification System; and
 - b) a commitment to continuously improve the sustainable forest management.
- 5.2 This declaration shall be available to the public.
- 5.3 Any responsibilities for operating sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.
- 5.4 The owner/manager communicates with and consults the **stakeholders**: the owner/manager explains the objectives and management plan ensuring that these are clear and understood by all parties.
- 5.5 The owner/manager will make (financial) resources available for planning, implementing and continuously improving any action which shall be taken to comply with this standard.

6. PLANNING AND REGULATIONS

6.1 Actions for addressing risks and opportunities

6.1.1 The owner/manager shall assess any risks and opportunities regarding compliance with the requirements of this standard for sustainable forest management. The scale and extent of these being implemented in the **forest** shall be taken into account.

6.2 Management Plan

6.2.1 A management plan shall be drawn up in accordance with Appendix 1.

6.2.2 Management records shall be kept. Management records are an annual management report. These shall include a summary of any work done, information about the amount of timber and other forest products felled and sold, and any variations from the plan as a minimum requirement.

6.2.3 The management plan, or a summary of this, shall be made available to the public. Any commercially sensitive information may be omitted.

6.3 Compliance requirements

6.3.1 Statutory requirements

6.3.1.1 The owner/manager shall identify and comply with national legislation. This includes legislation on forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species, property, tenure and land-use rights for **stakeholders**; health, labour and safety-issues, anti-corruption and the payment of applicable royalties and taxes.

6.3.1.2 The owner/manager shall take action to prevent any unlawful activity as far as possible.

6.3.2 Health, safety and working conditions

6.3.2.1 Safety regulations have been adopted and personal protective equipment is used in accordance with the Forests and Nature Health and Safety at Work Manual. The forest owner shall provide instructions and ensure that his/her own employees, volunteers and private timber buyers comply with them.

6.3.2.2 The owner/manager shall use a CAO (collective working agreement) relevant to his/her members of staff.

6.3.2.3 The owner/manager shall make a commitment to equal opportunities, zero discrimination and no antisocial behaviour in the workplace. Gender equality will be promoted.

6.3.3 Authorisations

6.3.3.1 All employees of the owner/manager working in forest management shall be made aware of the content of this standard and will work in accordance with it. They shall be sufficiently qualified and have undergone training in the field of working in forest management. Any training sessions shall be documented.

7 OPERATION

7.1 Criterion 1: Conservation and appropriate improvement of forest resources and their contribution towards the global carbon cycle

- 7.1.1 The owner/manager shall maintain the forested area. It is not possible to convert **forest** to alternative land use, including **Trees Outside Forest**, unless the conversion meets the following provisions:
- a) The converted forest has been **compensated**
 - b) It has been planned on the basis of a decision-making mechanism where **the stakeholders** have been given opportunities to participate
 - b) this complies with national legislation and regulations;
 - c) it is not in excess of 5% of **forest** type in the **certified area** in minimal the certification cycle of five years;
 - d) has no adverse effects on **ecologically important forest areas**; culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas;
 - e) does not damage any areas of significantly high **carbon storage**;
 - f) will contribute towards management, the economy and social cohesion over the long term.
- 7.1.2 The timber felling target included in the management plan shall not exceed the growth rate over the medium and long terms. This shall be supported by justifying the annual allowable cut in the management plan.
- 7.1.3 Management activities shall encourage an action which has positive impacts on the climate, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions or the efficient use of other raw materials.
- 7.1.4 Ecologically important **non-forest areas** shall not be converted to **forest** unless there are legitimate circumstances where conversion from **non-forest area** to **forest** is required:
- a) complies with legislation and regulations and forms part of national or regional planning;
 - b) has been planned on the basis of a decision-making mechanism where **the stakeholders** have been given opportunities to participate;
 - c) has no adverse impact on endangered **non-forest areas**, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of endangered species or other protected areas;
 - d) involves no more than 5% of the ecologically important **non-forest area**;

- e) has zero impact on areas of high carbon storage;
- f) contributes towards management, the economy and social cohesion over the long term.

7.2 Criterion 2: Conserving the health and vitality of the forest ecosystem

- 7.2.1 Plant protection products and biocides may only be used on a limited basis under the following conditions:
- a) Herbs and grasses are not controlled using these substances.
 - b) No insecticides are used unless required on the grounds of public health.
 - c) Any unwanted woody vegetation may be controlled using these substances in accordance with the instructions for use.
 - d) Only crop protection substances or biocides as permitted by the Ctgb (www.ctgb-wageningen.nl) may be used. The use of pesticides classified in World Health Organisation Classes 1A and 1B is not permitted.
 - e) If pesticides are used, this shall be recorded.
 - f) Pesticides based on chlorinated hydrocarbons are not permitted, as they are non-biodegradable and therefore end up in the food chain.
 - g) These activities shall be carried out in accordance with the Forests and Nature Health and Safety at Work Manual, and the Working Conditions Act
- 7.2.2 Soil will only be fertilized following advice from an expert from an independent research institute. This is given on the basis of any symptoms of declining fertility, where it can be shown that the vitality of types found in the planted area has declined due to external influences, and that it is necessary to improve the vitality of the managed area by applying fertilizer. Fertilizers shall not be used as an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.
- 7.2.3 Damage to permanent trees, shrubs and soil shall be avoided as much as possible while working.
- 7.2.4 Only biodegradable fuels, oils and lubricants shall be used, provided this is possible from a technical perspective. Any non-biodegradable fuels should be collected, stored in designated locations and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. Any leakage of oil or fuel during management work shall be avoided as much as possible. Emergency procedures should be in place for minimizing the risk of any damage to the environment caused by accidental spillage.
- 7.2.5 The use of fire as a control method shall be restricted to areas where this method is essential for preserving certain types or habitats. Clear management objectives under such circumstances shall be outlined and adequate safety measures shall be put in place.

