

Assessment of the Argentine Forest Certification System

Final Report

28.04.14

Assessment of the Argentine Forest Certification System

Client

Name	PEFC Council
Contact person	Johan Vlieger
Address	World Trade Centre 1 10 Route de l'Aéroport PO Box 636 1215 Geneva Switzerland
Telephone	+41 22 7994540
Fax	+41 22 7994550
E-mail	Johan.vlieger@pefc.org
Internet	www.pefc.org

Assessor

Name	Joern Ackermann
Address	Gruenberger Str. 15 10243 Berlin Germany
Telephone	+49 30 95621187
E-mail	ackermann.joern@gmx.de

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments.....	iii
Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	iv
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Scope of the assessment.....	1
1.2. Assessment process.....	2
1.3. Methodology adopted.....	2
1.3.1. Desk assessment of documents.....	2
1.3.2. Stakeholder survey and public consultation.....	3
1.3.3. Field trip.....	3
1.3.4. Panel of experts review.....	3
1.4. Timetable of the assessment.....	4
1.5. Reference documents and sources.....	5
1.6. Personnel.....	7
2. Recommendation.....	8
3. Summary of the findings.....	9
3.1. Structure of the system.....	9
3.2. Standard setting procedures and processes.....	9
3.3. Forest certification standard(s).....	10
3.4. Group certification model.....	11
3.5. Chain of Custody standard(s).....	11
3.6. Certification and accreditation procedures.....	11
3.7. Logo usage rules.....	11
3.8. Complaints and dispute resolution procedures.....	12
3.9. Any other aspects.....	12
3.10. Stakeholder survey.....	12
3.11. Field assessment.....	14
4. Structure of the system.....	15
5. Standard setting process.....	18
6. Forest Management Standard.....	21
7. Group Certification Model.....	23
8. Chain of Custody standard.....	24
9. Certification and accreditation arrangements.....	25
10. Implementation of PEFC Logo usage.....	27
11. Complaints and dispute resolution procedures.....	28

Annex 1: PEFC Standard Requirements Checklist	1
Legend	2
1.1 Part I: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for standard setting (PEFC ST 1001:2010).....	3
1.2 PART II: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for Group FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION (PEFC ST 1002:2010)	38
1.3 PART III: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (PEFC ST 1003:2010)	60
1.4 PART IV: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for certification and accreditation procedures (Annex 6)	171
1.5 Part V: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for system specific Chain of custody standards – COMPLIANCE WITH PEFC ST PEFC 2002:2010...	184
1.6 Part VI: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for scheme administration requirements	185
Annex 2: Results of stakeholder survey	194
1. Stakeholder survey response	194
2. Survey results.....	194
3. Breakdown of comments.....	195
4. List of stakeholder respondents to the consultation	198
Annex 3: Results of international consultation	199
Annex 4: Panel of Experts comments	203
Annex 5: Report on field assessments	210
Annex 6: Any other relevant information.....	223

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAC	Annual Allowable Cut
AB	Accreditation Body
AFCP	Asociation Fabricantes de Celulosa y Papel Argentina
AFoA	Association Forestal Argentina
BoD	Board of Directors
CB	Certification body
Cerfoar	Argentine Forest Certification System
CoC	Chain of Custody
EGM	Extraordinary General Meeting
FAIMA	Federacion Argentina Industria Madera y Afines
FM	Forest Management
FMU	Forest Management Unit
GCS	General Committee of Standards of IRAM
IRAM	Argentine National Standardizing Body
NC	Non-conformity
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OAA	Argentine accreditation body (by presidential decree 1474/94)
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes
PEFCC	PEFC Council, the legally registered name of PEFC International (also referred to as the PEFC Secretariat)
PoE	Panel of Experts
SIGN	IRAM standardization process management and registration software
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SSP	Standard setting process
SSRC	Standard and System Requirement Checklist

1. Introduction

1.1. Scope of the assessment

The scope of this assessment is to compare the Argentine Forest Certification System (Cerfoar) with the minimum requirements of the PEFC as documented in the PEFC's technical documents and specified in the PEFC IGD 1007:2012. The assessment shall result in a recommendation to the PEFC's Board of Directors as to whether the Argentine Forest Certification System should be endorsed or if changes are required before endorsement.

In particular, the Terms of Reference required the following activities:

- A general analysis of the structure of the Applicant System's technical documentation.
- An assessment of the standard setting procedures and process against PEFC ST 1001:2010, Standard Setting – Requirements.
- An assessment of the forest certification standard(s) against PEFC ST 1003:2010, Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements.
- An assessment of the group certification model against PEFC ST 1002:2010, Group Forest Management Certification - Requirements.
- An assessment of the chain of custody standard(s) against PEFC ST 2002:2010, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements.
- An assessment of the procedures for notification of certification bodies against PEFC GD1004:2009, Administration of PEFC scheme, chapter 5.
- An assessment of the procedures for logo licensing against PEFC GD1004:2009, Administration of PEFC scheme, chapter 6.
- An assessment of the procedures for complaints and dispute resolution against PEFC GD1004:2009, Administration of PEFC scheme, chapter 8
- An assessment of certification and accreditation procedures, as defined in the PEFC Council Technical Document, Annex 6.
- A stakeholder survey to check the basic contents of the development report on the standard setting process.
- Any other aspects which can affect functions, credibility and efficiency of the submitted system.
- A field trip to the Applicant's country.

1.2. Assessment process

The assessment has been conducted in the following stages:

- 1) Review of the scheme documentation provided by Cerfoar to the PEFCC and forwarded to the assessment team with the tender dossier on 20.08.2013 and additionally provided documents during the course of the assessment on 14.01.2014 and 19.01.2014 (for an overview of documents see Chapter 1.5 of this report). The documents were reviewed by Independent Senior Consultants Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell.
- 2) The scheme documentation (see Chapter 1.5 of this report) was assessed for compliance against the PEFCC's Standard and System Requirement Checklist PEFC IGD 1007:2012 by the Independent Senior Consultants Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell.
- 3) A stakeholder survey using questionnaires to verify the standard setting process which was implemented during the development of the Argentine Forest Certification System, was conducted by Annie Adams and Susanna Lohri from Efeca from 08.01.2014 to 22.01.2014.
- 4) A public consultation has been carried out via the PEFCC's website for a period of 60 days from 27.08.2013 – 26.10.2013, to gather comments of other national and international stakeholders concerned.
- 5) A draft report and an overview of identified non-conformities and open questions was elaborated by the assessment team and forwarded to PEFCC and Cerfoar for review on 27.01.2014.
- 6) The comments from Cerfoar were received on 10.02.2014 included in the overview of identified non-conformities prepared by the lead assessors. Further documents as supportive evidence were submitted.
- 7) A field trip to Buenos Aires was conducted from 17.02.2014 - 21.02.2014.
- 8) The Final Draft Report was submitted to PEFCC on 04.03.2014.
- 9) The comments of the PoE were received on 21.03.2014
- 10) The comments by the PoE were considered and included in the Final Report.
- 11) The Final Report was sent to PEFCC on 22.03.2014.
- 12) Cerfoar submitted adapted documents to close open NCs in Final Report on 13.04.2014.
- 13) Assessment and adaptation of Final Report by assessment team on 28.04.2014.

1.3. Methodology adopted

The following methodology was used by the assessment team to reach the scope of the conformity assessment of the revised documents of the Argentine Forest Certification System, as outlined in Chapter 1.1 of this report.

1.3.1. Desk assessment of documents

The provided documents (see Table 1 in this report) were reviewed concerning their structure and importance for the assessment and their availability in English (a requirement of PEFC GD 1007:2012, Chapter 7.2.2.1). Some of the documents were only available in Spanish (e.g. minutes of Forum meetings, internal procedures of standardizing body IRAM, internal process records) and were partially used in the

assessment (PEFCC regulations state that all relevant documents to be assessed have to be submitted in English).

The documents were assessed by Independent Senior Consultants Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell. The PEFC IGD 1007:2012 Standard and System Requirement Checklists (SSRC) were used to assess the provided documentation against the minimum requirements for the endorsement process of the PEFCC. The results of the assessment of the documents against the SSRC were discussed in detail between the Independent Senior Consultants before their final formulation.

The results of the assessment were documented in full in the SSRC and a draft report was elaborated and submitted to PEFCC and Cerfoar for review. All comments by PEFCC and Cerfoar were evaluated and considered, if agreed upon by the assessment team.

1.3.2. Stakeholder survey and public consultation

A stakeholder survey was implemented by Efeca from 08.01.2014 - 22.01.2014 and the responses were evaluated and relevancy considered during the assessment and elaboration of the draft report. All 97 organizations involved in the standard setting process according to the provided list of members of the WG2 (Cerfoar_ANNEX 06_IRAM WG2 Members) were contacted by email and sent a questionnaire including several questions related to the standard setting process (see section 3.10 and Annex 2).

A public consultation was held by PEFCC from 27.08.2013 - 26.10.2013. The comments were evaluated and their relevancy considered during the assessment and elaboration of the draft report.

1.3.3. Field trip

A field trip was implemented from 17.02.2014 - 21.02.2014 by lead assessor Joern Ackermann to meet a selection of stakeholders involved in the SSP or otherwise related to forestry issues in Argentina to gain more information about the SSP, the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the SSP and the ownership of the Cerfoar scheme at level of different organizations. The selection of stakeholders covered representatives of several interest groups (BoD of Cerfoar association, national standardization body, national accreditation body, governmental organizations, scientific organizations, forestry and wood processing companies, social organizations, environmental NGOs) to collect impressions from different interest groups.