7.3 Criterion 3: Safeguarding and promoting the productive aspects of the forest, for both timber and non-timber.

- 7.3.1 The objective is both to safeguard and promote the production and marketing of a wide variety of both timber and non-timber products and services in accordance with the objectives set out in the management plan.
- 7.3.2 No branches or top wood should be removed, namely any tree parts above ground with a diameter of less than 8 centimeters at the thicker end. The removal of branches and top wood is permitted within landscape planting, urban areas and on mineral-rich soils (albeit not on podzol soils or limestone-poor sandy soils) or for ecological and/or cultural-historical reasons which have been justified in the management plan.
- 7.3.3 Leaf foliage and below-ground biomass shall not be removed.
- 7.3.4 The harvesting rate of (non-) wood products shall remain sustainable over the long term.
- 7.3.5 There shall be an adequate network of work roads, skid roads and access routes.
- a) Laying tracks and soil compression shall be avoided as far as possible by, for example:
 - maximum planning as much as possible, so that the amount of movement on pathways is restricted.
 - halting timber felling shall adverse weather conditions increase the risk of ruts forming.
 - stabilizing work and skid roads by covering with them branches and top wood.
 - adjusting tire pressures to the existing surface conditions.
 - making use of any technical options on equipment, which reduces the pressure on the ground, and track rutting to a minimum, for example by using tracks.
 - constructing and maintaining road drainage.
 - b) The distance between skid roads shall be a minimum of 20 meters. It is possible to switch from a network system of working and exit routes if required for technical or ecological reasons, or in the interests of protecting soil.
 - c) The infrastructure shall be designed in such a way so that as little damage as possible is caused to **ecologically important forest areas**, and that consideration is given to (migration patterns of) protected types and cultural-historical elements (see Careful Forest Management Checklist, from the Code of Conduct for Forest Management).

7.4 Criterion 4: Conserving, protecting and making improvement to biodiversity in the forest ecosystem

- 7.4.1 The owner/manager shall identify, protect, manage or cordon off **ecologically important forest areas**.
- 7.4.2 Support shall be given to initiatives aimed at restoring, conserving or improving special (forest) ecosystems or populations of endangered animal and plant species, subject to financial constraints.
- 7.4.3 Forest rejuvenation shall make use of tree species appropriate to the area where they will grow.
- a) Rejuvenation shall be through natural regrowth, or through replanting.
 - b) This shall only be permitted using plants appearing in the Dutch National Catalogue of Tree Varieties. If replanting is chosen, meaning that their origin is known and the authenticity of the variety is guaranteed. It is permitted to deviate from the Dutch Catalogue of Tree Varieties to a limited extent within the context of climate-conscious forest management program.
 - c) Genetically modified organisms or plant material shall not be used.
 - d) Less common or nationally rare **native** tree and shrub types and species/ecologically important forest areas within the certified property shall be identified, protected, managed or allowed open access.
- 7.4.4 **Native** deciduous trees and shrubs within the **certified area** shall occupy at least 20% based on canopy cover or the base area. This shall be included as an objective in the management plan, citing a transition period of 20 years where this proportion has yet to be attained. This shall be maintained where possible shall the current share of native deciduous trees is more than 20%.
- 7.4.5 Afforestation, reforestation and other forest planting activities which contribute towards improving and restoring ecological corridors shall be encouraged.
- 7.4.6 Certified property shall have at least 50% of its area as **mixed forest**. Where this proportion has not yet been reached, this will be included as an objective in the management plan, giving a maximum transition period of 20 years. If the current mix of the forest is above 50%, this shall be preserved where possible.

- 7.4.7 The Forest Management Code of Conduct and/or the Flora and Fauna Management and Maintenance Code of Conduct shall be followed at all times.
- 7.4.8 Any work shall be carried out in a manner as instructed for that location in **ecologically important forest areas**.
- 7.4.9 There shall be no livestock grazing in the **forest**. Extensive natural grazing, supported by a well-documented development process may be an option provided that any rejuvenation of the **forest** and therefore the long-term survival is not under threat.
- 7.4.10 The owner/manager shall make every effort to achieve a wildlife population such that the rejuvenation of the **forest**, in particular the rejuvenation of **native** deciduous trees, can develop naturally.
- 7.4.11 There shall be on average 6 m³ of large, dead trees per hectare. These will be **native trees** wherever possible. This will be included as an objective in the management plan, citing a transition period shall this quantity have not yet been reached. This criterion shall not apply where:
- a) it poses safety issues for forest visitors and/or traffic;
 - b) it is not appropriate for the development phase of the **forest** or there are not enough large trees in the forest area in question for other reasons.
- 7.4.12 Existing hollow trees and trees where birds are nesting shall be preserved, unless this is not possible for safety reasons.
- 7.4.13 Any clearing areas shall not exceed 2 hectares in principle, unless the purpose and need for a larger clearing area are justified in the management plan and are backed up by an independent expert.

7.5 **Criterion 5: Conservation and appropriate improvement of the protective aspects of forest management, in particular for soil and water**

- 7.5.1 Felling/rejuvenation methods shall take this into account in circumstances where there is a risk of erosion.
- 7.5.2 Natural watercourses, fens, brooks, streams and their banks located in the **forest** shall be preserved or restored in terms of both quality and quantity. Eutrophication of these waters shall be avoided.
- 7.5.3 The groundwater system shall be protected or restored to the extent where this is possible within the forest owner's capabilities.
- 7.5.4 Working and mulching the forest floor shall be restricted as much as possible and shall be limited to vegetation and humus layers.
- 7.5.5 Any soil shall be disturbed as little as possible when constructing roads, bridges and other infrastructure where the owner/manager can have an influence over this, while the soil shall be prevented from entering the watercourses and any natural functions and levels of the watercourses and river beds shall be preserved. Proper road drainage shall be both installed and maintained.
- 7.5.6 Disposing of waste in the forest shall be avoided.

7.6 **Criterion 6: Conserving social, economic and cultural aspects and conditions**

- 7.6.1 The **forest** shall be open and at least be accessible for recreational purposes on foot via the existing paths and roads. Restrictions to access areas shall be permitted in order to protect privacy and personal surroundings, to protect special plants, animals or habitats and other special elements such as archaeological monuments, for the safety of visitors and workers, and for wildlife refuge areas.
- 7.6.2 Sites and elements of special archaeological, historical, cultural or spiritual value shall be protected.
- 7.6.3 Relevant knowledge and scientific insight regarding the forest area supplied by third parties shall be included in the monitoring and review cycle (*Appendix 1*).

7.6.4 Any companies used for work in the forest shall meet the following conditions:

- the contractor is aware of the content of this standard and will work in accordance therewith.
- contractors shall be ErBo certified (Erkenningsregeling Bosaannemers - Recognition scheme for forest contractors), or meet demonstrably equivalent requirements.
- contractors and subcontractors shall work in accordance with the Forests and Nature Health and Safety at Work Manual, the Working Conditions Act and the General Terms and Conditions for Forestry Subcontractors.

7.6.5 Anyone in possession of documents of ownership and usage rights shall be involved in the drafting of the management plan.

7.6.6 The owner/manager shall be open to contributing towards scientific research on sustainable forest management.

7.6.7 The owner/manager strives towards a healthy economic situation, being open to new market possibilities as well as other economic activities.

8. EVULATION

This chapter is only applicable to individual certificate holders. For the implementation for group certificates, please see chapter 9 of PCSN II.

8.1 Monitoring, measuring, analyzing and evaluation

- 8.1.1 The owner shall monitor his area on ecological, social and economic effects. The results of this monitoring will be used in the planning.
- 8.1.2 The owner shall regularly monitor the health of the certificated area, especially on biotic and abiotic factors that could influence the health and vitality of the ecosystem. One can think of pests, diseases, grazing, fire and harm caused by environment factors, air population or management activities.
- 8.1.3 Where applicable, the owner should regulate, monitor and control the use of non-forest products, such as the sale of game.
- 8.1.4 The owner shall regularly monitor the working conditions and adjust them if necessary.

8.2 Internal audit

8.2.1 Objectives

The owner shall organise an internal audit at least once a year, during which information will be provided as to whether the management system:

- a) Complies with:
 - The requirements set by the owner for its management system
 - The requirements of PCSN I
- b) Is implemented and managed in an effective manner

8.2.2 Organisation of the internal audit

The owner shall:

- a) Implement an audit programme that includes the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning and reporting, the importance of internal processes and the results of previous audits.
- b) define the audit criteria and scope for each audit
- c) Select auditors to carry out the audits taking into account objectivity and impartiality
- d) Ensuring that the results of the audits are shared with relevant management
- e) Retain documented information of the audit results as evidence of the implementation of the audit programme

8.3 Management review

8.3.1 The owner shall carry out an annual management review. This review shall at least include:

- a) Action points from previous management reviews;
- b) changes in internal or external processes relevant to the management system;
- c) Information on the owner's performance. In any case, trends will be included:
 - Non-conformities and solutions
 - The results of monitoring
 - The results of audits
- d) Opportunities for continuous improvement

8.3.2 The results of the management review shall include decisions that allow for continuous improvements and possible changes of the management system.