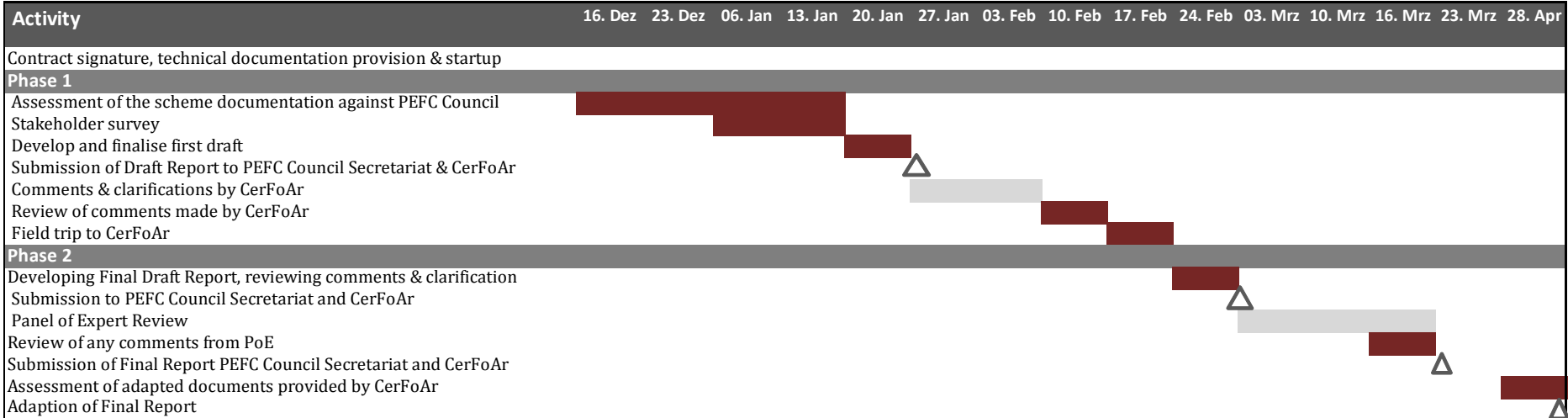
1.3.4. Panel of experts review

The comments by the PoE were received on 21.03.2014, evaluated by the Lead Assessors and considered if deemed to be relevant. The consideration of each individual comment and answers to the comments by the Lead Assessors can be found in Table 7 in Annex 4.

1.4. Timetable of the assessment

The timetable of the assessment is shown in the following figure:

Workplan - Assessment of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme (CerFoAr)



Work in progress [Dark red bar]
 External activities [Light grey bar]
 Key outputs [Triangle]

1.5. Reference documents and sources

The following table contains an overview of the documents which were provided by Cerfoar to the PEFC for conformity assessment to evaluate the potential endorsement of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme. These were submitted to the assessment team with the Tender Dossier for the Assessment of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme from 19.08.2013 and during the assessment process.

Table 1: List of documents provided by the Argentine Forest Certification System for assessment

No.	Document	Description
1	Cerfoar_Technical_Document	Description of Cerfoar system and standard setting process
2	Cerfoar_ANNEX_01_IRAM39801enu_Dual	SFM standard
3	Cerfoar_ANNEX_02_IRAM39803enu_Dual	SFM audit requirements
4	Cerfoar_ANNEX_03_IRAM39805enu_Dual	SFM group certification
5	Cerfoar_ANNEX_04_IRAM_REN_Dual	IRAM rules of standard setting (Forum Setup)
6	Cerfoar_ANNEX_05_IRAM_WG2_Minutes_Bind	Minutes of forum work (Spanish)
7	Cerfoar_ANNEX_06_IRAM_WG2_Members	List of forum members
8	Cerfoar_ANNEX_07_CE-CP-02_V3	Accreditation requirements of CBs
9	Cerfoar_ANNEX_08_PG_0103	Notification of CBs
10	Cerfoar_ANNEX_09_PG_0203	FM audit procedures for CBs
11	Cerfoar_ANNEX_10_PG_0302	FM external consultation procedures
12	Cerfoar_ANNEX_11_PG_0402	FM report peer review procedures
13	Cerfoar_ANNEX_12_PG_0502	FM report elaboration procedures
14	Cerfoar_ANNEX_13_PG_0602	Dispute resolution procedures
15	Cerfoar_ANNEX_14_PG_0701	Logo license procedures
16	Cerfoar_PEFC_Checklists	SSRC filled by Cerfoar
17	Base de datos programa GF	Overview about identified stakeholders (Spanish, provided during assessment by IRAM on 14.01.2014)
18	Manual de la Calidad	IRAM internal procedures for standard setting (Spanish, provided during assessment by IRAM on 14.01.2014)
19	DN-PN 001. Gestión de solicitudes de estudio , revisión o anulación de normas IRAM	See above.
20	DN-PN 002. Formación de Organismos de Estudio (Subcomités, Comisiones y Grupos de Trabajo)	See above.
21	DN-FS 005. Esquema a discusión pública	See above.
22	DN-PN 006. Elaboración o revisión de normas IRAM	See above.
23	DN-FN 007. Encuesta de satisfacción del cliente. Funcionamiento de Organismos de Estudio	See above.
24	DN-PG 009. Productos no conformes	See above.

25	DN-PG 010. Plan de estudio de normas	See above.
26	DN-PG 011. Rev.08 Reclamos externos o internos	See above.
27	DN-FN 013. Solicitud de nuevo estudio IRAM	See above.
28	DN-FG 051. Control de documentos del SGC de la DN del IRAM	See above.
29	Informe Anual GFS Junio 2005 - Mayo 2006	Annual report about standard development (Spanish, provided during assessment by IRAM on 14.01.2014).
30	Informe Anual GFS Junio 2006 - Mayo 2007	See above.
31	Informe Anual GFS Junio 2007 - Mayo 2008	See above.
32	Informe Anual GFS Junio 2008 - Mayo 2009	See above.
33	4_2(Presidential Decree 1474).zip	National laws
34	5_2(Evidence for stakeholder identification).zip	Process records (Spanish, provided during assessment on 19.01.2014 by IRAM)
35	5_3_a(Invitation of stakeholders).zip	See above.
36	5_5_a(Working Drafts).zip	See above.
37	5_6_b(Public consultation).zip	See above.
38	5_6_f(Comments public consultation).zip	See above.
39	5_7(Pilot test).zip	See above.
40	www.iram.org.ar	Webpage IRAM
41	1er Draft_AD_Remarks cerfora	Additional evidence on SSP (Spanish, provided on 10.02.2014)

The following table provides an overview of the technical documents provided by the PEFC which were used for this assessment.

Table 2: List of technical documents from PEFC used for assessment

No.	Document
1	PEFC GD 1001:2008 Structure of PEFC Technical Documents
2	PEFC ST 1001:2010 Standard Setting
3	PEFC ST 1002:2010 Group Forest Management Certification
4	PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management
5	PEFC ST 2001:2008 PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements
6	PEFC ST 2002:2010 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products
7	PEFC ST 2003:2012 Chain of Custody Certification Body Requirements
8	PEFC GD 1004:2009 Administration of PEFC Scheme
9	PEFC GD 1007:2012 Endorsement of National Schemes
10	Annex 6 PEFC TD Accreditation and Certification Procedures
11	PEFC ST 2003-2012 - CB requirements (chain of custody)

Furthermore, the PEFC website (www.pefc.org) was used as a source of information and further documents/processes relevant for the assessment.

1.6. Personnel

The assessment team comprised of Independent Senior Consultants Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell (document review, field trip) as well as Annie Adams, a Senior Consultant and Susanna Lohri, Consultant, from Efeca. Further information about the members of the assessment team are outlined in the proposal submitted to PEFCC for the tender of the Assessment of the Argentine Forest Certification System on 17.09.2013.

The assessment contract was signed on behalf of Cerfoar by Mr. Jorge Barros (President of Cerfoar) and Mrs. Florencia Chavat (Secretary General Cerfoar) who was the point of contact replying to questions from the assessment team directed to Cerfoar. Mr. Frederico Yonar from IRAM was involved in the submission of additionally requested documents (internal procedures Standardization Department IRAM) on 14.01.2014.

During the field trip, Mrs. Florencia Chavat (Secretary General Cerfoar) and Mrs. Carolina Llavallol (Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR) organized meetings with selected stakeholders and handled all relevant issues.

2. Recommendation

The Cerfoar Secretariat received the Final Draft including 4 Minor NCs on 06.03.2014. The Cerfoar BoD decided to correct the relevant scheme documentation in regard to the 4 Minor NCs and submitted adapted documents on 13.04.2014. These documents were assessed by the assessment team and all Minor NCs could be closed. Thus, the final Cerfoar scheme documentation complies with the PEFCCs requirements in all points.

It is recommended to the BoD of PEFCC to endorse the Cerfoar scheme according to the PEFCC scheme endorsement procedures.