8.3.3 The owner shall retain documented information to prove that a management review has been carried out.

9. IMPROVEMENT

This chapter only applies to individual certificate holders. The implementation for a group certificate is in PCSN II, chapter 10.

9.1 Non-conformities and solutions

9.1.1 When an anomaly is detected, the owner shall:

- a) Respond and, where applicable
 - i. Take action to resolve the Non-conformity
 - ii. Deal with the consequences
- b) Assess whether any action is required to resolve specific causes of the non-compliance so that it does not occur again. The owner does this by:
 - i. Assessing the Non-conformity
 - ii. Determining the causes of the Non-conformity
 - iii. Determine whether similar Non-conformities exist or may arise;
- c) Assess the effectiveness of any corrective action taken
- d) Make changes in the management system as required.

9.1.2 The actions taken by the owner to resolve the nonconformities shall be appropriate.

9.1.3 The owner shall retain documented information as evidence of:

- a) The nature of the Non-conformity and the actions taken as a result
- b) the results of the resolution.

9.2 Continuous improvement

The applicability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the management system and the sustainable management of the forest and/or the trees shall be continually improved.

APPENDIX 1 MANAGEMENT PLAN

Forest management shall be documented in a **ten-year** management plan, which also includes the long-term vision. This guideline indicates the minimum requirements of the management plan, on the basis of which a quality inspection can be carried out by the certification body.

Management Plan
<p>1. Description of the area covered by the plan</p> <p>Description of the current forest, with as a minimum reference made thereto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) characterization of the forest b) composition by types of tree* c) routine and other growth d) vitality (<i>e.g. disease, pests, damage from grazing, adverse weather affects and activity</i>) e) forest structure and blends f) dead wood g) ecologically valuable elements* h) areas/zones dedicated to meeting European, national, regional or local nature objectives.* i) any sites of historically archaeological, cultural or spiritual importance present* j) the level of public access
<p>2. Objectives</p> <p>A description of the management objectives geared towards preserving and improving the economic, ecological and social aspects of the forest. The following subjects shall be included as a minimum requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) objectives relating to wood stocks and production, nature and recreation b) the required forest make-up, with attention being paid to the variety of types, blending, age structure, and structure on an ecosystem and type-based level. (<i>Reference to SNL Nature Types (Subsidiestelsel Natuur en Landschap - Nature and Landscape Subsidy System) is sufficient</i>)* c) forest products (wood and non-wood)* d) standing wood stocks, minimum and maximum felling e) improving biodiversity* f) infrastructure*
<p>3. Management activities</p> <p>A description of the activities carried out to achieve the objectives. Attention is paid to this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) felling* c) rejuvenation d) annual allowable cut d) control of unwanted types and/or the use of plant protection products and biocides* e) measures to improve biodiversity* f) ensuring safe working practices - through training courses, for example* g) results of any recent relevant scientific research* h) risk of damage to third parties, through a Virtual Tree Assessment, for example*

i) landscape values*

4. Management planning*

Management planning provides a summary of which measures will be implemented and when.

5. Attachments to the management plan*

A number of (map) attachments form part of the management plan:

- a) Ownership registration (proof of ownership and/or an extract from land registry records)
- b) map(s) showing special elements such as locations that are important due to ecological, archaeological, historical, cultural, or spiritual significance
- c) map(s) showing boundaries of areas which fall under (inter)national and regional nature objectives
- d) map(s) showing the infrastructure as well as water courses, pools and streams.
- e) Measures for working safely

6. Monitoring and Review*

All elements shall be subject to review, with the exception of section 5. Management plan attachments

The management plan shall be reviewed and updated every ten years.

There shall be interim reviews following natural disasters (storm, fire, disease, plague)

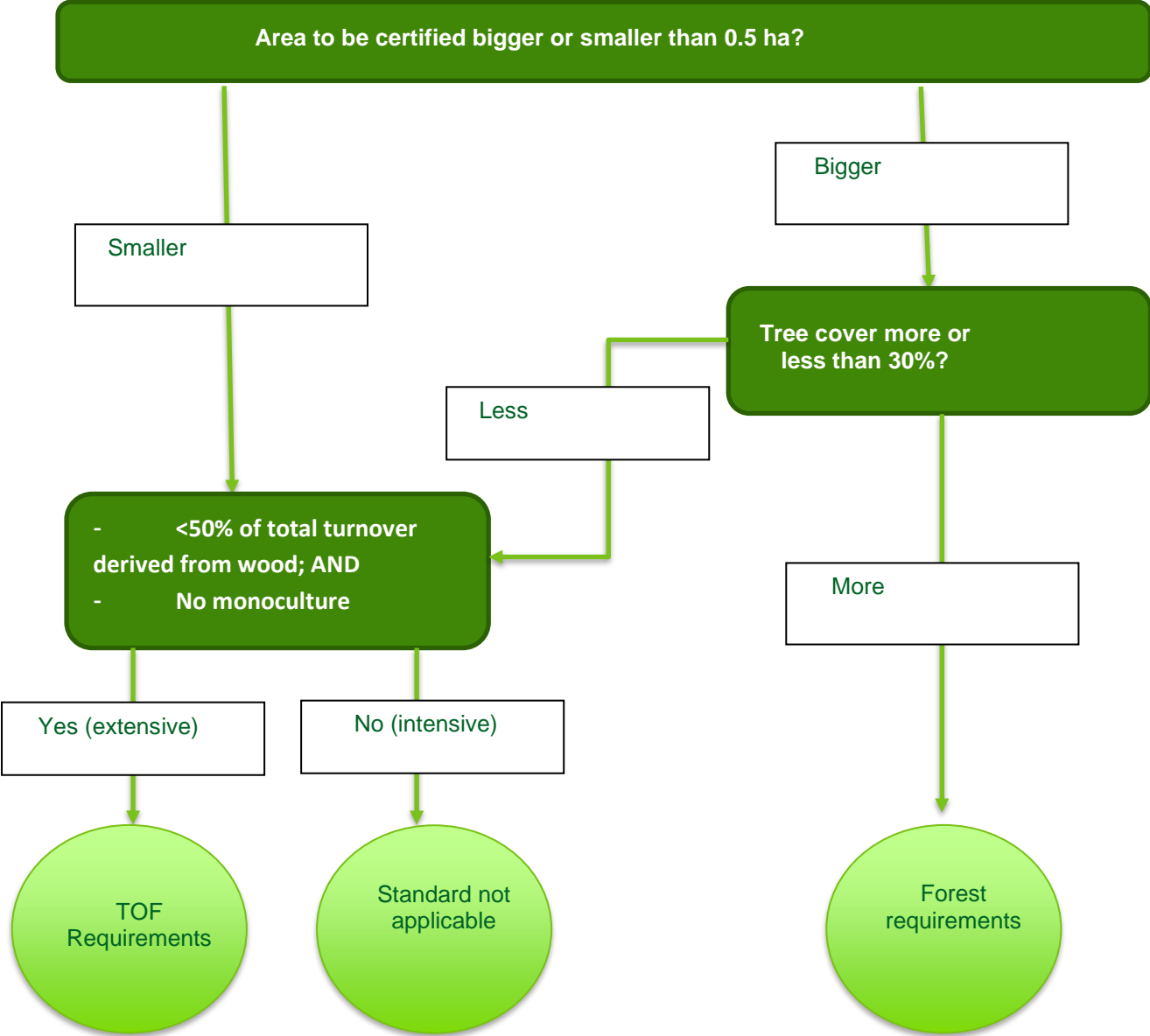
* are applicable for TOF

APPENDIX 2 INTERPRETATION OF TREES OUTSIDE FORESTS (TOF)

Trees Outside Forests are divided into four categories: urban and rural, and for both a distinction is made between intensive and extensive use. To determine whether the area can be identified as 'settlement', we look at whether it falls within the boundaries of the 'build environment' (bebouwde kom) set by the municipality. If not, it falls under agriculture.

The following scheme has to be followed to determine which requirements apply to the area to be certified whereby the whole area will be taken into account. For example, a municipality will take the entire municipal boundary to determine whether the crown coverage of their avenues is higher or lower than 30% of the entire area and a farmer will take his entire field and not just the trees. If an area to be certified is larger than 0.5 ha and has a canopy cover higher than 30%, the forest standard applies.

Turnover means the annual turnover in Euros and also the sale of whole trees (e.g. as Christmas trees) counts as turnover of wood.



As can be seen from the scheme, certification of TOF is only possible in areas that fall under extensive use. For intensive use of TOF areas (e.g. small-scale Christmas tree plantations) the standard is not applicable. Therefore we only have TOF requirements for extensive use of agricultural areas and settlement areas that can be seen in the tables below.

In principle the criteria for **forests** also count for TOF. However, not all of them are suitable in practice for TOF. Therefore this appendix lists all of the criteria that vary from or do not apply to TOF.

Trees Outside Forests interpretation of the requirements for settlement areas

Criterion	Interpretation of Trees Outside Forests Settlement (TOF)
4.3 The owner/manager shall have adequate procedures in place for handling complaints and disputes relating to forest work and working conditions.	4.3 The owner/manager shall have adequate procedures in place for handling complaints and disputes relating to working with trees outside forests and working conditions.
5.1 The owner/manager shall issue a declaration stating: a) that the owner/manager meets the standard for sustainable forest management and other requirements in the Netherlands PEFC Certification System; and b) a commitment to continuously improve the sustainable forest management.	5.1 The owner/manager shall issue a declaration stating: a. that the owner/manager meets the standard for sustainable trees outside forest management and other requirements in the Netherlands PEFC Certification System; and b. a commitment to continuously improve the sustainable management of trees outside forest areas.
5.3 Any responsibilities for operating sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	5.3 Any responsibilities for operating sustainable management of trees outside forest areas shall be clearly defined and assigned.
5.5.1 The owner/manager shall assess any risks and opportunities regarding compliance with the requirements of this standard for sustainable forest management. The scale and extent of these being implemented in the forest shall be taken into account.	5.1.1 The owner/manager shall assess any risks and opportunities regarding compliance with the requirements of this standard for the sustainable management of trees outside forest areas. The scale and extent of these being implemented in the trees outside forest areas shall be taken into account.