However, the assessment team recommends to PEFCC to discuss the following points with the Cerfoar association:

1. During the assessment process it turned out, that some parts of the standard setting procedures were only available in Spanish. This was not a bar to the assessment, but according to the PEFC GD 1007:2012 all relevant standard setting procedures have to be available in English. The Cerfoar association has already stated that the missing procedures could be extracted from the IRAM procedures and translated into English.
2. The standard setting procedures, the SFM standard and the Group Certification Standard are available from IRAM upon request, but fees have to be paid to receive the documents. PEFCC and Cerfoar should discuss if this complies with PEFCC requirements concerning public availability of national scheme documentation.

3. Summary of the findings

3.1. Structure of the system

The Argentine Forest Certification System – Cerfoar – is a voluntary initiative of the Argentine forest sector which establishes forest certification requirements for native and planted forest and also requirements to track forest products back to related industries located in Argentine territory (COC).

Cerfoar is the **National Governing Body** and the **Licensing Body** recognized by the PEFCC. The **Standardizing Body** of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme is the national standardizing body IRAM (Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación), which is responsible for setting up the **Standard Setting Forum** (consensus taking body) and the entire standard setting process. IRAM is entitled by the Presidential Decree 1474/94 to be the single standardizing organization in Argentina entitled to elaborate voluntary standards under the National Standards, Quality and Certification System. Cerfoar adopted the following IRAM Standards to be part of the Cerfoar scheme: IRAM 39801 (SFM), IRAM 39803 (SFM Auditing) and IRAM 39805 (Group Certification) which were already approved by IRAM in 2010.

The organizational structure of Cerfoar association consists of the following bodies:

- General Assembly
- Board of Directors
- Supervision Body
- Executive Secretariat

The document basis of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme is based on IRAM standards for SFM, Group Certification and CB requirements at FM level, adopted international standards of PEFCC for COC certification, logo usage and CB requirements at COC level and Cerfoar's general procedures for scheme administration and accreditation (see Table 1).

The BoD of Cerfoar is responsible for the final adoption of the scheme documentation.

3.2. Standard setting procedures and processes

The Cerfoar scheme used the national standardization body IRAM and its expertise concerning standard setting to elaborate and maintain Standard Setting Procedures and, most importantly, to govern the development of the SFM Standard (IRAM 39801) and the Group Certification Standard (IRAM 39805). The SFM and the Group Certification Standards were elaborated by IRAM during a participatory process including 92 meetings of the working group WG2 from 2003 - 2010 as a project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank. The project intended to elaborate technical standards to help Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the forestry and timber sector to gain access to export markets. Directly affected stakeholders (materially or otherwise) were included in the WGs as well as forest owner representatives, trade unions, professional colleges, industrial associations, public research institutes, forest-based

enterprises, consultants, public organisms, universities, and end consumers. The decisions were taken upon consensus by the WG2 and the draft standards were sent for public consultation in 2009 for 60 days. Three pilot tests in planted forests and natural forests were implemented by experienced auditors and technicians to test the SFM standard in the field and to adapt the requirements where necessary. After obtaining information and comments from the public consultation and the pilot tests, the information was considered by the WG2 and the standard documents were approved on consensus for approval by the BoD of IRAM on 10.06.2010. The standards have since been published on the IRAM website and are accessible for a fee. The entire standard setting process is documented in the software SIGN by IRAM, which documents each individual email during the entire standard setting process (verified during the field trip).

The Cerfoar Association adopted the IRAM Standards by a decision of its BoD to be the SFM and Group Certification standards of the Cerfoar Scheme. Furthermore, the Cerfoar Association adopted international standards of PEFCC for COC certification, logo usage and CB requirements at COC level and developed Cerfoar's general procedures for scheme administration and accreditation.

The standard setting procedure and the implemented processes were elaborated by IRAM according to ISO requirements and generally meet the PEFCC requirements. The entire scheme documentation shall be reviewed every five years at least or on indications made by PEFCC.

The requirements of PEFCC concerning standard setting procedures and implemented processes are fulfilled by the Cerfoar Scheme.

3.3. Forest certification standard(s)

The technical standards of voluntary application which constitute the normative base of the Argentine Forest Certification System are the following documents of the IRAM Standards Series 39800 of Sustainable Forest Management:

- IRAM 39801: Sustainable Forest Management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management units.
- IRAM 39803: Sustainable Forest Management. Audit.
- IRAM 39805: Sustainable Forest Management. Group certification.

The standard documents are concise and comprehensive, demonstrating the involvement of local organisations with proven standard setting skills. As the forestry sector in Argentina relies heavily on production in planted forest, it is important to consider the conditions for establishing and maintaining plantations. In this context a number of questions arose during the initial phase of the assessment, which could all be answered and supported with additional information by the Cerfoar scheme. As a result, it is assessed that the standards meet the PEFCC requirements.

It is noteworthy that the development of the document "IRAM 39803: Sustainable Forest Management. Audit." is considered by the assessment team to exceed PEFCC

requirements, as the development of a normative document covering auditing is not mandatory for a scheme.

In Appendix B of IRAM 39801 an overview of working group members contributing to the development of the sustainable forest management certification requirements is provided. Although it was noted that only 2 NGOs were represented in the Forest Management Commission (WG 2), during the field trip it was verified that all relevant stakeholders were invited and even when not actively participating, participants were not excluded from the process or access to relevant documentation at any time.

3.4. Group certification model

The technical document laying down the Cerfoar requirements for group certification is entitled “IRAM 39805:2010. Sustainable Forest Management. Group certification”. The design of the group certification model is detailed and covers all requirements of PEFCC.

In addition the Cerfoar Association applies a document specific to requirements for auditing, “IRAM 39803:2009. Sustainable Forest Management. Audit”. This document states in its scope that “this standard is applicable to all organizations which have to conduct forest management audits or manage an audit program”. However, its use is only mandatory for CBs. Group Managers can apply it on a voluntary basis.

In terms of stakeholder participation, the same note as above in 3.3 applies here.

3.5. Chain of Custody standard(s)

Cerfoar adopted the COC standard from PEFCC (PEFC ST 2002: in force) without modification as being the COC standard for the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme.

Thus, the criteria required by the PEFCC for the Chain of Custody of a national scheme are fulfilled.

3.6. Certification and accreditation procedures

The certification and accreditation procedures are comprehensively described by Cerfoar documents. Cerfoar adopted the PEFCC’s international standard PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for CBs certifying COC). Generally the relevant ISO procedures for Certification Bodies and auditors are required, and the Argentine National Accreditation Body OAA which is the only accreditation body for Cerfoar is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

The requirements of PEFCC concerning certification and accreditation procedures are fulfilled by the Cerfoar Scheme.

3.7. Logo usage rules

Cerfoar Association is the Logo Licensing Body of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme which concludes logo usage contracts with the logo users. The requirements for issuance of logo licenses are described in detail by the scheme documentation. Cerfoar adopted the PEFC ST 2001: in force without modifications to the logo usage standard to be used by logo users and CBs.

The requirements of the PEFCC are met in full in this respect.

3.8. Complaints and dispute resolution procedures

Complaints and dispute resolution procedures are described in detail in the Cerfoar documentation. It is necessary for an independent Dispute Resolution Committee to be set up by the executive secretariat to take a decision on the complaint. The process is made transparent for the complainant and interested parties.

The requirements of PEFCC concerning complaints and dispute resolution procedures are fulfilled by the Cerfoar Scheme.

3.9. Any other aspects

Due to the fact that the Cerfoar Association acts as a National Governing Body and Licensing Body and IRAM functions as the Standardization Body implementing its own internal standard setting procedures, not all relevant procedures and process records were submitted to PEFCC (and consequently to the assessment team) with the application for endorsement by Cerfoar. Part of the missing documentation was submitted by email on 14.01.2014 and 19.01.2014 to PEFCC and the assessment team, after a process of consideration and signing a non-disclosure-agreement by the assessment team. These documents (see Table 1) were submitted only in Spanish even though they partly belong to the general standard setting procedures (e.g. the Manual de Calidad of the IRAM Standardization Department) which had to be assessed and which have to be publicly available according to PEFCC requirements. This was not a major obstacle for the assessment team, but Cerfoar and PEFCC need to decide if the availability of these documents only in Spanish is sufficient to fulfill PEFCC requirements.

Furthermore, IRAM holds the copyright of the SFM and Group Certification standards of Cerfoar, where they are currently available for a fee. It remains unclear in how far the publication of these standards is possible via the Cerfoar scheme and if they will have to be accessible for free. Generally, the standard setting procedures and the documentation of the standard setting process (e.g. summary of received comments during public consultation) were made available to interested parties upon request by IRAM to fulfill the requirements of public availability of relevant documents.

PEFCC should decide if the documents in Spanish (especially the Manual de Calidad and respective Annexes of the IRAM Standardization Department) need to be translated into English, and negotiate publishing requirements for all relevant standards, procedures and records of the scheme with IRAM and Cerfoar, eventually making these documents available for free.

3.10. Stakeholder survey

A stakeholder survey was conducted from Wednesday 08.01.2014 to 22.01.2014. Invitations to complete the online stakeholder survey were sent to all participants in the standard setting forum via email – this included a total of 93 stakeholders. The survey

was completed by 15 stakeholders (6%)(see Table 8). The questionnaire was sent translated in Spanish.

Respondents indicated they represented a range of interest groups, dominated by the private sector, with some stakeholders noting they represented environmental interests (two stakeholders representing both private sector and environmental interests), but only one stakeholder represented social interests and one stakeholder represented 'other' interests.