<p>6.3.2.1 Safety regulations have been adopted and personal protective equipment is used in accordance with the Forests and Nature Health and Safety at Work Manual. The forest owner shall provide instructions and ensure that his/her own employees, volunteers and private timber buyers comply with them.</p>	<p>6.3.2.1 Safety regulations have been adopted and personal protective equipment is used in accordance with the Gardeners and Landscaping Health and Safety at Work Manual. The owner/manager shall provide instructions and ensure that his/her own employees, volunteers and private timber buyers comply with them.</p>
<p>7.1.1 The owner/manager shall maintain the forested area. It is not possible to convert forest to alternative land use, including forest plantations, unless the conversion meets the following provisions:</p> <p>a) The converted forest has been compensated</p> <p>b) this complies with national legislation and regulations;</p> <p>c) it is not in excess of 5% of forest in the certified area for a minimum of five years;</p> <p>d) has no adverse effects on ecologically important forest areas; culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas;</p> <p>e) does not damage any areas of significantly high carbon storage;</p> <p>f) will contribute towards management, the economy and social cohesion over the long term.</p>	<p>7.1.1a) The TOF manager shall preserve the number and the diversity of trees. This shall also be included in the management plan.</p> <p>b) TOF areas established by a conversion after 31 December 2010, unless the conversions meets the provisions of 7.1.1 a-f from requirement for forests certification, do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.</p>
<p>7.1.4 There shall be no afforestation of ecologically important non-forest areas unless there are legitimate circumstances associated with the conversion: (...)</p>	<p>7.1.4 a) Conversion of ecologically important non-forest areas to TOF areas shall not lead to ecological decline</p> <p>b) TOF areas established by a conversion after 31 December 2010, unless the conversions meets the provisions of 7.1.1 a-f from requirement for forests certification, do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.</p>
<p>7.2.1 ... g) These activities shall be carried out in accordance with the Forests and Nature</p>	<p>7.2.1 ... g) These activities shall be carried out in accordance with the Gardeners and Landscaping Health and Safety at Work Manual, and the Working Conditions Act</p>

<p>Health and Safety at Work Manual, and the Working Conditions Act</p>	
<p>7.2.3 Damage to permanent trees, shrubs and soil shall be avoided as much as possible while working.</p>	<p>7.2.3 Damage to permanent trees, shrubs and soil shall be avoided as much as possible while working. For construction or groundwork within the canopy projection of a tree, a Tree Survey shall be completed.</p>
<p>7.3.3 Biomass below the ground shall not be removed</p>	<p>7.3.3 Not applicable in urban areas.</p>
<p>7.4.3 Forest rejuvenation shall make use of tree species appropriate to the area where they will grow.</p> <p>a) Rejuvenation shall be through natural regrowth, or through replanting.</p> <p>b) This shall only be permitted using plants appearing in the Dutch National Catalogue of Tree Varieties If replanting is chosen, meaning that their origin is known and the authenticity of the variety is guaranteed. It is permitted to deviate from the Dutch Catalogue of Tree Varieties to a limited extent within the context of climate-conscious forest management program.</p> <p>c) Genetically modified organisms or plant material shall not be used.</p> <p>d) Less common or nationally rare native tree and shrub types and species/ecologically important forest areas within the certified property shall be identified, protected, managed or allowed open access.</p>	<p>7.4.3 When planting new trees, the owner/manager shall make use of plants appearing in the Dutch National Catalogue of Tree Varieties. In urban environments it is permitted to deviate from the Dutch Catalogue of Tree Varieties. That means that the planted tree species should not increase risk to native ecosystems</p>

<p>7.4.6 At least 50% of the area of the certified property shall consist of mixed forest. This shall be included as an objective in the management plan giving a maximum transition period of 20 years shall this proportion have not yet been reached. This will be preserved wherever possible where the current mix of the forest exceeds 50%.</p>	<p>7.4.6 The TOF manager shall aim for a 10-20-30 split within the certified property in urban areas. A maximum of 10% of the total tree stock may be of the same types, a maximum of 20% of the total tree stock of the same genus and a maximum of 30% of the total tree stock from the same family. This shall be included as an objective in the management plan giving a transition period of 40 years should this proportion have not yet been reached. The existing diversity in the tree stock shall be preserved.</p>
<p>7.4.9 There shall be no livestock grazing in the forest. Extensive natural grazing, supported by a well-documented development process may be an option provided that any rejuvenation of the forest and therefore the long-term survival is not under threat.</p>	<p>7.4.9 Livestock may graze within the certified area, provided the growth of the trees already present and therefore the long-term survival is not at stake.</p>
<p>7.4.10 The owner/manager shall make every effort to achieve a wildlife population so that that the rejuvenation of the forest, in particular the rejuvenation of native deciduous trees, can develop naturally.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>7.4.13 Any clearing areas shall not exceed two hectares in principle, unless the purpose and need for a larger clearing area are justified in the</p>	<p>7.4.13 Trees within the certified area shall preferably not all be felled at the same time. This shall be included in the management plan.</p>