The responses received from the stakeholder survey have been positive, where at least 13 out of 15 (87%) and in some cases 15 (100%) of responses indicated that stakeholders formally in the working group process:

- felt that the range of interests in forest management in Argentina were represented;
- were satisfied with the way of determining and approaching disadvantaged stakeholders;
- had access to all standard revision documents;
- were given meaningful opportunities to contribute to revising the standard;
- felt that comments were handled in an open and transparent manner;
- were satisfied that the enquiry draft was accessible and publicly available;
- were satisfied with the decision making process where a consensus was not reached; and
- received a final draft and had a meaningful opportunity to comment on it.

There were however up to two stakeholders (13%) who indicated they were only partially satisfied with the following:

- the range of interests in forest management in Argentina represented;
- the way of determining and approaching disadvantaged stakeholders;
- being given meaningful opportunities to contribute to revising the standard;
- that the enquiry draft was accessible and publicly available; and
- the decision making process where a consensus was not reached.

No complete dissatisfaction was stated by any stakeholder during the assessment.

There were also two negative responses (13%) to Question 9 which asked whether stakeholders received a final draft of the scheme documentation and had an opportunity to comment.

3.11. Field assessment

A field trip was undertaken from 17.02. - 21.02.2014 by lead assessor Joern Ackermann to meet a selection of stakeholders involved in the SSP or otherwise related to forestry issues in Argentina to gain more information about the SSP, the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the SSP and the ownership of the Cerfoar scheme at the level of different organizations. The selection of stakeholders covered representatives of several interest groups (BoD of cerfoar association, national standardization body, national accreditation body, governmental organizations, scientific organizations, forestry and wood processing companies, social organizations and environmental NGOs). Furthermore a visit to a forest plantation site which was subject to the first pilot test of IRAM 39801 (SFM) was arranged on short notice.

The field trip showed that all organizations strongly support the idea of developing and implementing a nationally developed and internationally accepted forest certification scheme in Argentina. No stakeholder organization expressed dissatisfaction or partial dissatisfaction with the SSP, the invitation and integration of stakeholders (disadvantaged or key stakeholders) and the way of finding consensus during the meetings. Even though the environmental NGOs did not participate actively in the SSP, they stated clearly that they have been invited to participate and that the non-participation was not related to a lack of support of the development of a national forest certification scheme which will seek endorsement by PEFCC as a first in Argentina. The national standardization body IRAM demonstrated a high competence in the implementation of standard development related to international requirements for best practises and the demonstration of the SIGN software proved that all related stakeholders were consequently invited and informed about the development of the SSP during the process. The Cerfoar organization showed a high commitment related to the implementation of the Cerfoar system after endorsement by PEFCC and the national accreditation body OAA demonstrated that already capacities and a plan to start the process of the first accreditation of a CB for the Cerfoar system in Argentina are in place. More detailed information about the selected organizations, their representatives in the meetings and the content of the meetings is given in Annex 5.

4. Structure of the system

The Argentine Forest Certification System – Cerfoar – is a voluntary initiative of the Argentine forest sector which establishes the forest certification requirements for native and planted forest and the requirements to track forest products back to related industries on Argentinian territory (COC). In September 2009, the national forest chambers of Argentina joined to grant institutionalism to the forest certification system, agreeing to create a civil non-profit association in order to manage and periodically update the standards and procedures of Cerfoar. On 1st September 2009 the Argentine Forest Association (AFoA), the Argentine Federation of Wood Industry and Allied (FAIMA) and the Cellulose and Paper Manufacturers Association (AFCP) formed the civil non-profit association for the Argentine Forest Certification System (Cerfoar). In 2010, during the 14th General Assembly of PEFC in Río de Janeiro, Brazil, the Civil Association which manages the Argentine Forest Certification System (Cerfoar Association) was accepted as the National Governing Body by the General Assembly of the PEFC Council. The association which administers Cerfoar as a civil non-profit entity got its legal status granted by the General Inspectorate of Justice - IGJ Resolution No. 000429 in the May, 2010.

Currently the following entities are part of the Cerfoar Association:

- AFoA
- FAIMA
- AFCP
- National Industry Secretariat
- National Institute of Agricultural Technology
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
- Ministry of ecology and natural resources of the Province of Misiones
- Ministry of work, production and tourism of the Province of Corrientes

The organizational structure of Cerfoar Association consists of the following bodies that have specific functions:

- **General Assembly** of the Association: This is the governing body of Cerfoar, taking the powers assigned to it in the bylaws of the Association;
- **Board of Directors**: Its composition and functions are set out in the statutes of the association, it directs Cerfoar administration and, in that sense, assumes the functions of interpretation, supervision and control of the system and the establishment of working committees, deciding on consultations and resources that arise concerning the procedure for certification or about the System;
- **Supervision Body**: Its composition and functions are set out in the statutes of the association, contributing to the proper administration of the association and compliance with laws, statutes, regulations and commitments taken by the association;
- **Executive Secretariat**: It constitutes the technical and administrative Cerfoar department, in front of it is the Executive Secretary, whose appointment and duties are assigned in the bylaws of the association. The Secretariat will be the

repository of the record of forest management certification and chain of custody of certification bodies accredited and authorized as well as provisions, official texts and internal and external Communications.

Whereas Cerfoar is the **National Governing Body** (responsible for scheme administration) and **Licensing Body** (responsible for the issuance of logo licenses) for the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme, all standard setting activities related to SFM and Group Certification were carried out by the national standardization body IRAM (**Standardizing Body**). This revealed in the publication of the IRAM standards 39801 (SFM), 39803 (SFM Auditing) and 39805 (Group Certification) as technical standards already in 2010 which still are accessible for a fee on the IRAM webpage.

In the Republic of Argentina Standardization, Certification and Accreditation activities are regulated by the **Presidential Decree 1474/94** (National System of Standards, Quality and Certification). **IRAM** (Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación) is recognized as the National Standardization Body in Argentina by successive national laws, and was confirmed in 1994 in its role by Presidential Decree No. 1474/94, which gives IRAM the power of single agency developing technical standards of voluntary application, under the National Standards, Quality and Certification System. IRAM is a private non-profit body founded in 1935 by representatives of the private sector, the Government, and technical and scientific institutions. It is responsible for the preparation and issuance of standards, for keeping constantly updated record thereof, for contributing to its promotion and for implementing procedures to promote participation of all stakeholders interested in the standardization process. IRAM represents the Republic of Argentina in the regional standardization bodies: AMN (Standardization Mercosur Association), COPANT (Pan American Standards Commission) and in the international bodies ISO and International Electrotechnical Commission – IEC, in this last case together with the Argentine Electrotechnical Association –AEA. IRAM coordinates the national technical committees that analyze the documents under study, channel national proposals, develops a common Argentinian position in these organisms and participates in various international technical committees.

The standard setting body of IRAM for the development of SFM Principles and Criteria and for SFM Group Certification is organized as standard setting forum (IRAM WG2). The forum should be set up in a way that guarantees a balanced and full participation of all stakeholders interested in forestry related issues.

The **Standard Setting Forums** may be composed of:

- a) institutional full members;
- b) personal full members;
- c) founding and life members, at the Board of Directors' request;
- d) joining members,
- e) reciprocal members;
- f) members who are specialists (they are people invited by the IRAM, with intervention of the Board of Directors, by virtue of their background and who are not employees of member entities)

g) special guests: They are representatives of entities which are not members of the IRAM; their incorporation to the forums shall demand the Board of Director's consent, which shall be able to limit their number in a certain standard setting forum .

The document basis of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme is therefore based on IRAM standards for SFM and Group Certification, adopted international standards of PEFC Council for COC certification, logo usage and CB requirements at COC level and Cerfoar's general procedures for scheme administration and accreditation (see Table 1).

The BoD of Cerfoar is responsible for the final adoption of the scheme documentation.

5. Standard setting process

The standard-setting process is assessed at two levels:

- 1) Conformity assessment of **standard setting procedures** as documented in the documents "Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual" and the "Manual de Calidad" of the IRAM Standardization Department against the requirements of the PEFC as required in the PEFC ST 1001:2010 'Standard Setting'.
- 2) Conformity assessment of the **standard setting process** documented by the Cerfoar_Technical Document and supporting minutes / records documenting the implemented standard-setting process against the requirements of the PEFC as required in the PEFC ST 1001:2010 'Standard Setting'.

The general organization and the structures and responsibilities of the involved bodies of the Cerfoar scheme are already described in Chapter 4 of this report (see above).

The following text describes the core findings and identified non-conformities.

IRAM was responsible for standard setting activities concerning the review and continuous improvement of the standard setting process according to its internal quality management system, and the elaboration of the SFM Standard (IRAM 39801) and the Group Certification Standard (IRAM 39805) of the Cerfoar scheme. Additionally, a standard for the auditing practices of SFM certification was elaborated (IRAM 39803) and adopted by Cerfoar as a part of the Cerfoar scheme. The elaboration of the IRAM standards was carried out over the period from 2003 to 2010, when the final standards were approved by the BoD of IRAM. The standard setting process was documented via the IRAM internal software SIGN.

The process of elaboration of the SFM and Group Certification standards of Cerfoar was coordinated by IRAM through its Standard Setting Forum: Standardization Forum WG2: Forest Management, following the guidelines laid down in IRAM Rules of Standards Setting and of the Functioning of their Technical Forums – REN, and the internal procedures of the quality management handbook of the Standardization Department (Manual de Calidad, see Table 1). The project was carried out in cooperation with the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank under the Regional Technical Cooperation Project ATN/ME-8532.RG. The ATN/ME-8532.RG Project on Market Access and Integration through Technical Standards aimed to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized (SMEs) forest enterprises through the use of technical standards that facilitate the production and marketing of goods and forest services and their integration into a regional and global context. In addition, the project was able to complete and support standardization work with awareness and training activities.

The IRAM procedure for standard setting is based on ISO/IEC Guide 59:1994 Code of good practice for standardization requirements. Materially and directly affected stakeholders with interests in the sustainability of forest management were invited to

participate in the standardization forum (IRAM WG2), which in its final configuration maintained a representative structure made up of forest owners, trade unions, professional colleges, industrial associations, public research institutes, forest-based enterprises, consultants, public organisms, universities, and end consumers. (See Annex 6 IRAM WG2 Members, 97 organizations are named). The IRAM WG2 aimed to provide a balanced representation of interest categories such as producers, consumers, and neutrals. A number of stakeholders representing NGOs with social or environmental background were also invited to participate in the standard setting process, but most refrained from participation. The process of developing IRAM standards for sustainable forest management began in 2003 and ended in 2010 with the approval and edition of the standards after completing the corresponding steps defined in the REN, including national public consultation on the same three pilot tests of IRAM 39801.

During the time of standard elaboration (2003 - 2010), 92 meetings of the WG2 were carried out. All of the materials related to the process for developing the IRAM standards for sustainable forest management standard were approved by consensus by the IRAM WG2. Formal approvals of standards are based on evidence of consensus. Since the beginning of ATN/ME-8532.RG Project and IRAM WG2's work, there was an extensive and specific process to publicize it to the different stakeholders categories through electronic means, and the publication of minutes and newsletters. There was also a participative process in several events related to the topic (meetings, seminars, congresses, etc.) to share the standards draft.

As a main requirement for the establishment of the standard allowing certification of sustainable forest management (IRAM 39801) pilot tests were performed during its elaboration process and prior to the stage of public discussion. These tests allowed the validation of the standard in the field. The conclusions obtained from the tests were used to make adjustments and incorporate improvements to the standards and to the system. The first pilot test in forest plantations took place in a facility that operates on planted forest resources (forest plantations) in the Delta del Paraná, located in the district of Campana, province of Buenos Aires, in March 2007. The second field test was conducted on plantations in all management units, owned by a single forest producer, located in the northeast of the province of Corrientes and south of the province of Misiones in August 2007. To finish the required test and aiming at the objective of IRAM 39801 (SFM in native and implanted forest in the Argentine territory) a third pilot test was undertaken in native forest in Nahuel Huapi National Park in June 2008. The tests were implemented by experienced auditors and forest engineers and the results were used by the WG2 to improve the SFM standard requirements.

During the public consultation stage of the Standards under study, the standard projects and forms were sent to present the observations to all the members of IRAM Standard Setting Forum: Strategic Environmental Committee, Environmental Management sub-committee and Forest Management – Standardization Forum WG2 and to the interested parties specified in each case. At the same time, the IRAM website and other means of communication of the forestry sector were used to inform stakeholders about the beginning of the public consultation process and how to access information and the methodology.

Cerfoar standards were under public consultation in the following periods:

- IRAM 39801 (SFM): From March 25th, 2009 to May 25th 2009;
- IRAM 39803 (SFM Auditing): From February 18th, 2009 to March 18th 2009;
- IRAM 39805 (Group Certification): From October 13th to December 13th 2009.

The IRAM 39803 (SFM Auditing) was only submitted for public consultation for 30 days. This does not constitute a NC, since this document is not mandatory by the PEFCC requirements for scheme endorsement. The observations and comments received during the stages of public discussion were analyzed and discussed by the WG2 and the modifications to the standard projects were approved by consensus. All individuals and organization who submitted observations and comments were invited to defend them during the WG2 meetings after the closure of the public discussion stage and the authors of observations and comments were notified about their consideration. Decisions to incorporate these comments were taken on consensus.

The final standards were submitted to the GCS of IRAM for quality control and finally approved by the BoD of IRAM on 10.06.2010. The standards were published on the IRAM Webpage and were made available to the public for a fee.

The Cerfoar Association adopted the IRAM Standards by a decision of its BoD to be the SFM and Group Certification standards of the Cerfoar Scheme. Furthermore, the Cerfoar Association adopted international standards of PEFC Council for COC certification, logo usage and CB requirements at COC level and developed Cerfoar's general procedures for scheme administration and accreditation.

The entire scheme documentation shall be reviewed every five years at least or upon indications made by PEFCC.

The field trip to Argentina showed that all selected stakeholders were satisfied with the SSP and the invitation of all related stakeholders (disadvantaged and key stakeholders). The demonstration of the SIGN software used by IRAM for the development of the SFM and Group Certification standards provided evidence that the entire variety of affected stakeholders were invited to participate and informed about the development of the SSP.

The standard setting procedures and the implemented process comply with the requirements of the PEFCC.

6. Forest Management Standard

The technical standards of voluntary application which constitute the normative base of the Argentine Forest Certification System are the following IRAM Standards Series 39800 of Sustainable Forest Management:

- IRAM 39801: Sustainable Forest Management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management units.
- IRAM 39803: Sustainable forest management. Audit.
- IRAM 39805: Sustainable Forest Management. Group certification.

The standard documents are concise and comprehensive, demonstrating the involvement of local organisations with proven standard setting skills. As the forestry sector in Argentina relies heavily on production of planted forest, conditions for establishing and maintaining forest plantations should be particularly well scrutinised.

In a number of cases, compliance with PEFC requirements rests on legal compliance of the forest manager. To this end, specific prohibitions (e.g. the application of certain chemicals in pesticides) have not been considered by Cerfoar as those are not permitted by current law in Argentina. In such cases, Cerfoar has proactively taken responsibility in ensuring that the forest management standard will be revised accordingly to maintain compliance with PEFC requirements, should the law in Argentina change.

The Technical Document from Cerfoar specifies forest management certification as follows:

“Forest management certification: is that in which the forest management implemented in the forests of the entity applying for certification is the object of an audit by an independent third party to certify that such forest management is performed in accordance with IRAM 39801 and/or IRAM 39805 standards on Sustainable Forest Management and all relevant legislation. Forest management shall include programmed inventories and planning, monitoring and assessment activities, as well as giving proper consideration to the social, environmental and economic impacts of the forest management. That is the basis of a continuous improvement process to minimize or prevent negative impacts.”

It is noteworthy that under the Cerfoar scheme multiple certification of a forest management unit is generally not foreseen and would need to see prior approval by Cerfoar. Cerfoar therefore encourages all members to include all their forests in the process: “Individual forest certification is possible when such certification is requested explicitly by a person or legal entity (forest producer), who acts as “the entity applying for forest management certification”, for forestlands that the forest producer manages and voluntarily wishes to include in the process. It is recommended that the applicant entity for Individual Forest Certification includes all the forest managements unit that the forest producer owns or manages in the area.”

Similar to the standard for group certification responsibilities, rights and duties in the framework of a single certification are clearly described:

“The applicant entity for sustainable forest management certification has the following rights:

- obtain the Individual Certificate for sustainable forest management with regard to the forests that the forest producer has committed to the process, issued by the Certification body once the certification process has been successfully completed. The certificate shall indicate the registration number and its validity period, together with the information about the applicant entity of certification and the certification body that issued it. This document does not grant the holder the right to use PEFC logo, such right is only granted by Cerfoar Association through a PEFC Trademark and Logo usage License, present before the Cerfoar Association any claims related to the certification process or operation of the scheme.”

“The applicant entity for sustainable forest management certification has the following obligations and shall:

- specifically compromise to fulfil the obligations imposed by Cerfoar,
- verify that the forest operations performed by a contractor within the forest management units and which are under the scope of a sustainable forest management certificate are performed in conformity with Cerfoar, make available to the certification bodies the documents and reports required by Cerfoar and allow access to different areas in the management unit to perform certification audits, request to Cerfoar Association the PEFC Trademark and Logo usage license once the sustainable forest management certification is obtained in conformity with Cerfoar;
- take responsibility for the correct usage of the certificate and the PEFC Trademark and Logo usage license.”

As main areas of concern during the initial phase of the assessment the application of chemicals, conditions for conversion of native forest and introduction of genetically modified trees were identified. Those were addressed through further documented information by Cerfoar.

7. Group Certification Model

Next to the standard itself, Cerfoar offers information regarding the group certification model in its Technical Document: “The standard IRAM 39805 establishes the requirements to be fulfilled by the management structure of a forest certification group to ensure that all requirements in IRAM 39801 are fulfilled in each forest management unit part of the group. The entity applying for forest management certification may be individual or a group. In the case of a group applicant entity, forest producers (certification group member) voluntarily participate and pledge in writing to fulfil the certification requirements.”

The design of the group certification model is detailed and covers broadly all requirements of PEFC. Requirements for the establishment, organization and management of a group certification, including the obligations and rights of the entity applying for certification and the certification group members are clearly identified and a structure is applied which serves the intention of a group certification approach. The following sequences were chosen from the Cerfoar Technical Document to demonstrate this: “The applying entity for the group forest management certification shall represent the group certification members and shall be responsible for requesting and guarding the sustainable forest management group certificate.” “The entity applying for group forest management certification shall request Cerfoar Association the PEFC Trademark and Logo usage license once the sustainable forest management certification is obtained in conformity with Cerfoar. Also, it shall give each member of the group a copy of the sustainable forest management certificate including a list of the members of the group and its managements units included in the scope of the certificate.” “The entity applying for group forest management certification shall take responsibility for the correct usage of the certificate and the PEFC Trademark and Logo usage license and sub-licenses.”