<p>management plan and are backed up by an independent expert.</p>	
<p>7.6.3 Relevant knowledge and scientific insight regarding the forest area supplied by third parties shall be included in the monitoring and review cycle (<i>Appendix 1</i>).</p>	<p>7.6.3 Relevant knowledge and scientific insight regarding trees outside forests supplied by third parties shall be included in the monitoring and review cycle (<i>Appendix 1</i>).</p>
<p>7.6.4 Companies deployed for work in the forest shall meet the following conditions: - the contractor shall be aware of the content of this standard and works in accordance with it. - contractors shall be ErBo certified (Erkenningsregeling Bosaannemers - Recognition scheme for forest contractors), or meet demonstrably equivalent requirements. - contractors and subcontractors shall work in accordance with the Forests and Nature Health and Safety at Work Manual, the Working Conditions Act and the General Terms and Conditions for Forestry Subcontractors.</p>	<p>7.6.4 Companies deployed for work in the forest shall meet the following conditions: - The contractor shall be aware of the content of this standard and works in accordance therewith. - Contractors shall be Groenkeur certified, or meet demonstrably equivalent requirements (such as ErBo). - Contractors and subcontractors shall work in accordance with the Working Conditions Act, the Gardeners and Landscaping Health and Safety at Work Manual or equivalent.</p>

<p>7.6.6 The owner/manager shall be open to contributing towards scientific research on sustainable forest management.</p>	<p>7.6.6 The owner/manager shall be open to contributing towards scientific research on the management of trees outside forests.</p>
<p>Additional TOF requirement</p>	<p>The owner/manager shall utilize traditional knowledge and recognized best practice for TOF management. Sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices shall be encouraged.</p>

Trees Outside Forests interpretation of the requirements for agricultural areas

Criterion	Interpretation of Trees Outside Forests Settlement (TOF)
<p>4.4 The owner/manager shall have adequate procedures in place for handling complaints and disputes relating to forest work and working conditions.</p>	<p>4.4 The owner/manager shall have adequate procedures in place for handling complaints and disputes relating to working with trees outside forests and working conditions.</p>
<p>5.2 The owner/manager shall issue a declaration stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) that the owner/manager meets the standard for sustainable forest management and other requirements in the Netherlands PEFC Certification System; and b) a commitment to continuously improve the sustainable forest management. 	<p>5.2 The owner/manager shall issue a declaration stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. that the owner/manager meets the standard for sustainable trees outside forest management and other requirements in the Netherlands PEFC Certification System; and b. a commitment to continuously improve the sustainable management of trees outside forest areas.
<p>5.3 Any responsibilities for operating sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.</p>	<p>5.3 Any responsibilities for operating sustainable management of trees outside forest areas shall be clearly defined and assigned.</p>
<p>5.5.2 The owner/manager shall assess any risks and opportunities regarding compliance with the requirements of this standard for sustainable forest management. The scale and extent of these being implemented in the forest shall be taken into account.</p>	<p>5.5.2 The owner/manager shall assess any risks and opportunities regarding compliance with the requirements of this standard for the sustainable management of trees outside forest areas. The scale and extent of these being implemented in the trees outside forest areas shall be taken into account.</p>

<p>6.3.2.1 Safety regulations have been adopted and personal protective equipment is used in accordance with the Forests and Nature Health and Safety at Work Manual. The forest owner shall provide instructions and ensure that his/her own employees, volunteers and private timber buyers comply with them.</p>	<p>6.3.2.1 Safety regulations have been adopted and personal protective equipment is used in accordance with the Gardeners and Landscaping Health and Safety at Work Manual. The owner/manager shall provide instructions and ensure that his/her own employees, volunteers and private timber buyers comply with them.</p>
<p>7.1.1 The owner/manager shall maintain the forested area. It is not possible to convert forest to alternative land use, including forest plantations, unless the conversion meets the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The converted forest has been compensated b) this complies with national legislation and regulations; c) it is not in excess of 5% of forest in the certified area for a minimum of five years; d) has no adverse effects on ecologically important forest areas; culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; e) does not damage any areas of significantly high carbon storage; f) will contribute towards management, the economy and social cohesion over the long term. 	<p>7.1.1a) The TOF manager shall preserve the number and the diversity of trees. This shall also be included in the management plan.</p> <p>b) TOF areas established by a conversion after 31 December 2010, unless the conversions meets the provisions of 7.1.1 a-f from requirement for forests certification, do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.</p>
<p>7.1.4 There shall be no afforestation of ecologically important non-forest areas unless there are legitimate circumstances associated with the conversion: (...)</p>	<p>7.1.4 a) Conversion of ecologically important non-forest areas to TOF areas shall not lead to ecological decline</p> <p>b) TOF areas established by a conversion after 31 December 2010, unless the conversions meets the provisions of 7.1.1 a-f from requirement for forests certification, do not meet the requirement and are not eligible for certification.</p>

<p>7.2.1 ... g) These activities shall be carried out in accordance with the Forests and Nature Health and Safety at Work Manual, and the Working Conditions Act</p>	<p>7.2.1 ... g) These activities shall be carried out in accordance with the Gardeners and Landscaping Health and Safety at Work Manual, and the Working Conditions Act</p>
<p>7.2.3 Damage to permanent trees, shrubs and soil shall be avoided as much as possible while working.</p>	<p>7.2.3 Damage to permanent trees, shrubs and soil shall be avoided as much as possible while working.</p>
<p>7.4.3 Forest rejuvenation shall make use of tree species appropriate to the area where they will grow.</p> <p>a) Rejuvenation shall be through natural regrowth, or through replanting.</p> <p>b) This shall only be permitted using plants appearing in the Dutch National Catalogue of Tree Varieties If replanting is chosen, meaning that their origin is known and the authenticity of the variety is guaranteed. It is permitted to deviate from the Dutch Catalogue of Tree Varieties to a limited extent within the context of climate-conscious forest management program.</p> <p>c) Genetically modified organisms or plant material shall not be used.</p> <p>d) Less common or nationally rare native tree and shrub types and species/ecologically important forest areas within the certified property shall be identified, protected, managed or allowed open access.</p>	<p>7.4.3 When planting new trees, the owner/manager shall make use of plants appearing in the Dutch National Catalogue of Tree Varieties. In urban environments it is permitted to deviate from the Dutch Catalogue of Tree Varieties. That means that the planted tree species should not increase risk to native ecosystems</p>
<p>7.4.6 At least 50% of the area of the certified property shall consist of mixed</p>	<p>7.4.6 At least 50% of the certified property in an agricultural or landscape area shall consist of mixed forest or planting. This shall be included as an objective in the management plan with a transition period of 40 years shall this proportion</p>

<p>forest. This shall be included as an objective in the management plan giving a maximum transition period of 20 years shall this proportion have not yet been reached. This will be preserved wherever possible where the current mix of the forest exceeds 50%.</p>	<p>have not yet been reached. This shall be preserved wherever possible if the current mix exceeds 50%. An exception to the mix ratio can be made for avenues and rows of trees.</p>
<p>7.4.9 There shall be no livestock grazing in the forest. Extensive natural grazing, supported by a well-documented development process may be an option provided that any rejuvenation of the forest and therefore the long-term survival is not under threat.</p>	<p>7.4.9 Livestock may graze within the certified area, provided the growth of the trees already present and therefore the long-term survival is not at stake.</p>
<p>7.4.10 The owner/manager shall make every effort to achieve a wildlife population so that that the rejuvenation of the forest, in particular the rejuvenation of native deciduous trees, can develop naturally.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

<p>7.4.13 Any clearing areas shall not exceed two hectares in principle, unless the purpose and need for a larger clearing area are justified in the management plan and are backed up by an independent expert.</p>	<p>7.4.13 Trees within the certified area shall preferably not all be felled at the same time. This shall be included in the management plan.</p>
<p>7.6.3 Relevant knowledge and scientific insight regarding the forest area supplied by third parties shall be included in the monitoring and review cycle (<i>Appendix 1</i>).</p>	<p>7.6.3 Relevant knowledge and scientific insight regarding trees outside forests supplied by third parties shall be included in the monitoring and review cycle (<i>Appendix 1</i>).</p>
<p>7.6.4 Companies deployed for work in the forest shall meet the following conditions: - the contractor shall be aware of the content of this standard and works in accordance with it. - contractors shall be ErBo certified (Erkenningsregeling Bosaannemers - Recognition scheme for forest contractors), or meet demonstrably equivalent requirements. - contractors and subcontractors shall work in accordance with the Forests and Nature Health and Safety at Work Manual, the Working Conditions Act and the General Terms and Conditions for Forestry Subcontractors.</p>	<p>7.6.4 Companies deployed for work in the forest shall meet the following conditions: - The contractor shall be aware of the content of this standard and works in accordance therewith. - Contractors shall be Groenkeur certified, or meet demonstrably equivalent requirements (such as ErBo). - Contractors and subcontractors shall work in accordance with the Working Conditions Act, the Gardeners and Landscaping Health and Safety at Work Manual or equivalent.</p>

<p>7.6.6 The owner/manager shall be open to contributing towards scientific research on sustainable forest management.</p>	<p>7.6.6 The owner/manager shall be open to contributing towards scientific research on the management of trees outside forests.</p>
<p>Additional TOF requirement</p>	<p>The owner/manager shall utilize traditional knowledge and recognized best practice for agroforestry & TOF management. Sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices shall be encouraged.</p>

ANNEX 3 ABBREVIATIONS

CAO Collective working agreements

Ctgb Board for the authorisation of plant protection products and biocides

PEFC Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification



PEFC

PEFC/30-01-01

Samen voor onze
bossen

www.pefc.nl