In addition the Cerfoar Association applies a document specifically with requirements for auditing, “IRAM 39803:2009. Sustainable Forest Management. Audit.” This document states in its scope that “This standard is applicable to all organizations which have to conduct forest management audits or manage an audit program.” It is, however, only mandatory to be used by CBs auditing compliance with Cerfoars requirements. Group managers are encouraged to apply it on a voluntary basis. .

8. Chain of Custody standard

The Cerfoar adopted the COC standard from PEFCC (PEFC ST 2002:in force) on 05.08.2013 without modification as being the COC standard for the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme. Chapter 4.4 of the Cerfoar - Technical Document gives a clear reference to this.

Thus, the criteria required by the PEFCC for the Chain of Custody of a national scheme are fulfilled.

9. Certification and accreditation arrangements

The certification and accreditation requirements for FM and CoC certification of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme are described in the documents Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 (Notification of certification bodies operating forest management and/or chain of custody certification in Argentina) and Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 (Procedure to be implemented by certification bodies to carry out forest management audits and certifications).

The document Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 indicates in Chapter 1 that the PEFC ST 2003:2012 (Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard) is adopted without modification by the Cerfoar Association as being the standard documenting certification and accreditation requirements for Certification Bodies (CBs) implementing CoC audits under the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme.

The requirements for CBs carrying out Forest Management Certification are mainly documented in the document Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0202.

Generally, CBs have to be legal entities and accredited by the national accreditation body OAA which is a member of the following International bodies: Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation -IAAC, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation - ILAC, and IAF. The accreditation has to be issued against ISO Guide 65 (now replaced by ISO/IEC 17065:2012) for COC certification and ISO/CEI 17021 for forest management certification. The scope of the accreditation has to include the PEFC ST 2002 in force for Chain of Custody certification, the PEFC ST 2001 in force for logo use and the IRAM standards 39801 (SFM), 39803 (Auditing) and 39805 (Group Certification) in Argentina.

Each CB has to hold a notification contract with the Cerfoar Association. The notification of a CB can be suspended or terminated by the Cerfoar Association in case of violation of the notification contract. The CBs have to provide information to the Cerfoar Association about each certificate and its scope. The notification procedures do not show discriminatory requirements and do not show any indications of creating trade barriers. The certified organizations have to pay a logo licensing fee to the Cerfoar Association depending on the annual turnover of the certified organizations.

The Cerfoar scheme documentation also requires the necessary conditions for CBs and auditors according to the PEFC's requirements. The CBs have to be impartial, independent third parties that are not involved in the standards setting process as governing or decision-making bodies, or in forest management, and have to be independent of the certified entity. The requirements for CBs carrying out CoC certification are fulfilled since the PEFC ST 2003:2012 is adopted. CBs carrying out forest certification have to fulfil the requirements laid down in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 or ISO Guide 65 (now replaced by ISO/IEC 17065:2012). The CB carrying out forest certification needs technical competence in the field of forest management including all relevant aspects and has to be familiar with the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme

requirements. Auditors need to be competent, must have a degree in forestry and must fulfil general criteria for quality and environmental management systems auditors as defined in ISO 19 011. The CB must have established internal procedures to conduct the forest management certification in respect of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme and must meet or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 or ISO Guide 65 (now replaced by ISO/IEC 17065:2012).

The Cerfoar procedures fulfill the requirements of the PEFCC.

10. Implementation of PEFC Logo usage

The Cerfoar adopted the logo usage standard from PEFC (PEFC ST 2001:in force) on 05.08.2013 without modification as being the logo usage standard for logo users in the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme. Chapter 6 of the Cerfoar - Technical Document gives a clear reference to this.

Thus, criteria required by the PEFC for the logo usage by logo users are fulfilled.

The document Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 (Procedure of issuance of PEFC Logo use licenses by Cerfoar Association) describes in detail the requirements to issue logo usage licenses. The Cerfoar Association is the licensing body which concludes contractual arrangements with the logo users about the logo usage requirements. Part of the contractual agreement is the determination of an annual logo usage fee, which is imposed on logo users (instead of a notification fee which is imposed on CBs in other PEFC schemes, which generally are collected from the certified organizations by the CB and then forwarded to the PEFC National Governing Body). Logo users must be single entities, in case of COC Multi-Site the central office and the sites have to be part of a single legal entity, or the central office and the sites are a part of a single company with a single management and organisational structure. In case of group certification, the IRAM 39805 regulates the application for logo usage rights of the members through the group management. The logo usage is assessed by the CBs and there are detailed actions / penalties defined by the Cerfoar in case of missuse of logos by logo users.

The requirements of PEFC for the issuance of logo usage licenses are fulfilled by the Cerfoar scheme.

11. Complaints and dispute resolution procedures

The complaints and dispute resolution procedures of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme are described in the document Cerfoar_ANNEX 13_PG 0602 and apply to the process of treating complaints and solving disputes related to the implementation of the Argentine Forest Certification System or to the sustainable forest management certification procedure and/or chain of custody, which cannot be solved through the disputes resolution procedures of the authorized Certification Body or the appropriate Accreditation Body.

The Executive Secretariat of Cerfoar is responsible for the implementation of the process of treating complaints and solving disputes and of the control of the records of this process. All complaints have to be registered including all relevant supporting documentation. The complainant has to be informed about the acknowledgement or rejection of the complaint, and the complaint has to be assessed by a Dispute Resolution Committee not later than 90 days after the receipt of a complaint. The resolution of the complaint is carried out by a Disputes Resolution Committee consisting of three members, a representative of the forest producers, a representative of the forest industry and a representative of other interested parties, are independent and impartial, summoned by the Executive Secretariat and approved by the Board of Directors of the Cerfoar Association. The decision on the complaint will be taken by simple majority and the Committee's decision is binding and terminates the process of treatment of a complaint and resolution of disputes in the Cerfoar Association. The Executive Secretariat informs the complainant of the decision taken by the committee.

The PEFCC criteria for the dispute resolution procedures are fulfilled.

Annex 1: PEFC Standard Requirements Checklist

1 Purpose

The purpose of this Informative Guide is to assist the assessment against the PEFC Council's core documents as listed in chapter 5 of PEFC GD 1007:2012. Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

These standard setting checklists were used by the assessment team to identify compliances and non-compliances of the Argentine Forest Certification Scheme (Cerfoar) documents with the requirements of the PEFC Council.

2 Methodology

The results of the assessments are shown in the column "Reference to application documents" and "YES/NO" in the standard requirement checklists. When the Cerfoar standard documents were found to fully comply with the relevant requirement of the PEFC Council international standards, this is indicated with a black **YES**. In case of non-compliances (NC) the assessors grouped those in either Major or Minor NC. A Minor NC identified by the assessors is marked with a **Partly**. Minor NCs are seen as a partial non-compliance related to the fulfilment of a certain PEFC Council requirement. In case a Major non-compliance was identified by the assessors, this is marked with a red **NO**. This means that a crucial part of the PEFC Council requirements has not been met.

The references to the Cerfoar standard documents are given at the beginning of the relevant section (e.g. "Cerfoar - Technical Document"). In cases where requirements were met by the Cerfoar standard documents, citations from the standard documents are copied into the checklists to demonstrate compliance. Citations are written in black colour and are marked with quotation marks ("....."). In cases the assessors formulated the findings in their own words, e.g. by interpreting the content of the provided documented information, the results are written in black colour without quotation marks. In case of **Minor NCs** or **Major NCs**, the non-conformities were indicated in bold red colour including a reference to the PEFC international standards. In case of space for improvement identified by the assessors, an **Observation** is documented stating the relevant recommendations.

3 Legend

Column YES/NO:

YES = Assessment showed compliance with the PEFC international standards

Partly = Minor non-compliance with the PEFC international standards

No = Major non-compliance with the PEFC international standards

Column "Reference to application documents":

Black = Evaluations made by the assessors

"Black" = Quotations from Cerfoar Standard Documents

RED = Minor CARs, Major CARs and Observations

Results of stakeholder survey

1.1 Part I: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for standard setting (PEFC ST 1001:2010)

1.1.1 1 Scope

Part I covers the requirements for standard setting defined in PEFC ST 1001:2010, *Standard Setting – Requirements*.

Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

1.1.2 2 Checklist

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
Standardising Body			
4.1 The standardising body shall have written procedures for standard-setting activities describing:			
a) its status and structure, including a body responsible for consensus building (see 4.4) and for formal adoption of the standard (see 5.11),	Procedures	YES	<p>Cerfoar - Technical Document Chapter 1 and 2</p> <p>The Argentine Forest Certification System – Cerfoar is a voluntary initiative of the Argentine forest sector founded in 2009 which establishes the forest certification requirements for native and implanted forest in cooperation with the national standardizing body IRAM (Argentine Institute of Standardization and certification).</p> <p>Cerfoar - Technical Document Chapter 3.1</p> <p>"In the Argentine Republic the Standardization, Certification and Accreditation activities are framed within the regulatory Presidential Decree. 1474/94 National System of Standards, Quality And Certification. Creation. Organization. National Council. Functions. Integration. Standard Bodies. Accreditation Body. IRAM is recognized as the National Standardization Body by successive national laws, and in 1994 was confirmed in his role by Presidential Decree. No. 1474/94, which gives IRAM the power of single agency developing technical standards of voluntary application, under the National Standards, Quality and Certification System."</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 1,2 and 3</p> <p>The body responsible for the standard setting activities and consensus building is the standard setting forum, which is</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			constituted with the approval of the Department of Standardization of IRAM. The forum can be organized in committees, subcommittees, commissions and work groups. The responsibilities of the different bodies are described in detail in Chapter 2 of the document. After elaboration of the standard documents by the forum, the standards documents are submitted to the General Committee of Standards (GCS) of IRAM, which is responsible for quality assurance of the elaborated standards. Any comments of the GCS have to be discussed and approved by the forum on consensus before they lead to adoption of the standard. The formal approval of the standards is finally carried out by the Board of Directors of the IRAM.
b) the record-keeping procedures,	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2.6 "2.6.1 The Coordinator of the IRAM appointed to the attention of a Standard setting forum shall prepare or coordinate the writing of the documents which shall be analyzed by the latter and shall provide, if possible, the information requested in relation to the documents they represent. He or she has the right to participate in debates speaking but without voting. 2.6.2 He or she shall be in charge of writing minutes, the organization and the general aspects of standardization of documents available for Public Discussion and of the projects submitted to the GCS."
c) the procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	The SSRC of Cerfoar refers to the Presidential Decree 1474/94. Presidential Decree 1474/94 National System for Standards, Quality and Certification "Art. 10. — En el proceso de elaboración y emisión de normas el Organismo de Normalización, debe: a) garantizar la representación de todos los sectores de la comunidad con intereses en la actividad de normalización. Se entenderá que los intereses involucrados en el proceso de normalización son los del sector productivo, del consumo y de las instituciones de interés general representadas entre otras por las tecnológicas, las científicas, las profesionales y las educativas. Asimismo, debe asegurar a través del equilibrio de intereses de sus miembros, que las decisiones adoptadas estén libres de presiones comerciales y financieras que pongan en duda su imparcialidad y contar con una organización y procedimientos de toma de decisiones tal que asegure la total independencia entre las actividades de normalización y de certificación." This law requires the standardizing body to ensure the balanced representation of stakeholders during the standard setting process.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2 This chapter describes the requirements for the setup of the working groups for standard elaboration, including the requirements for the representation of different interest groups in the standard setting process.
d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Most parts of the required standard setting processes are described in this document. They include the standard setting forum set up, the decision taking on consensus by the forum, the quality assurance by the GCS and liaison with the forum in case of any adoptions, the pilot testing, public consultations and the final approval of the standard by the Board of Directors. Manual de Calidad (submitted during the assessment, Spanish document) This document is a quality management handbook of IRAM and describes additional internal procedures of the standard setting process.
e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2.8.1 "In the resolutions adopted during the standards setting, the consensus of all the present members shall be sought, trying to avoid voting. According to the IRAM 50-1, (equivalent to Guide ISO/IEC 2:1991) "Consensus is the general agreement come to by means of a process in which the opinions of all the interested sectors have been taken into account, without the existence of a founded and firm opposition and in which possibly divergent positions have been saved. NOTE: The consensus does not necessarily imply unanimity". Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2.8.2 "2.8.2.1 If the agreement is not achieved, after having exhausted every means of action, (seek advice from specialists, international and national suitable forums, agreed mediated resolutions, etc.), the pending matters shall be resolved by voting. 2.8.2.5 The voting shall be resolved in favour of the most voted proposal, provided the number of votes obtained by this one represents, at least, 75% (3/4) of all the votes, without taking into account the abstentions or the votes which were not made.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			2.8.2.6 In case of no definite result, a second voting shall be summoned, sending the corresponding form together with the minutes in which the first voting was considered and the comments on the matter, applying the criteria indicated in 2.8.2.5. 2.8.2.9 If the mediating instance is not resorted to, a third voting shall be summoned, sending the voting form together with the reports mentioned in 2.8.2.7. If in this third instance the matter is not resolved in the conditions indicated in 2.8.2.5 either, the suspension of the study shall be decided until there are reasons which justify taking it up again."
f) revision of standards/normative documents.	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 8.4 "8.4.1 When the edition of a standard has been in effect for more than 5 years, it shall be considered by the Standard setting forum with specific competence. If it decides that fundamental modifications shall not be introduced, the GCS shall be asked to proceed to the re-approval of the standard. Once accepted, it shall be identified as "belonging to the re-approval of the edition of ..." Cerfoar - Technical Document Chapter 2.2 "Revision: Cerfoar Association takes the responsibility of the development, administration and maintenance of the Cerfoar, including a total review of the system, in the light of new scientific knowledge and practical experience, at least every 5 years."
4.2 The standardising body shall make its standard-setting procedures publicly available and shall regularly review its standard-setting procedures including consideration of comments from stakeholders.	Procedures	YES	Manual de la Calidad Chapter 3 (submitted during the assessment, only in Spanish) "2.1 - Compromiso de la Dirección. La Dirección de Normalización del IRAM demuestra su compromiso con el desarrollo y la mejora del SGC DN a través de las siguientes actividades: Implementación de la política de la calidad, asumiendo el compromiso de la difusión en todos los sectores involucrados. Revisión en forma periódica de la adecuación y eficacia del SGC DN. Comunicación a todos los sectores involucrados de la importancia de satisfacer los requisitos del cliente, cumpliendo con todos los requisitos legales y reglamentarios 2.2 - Enfoque al cliente. De acuerdo a lo definido dentro del alcance del SGC DN, se han identificado los tipos de clientes, que se indican a continuación: 2.2.1 - Clientes externos

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>a) Miembros y participantes de Organismos de Estudio de normas. b) Usuarios de normas. c) Clientes del Centro de Documentación. Es toda aquella persona, empresa, asociación, etc. que requiere una norma y la solicita en forma presencial o a través de los distintos medios disponibles."</p> <p>The revision process of the standard setting procedures are part of the procedures for quality management system of IRAM (SGC DN). The revision process shall be implemented regularly and in cooperation with stakeholders of all sectors involved. All individuals, companies or organizations which are interested to participate shall be provided with the standard setting procedures.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>http://aplicaciones.iram.org.ar/PlandeEstudio/#/116</p> <p>The annual working plan of the IRAM Institute 2013 documents the review / revision of the internal quality management system of IRAM.</p> <p>http://www.iram.org.ar/index.php?IDM=5&alias=CENTRO-DE-DOCUMENTACION-IRAM</p> <p>The IRAM standards are available via the internet page of IRAM. The link shown above explains how interested parties can get access to the standards.</p>
4.3 The standardising body shall keep records relating to the standard-setting process providing evidence of compliance with the requirements of this document and the standardising body's own procedures. The records shall be kept for a minimum of five years	Procedures	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 7</p> <p>"7 REGISTRATION OF THE STUDIES 7.1 Every meeting of the Standard setting forums shall be registered in minutes, which shall be approved by the mentioned Forum, at the first following meeting in which there is quorum, after the approval of the Department Manager. 7.2 The minutes shall have to reflect faithfully in their texts what was resolved at the corresponding meeting and their fundamentals, and particular opinions, if any. When there were observations, the approval shall originate the relevant rectifications, if possible, or the rejection of the observations, if they were not appropriate. 7.3 When by any cause the sessions of the Standard setting forum are interrupted, the minutes shall be sent to the members for their written approval, without waiting for a new summon, with the aim of avoiding proceeding delays. 7.4 When minutes are sent for their written approval, and if once the stipulated period has expired there were no observations, it shall be considered approved.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
and shall be available to interested parties upon request.			7.5 Every document related to the standard setting shall be gathered by the Coordinator of the Standard setting forum and shall be filed in a folder, which shall have the following sections: I – Proceedings (even the printed and approved standard) II – Minutes (of the Forum and of the GCS in which it was treated) III – Observations and notes IV – Regulatory background and other documents considered" All relevant documents for the standard setting processes of IRAM standards are generally conserved permanently in the SIGN System (IRAM standardization process management and registration software).
	Process	YES	The records are kept by IRAM, minutes of the working group WG2 for the elaboration of the SFM and Group Certification Standards and process records beginning from year 2003 were provided (see Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind).
4.4 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group/committee responsible for standard-setting activities.	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2 The standard setting forum is responsible for the standard setting activities. The forum can be subdivided into committees, subcommittees, commissions and work groups. The forum is lead by a chairman, a secretary and a coordinator on behalf of IRAM.
	Process	YES	The IRAM set up the working group WG2 "Gestión Forestal" which elaborated the SFM and Group Certification Standards. The working group was active from 2003 to 2010. In 2010, the standards were finally endorsed and published by IRAM (see Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind).
4.4 The working group/committee shall:			
a) be accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	The SSRC of Cerfoar refers to the Presidential Decree 1474/94. Presidential Decree 1474/94 National System for Standards, Quality and Certification "Art. 10. — En el proceso de elaboración y emisión de normas el Organismo de Normalización, debe:

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>a) garantizar la representación de todos los sectores de la comunidad con intereses en la actividad de normalización. Se entenderá que los intereses involucrados en el proceso de normalización son los del sector productivo, del consumo y de las instituciones de interés general representadas entre otras por las tecnológicas, las científicas, las profesionales y las educativas. Asimismo, debe asegurar a través del equilibrio de intereses de sus miembros, que las decisiones adoptadas estén libres de presiones comerciales y financieras que pongan en duda su imparcialidad y contar con una organización y procedimientos de toma de decisiones tal que asegure la total independencia entre las actividades de normalización y de certificación."</p> <p>This law requires the standardizing body to ensure the balanced representation of stakeholders during the standard setting process.</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2</p> <p>This chapter describes the requirements for the setup of the working groups for standard elaboration, including the requirements for the representation of different interest groups in the standard setting process.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind</p> <p>According to Act 5-2005 the following stakeholders categories were invited: Forest Administration, Universities, related chambers and private enterprises. A complete list of invited organizations is given in the same document. These represent directly and materially affected stakeholders, but no NGOs representing environmental and social interests were included (see Minor NC-02).</p>
b) have balanced representation and decision-making by stakeholder categories relevant to the subject matter and geographical scope of the standard where single concerned	Procedures	YES	<p>The SSRC of Cerfoar refers to the Presidential Decree 1474/94.</p> <p>Presidential Decree 1474/94 National System for Standards, Quality and Certification</p> <p>"Art. 10. — En el proceso de elaboración y emisión de normas el Organismo de Normalización, debe:</p> <p>a) garantizar la representación de todos los sectores de la comunidad con intereses en la actividad de normalización. Se entenderá que los intereses involucrados en el proceso de normalización son los del sector productivo, del consumo y de las instituciones de interés general representadas entre otras por las tecnológicas, las científicas, las profesionales y las</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
interests shall not dominate nor be dominated in the process, and			<p>educativas. Asimismo, debe asegurar a través del equilibrio de intereses de sus miembros, que las decisiones adoptadas estén libres de presiones comerciales y financieras que pongan en duda su imparcialidad y contar con una organización y procedimientos de toma de decisiones tal que asegure la total independencia entre las actividades de normalización y de certificación."</p> <p>This law requires the standardizing body to ensure the balanced representation of stakeholders during the standard setting process.</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2</p> <p>This chapter describes the requirements for the setup of the working groups for standard elaboration, including the requirements for the representation of different interest groups in the standard setting process.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar__Technical Document</p> <p>This document describing the standard setting process claims that "All stakeholders with interests in the sustainability of forest management were invited to participate in the standardization forum (IRAM WG2), which in its final configuration maintained a balanced and highly representative structure made up of representatives, amongst others, forest owners, trade unions, professional colleges, industrial associations, public research institutes, forest based enterprises, consultants, public organisms, universities, and end consumers, and also invited the main environmental organizations in the Argentinean forestry sector to participate."</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind</p> <p>According to Act 5-2005 the following stakeholders categories were invited: Forest Administration, Universities, related chambers, professional experts and private enterprises. A complete list of invited organizations is given in the same document Cerfoar_ANNEX 06_IRAM WG2 Members. This list does not include organizations from social or environmental NGOs.</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 06_IRAM WG2 Members</p> <p>The document gives a list of 97 members being participant in the WG2 (Forum). These list shows representatives from forest administrations in different regions of Argentina, representatives of scientific organizations, representatives of</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>private enterprises. No representatives of social or environmental NGOs or of relevant economical or social chambers can be identified in the list.</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey revealed that 13% of the respondents (representing two organizations) were partially dissatisfied with the balanced representation of interest groups in the WG2.</i></p> <p>During the two weeks comment period, additional evidence was provided by Cerfoar to prove that social and environmental NGOs were invited to participate in the standard setting process (see folder 1er Draft_AD_Remarks cerforar - 01AD_MNC-02). Beside a list of stakeholders which is included in the SIGN programme which show the stakeholders which were invited to the process (including a variety of organizations from the environmental and social sector), several emails were submitted proving the active invitation of some environmental NGOs (e.g. Greenpeace Argentina, Fundación Hábitat y Desarrollo, FARN) and social organizations (e.g. FUNDAPAZ, UATRE, USIMRA, INADI) during the standard setting process.</p> <p>Finally the provided evidence demonstrates sufficiently that effort was made to also include representatives of the social and environmental NGOs in the standard setting process.</p>
<p>c) include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that are materially affected by the standard, and those that can influence the implementation of the standard. The materially affected stakeholders shall represent a meaningful segment of the participants.</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>The SSRC of Cerfoar refers to the Presidential Decree 1474/94.</p> <p>Presidential Decree 1474/94 National System for Standards, Quality and Certification</p> <p>"Art. 10. — En el proceso de elaboración y emisión de normas el Organismo de Normalización, debe:</p> <p>a) garantizar la representación de todos los sectores de la comunidad con intereses en la actividad de normalización. Se entenderá que los intereses involucrados en el proceso de normalización son los del sector productivo, del consumo y de las instituciones de interés general representadas entre otras por las tecnológicas, las científicas, las profesionales y las educativas. Asimismo, debe asegurar a través del equilibrio de intereses de sus miembros, que las decisiones adoptadas estén libres de presiones comerciales y financieras que pongan en duda su imparcialidad y contar con una organización y procedimientos de toma de decisiones tal que asegure la total independencia entre las actividades de normalización y de certificación."</p> <p>The highlighting of organizations from the productive and consuming sectors and organizations representing public</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>interests imply the focus on materially affected stakeholders during the identification of stakeholders concerned.</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2</p> <p>"2.3.3 When a Standard setting forum shall be constituted, expanded or reorganized, a circular shall be sent to the members allegedly interested in the matter, inviting them to collaborate in the respective studies.</p> <p>2.3.4 The intention of opening a new Standard setting forum, inviting the members to incorporate, shall be published in the Newsletter of the IRAM, or other equivalent media of the IRAM.</p> <p>2.3.5 When necessary, a circular shall be sent to the entities which are not members of the IRAM, which are supposed to be interested in the matter, highlighting the general advantages of the standardization, the importance which that study in particular means to them, inviting them to incorporate to the Standard setting forum and to the IRAM."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind</p> <p>According to Act 5-2005 the following stakeholders categories were invited: Forest Administration, Universities, related chambers and private enterprises. A complete list of invited organizations is given in the same document.</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 06_IRAM WG2 Members</p> <p>The document gives a list of 97 members being participant in the WG2 (Forum). These list shows representatives from forest administrations in different regions of Argentina, representatives of scientific organizations, representatives of private enterprises and representatives of relevant chambers.</p> <p>Thus, the WG2 (Forum) fulfills this requirement. However, there is no evidence that representatives of social and environmental NGOs were invited to the standard setting process (see Major NC-02).</p>
4.5 The standardising body shall establish procedures for dealing with any substantive and procedural complaints relating to the	Procedures	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 13_PG 0601</p> <p>The Cerfoar scheme provided a "Procedure for the Resolution of Disputes" which describes procedures for the Cerfoar Association (National Governing Body and Licensing Body).</p> <p>DN-PG 011. Reclamos externos o internos (Spanish document submitted during assessment)</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
standardising activities which are accessible to stakeholders.			The document specifies the procedures of the IRAM concerning complaints according to its Quality Management System.
	Process	YES	http://www.iram.org.ar/index.php?IDM=6&alias=CONTACTENOS-IRAM The IRAM webpage offers the possibility for all interested parties to contact the IRAM and submit complaints to the standard setting department. The complaints have to be treated according to the internal quality management procedures of IRAM (DN-PG 011, see above).
4.5 Upon receipt of the complaint, the standard-setting body shall:			
a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint to the complainant,	Procedures	YES	DN-PG 011.Rev.08 Reclamos externos o internos (Spanish document submitted during assessment) The document contains the requirement to acknowledge the receipt of the complaint to the complainant.
	Process	N/A	According to the SSRC filled by Cerfoar and further provided information by Cerfoar no complaints were received during the standard setting process.
b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint, impartially and objectively evaluate the subject matter of the complaint, and make a decision upon the complaint, and	Procedures	YES	DN-PG 011.Rev.08 Reclamos externos o internos Chapter 4.4 (Spanish document submitted during assessment) The responsible manager of IRAM shall gather and verify all necessary information, evaluate the subject matter and take decision and necessary action to resolve the complaint.
	Process	N/A	According to the SSRC filled by Cerfoar no complaints were received.
c) formally communicate the decision on the	Procedures	YES	DN-PG 011.Rev.08 Reclamos externos o internos Chapter 4.5 (Spanish document submitted during assessment) The responsible manager of IRAM shall communicate the decision and proposed action to the complainant.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
complaint and of the complaint handling process to the complainant.	Process	N/A	According to the SSRC filled by Cerfoar no complaints were received.
4.6 The standardising body shall establish at least one contact point for enquiries and complaints relating to its standard-setting activities. The contact point shall be made easily available.	Procedures	YES	DN-PG 011.Rev.08 Reclamos externos o internos Chapter 4.1 (Spanish document submitted during assessment) The complaints can be received by IRAM Institute via email, phone, fax, intranet, personal meeting, letter and the webpage of IRAM. This can be seen as easily available for all stakeholders concerned.
Standard-setting process			
5.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting work.	Procedures	YES	The SSRC of Cerfoar refers to the Presidential Decree 1474/94. Presidential Decree 1474/94 National System for Standards, Quality and Certification "Art. 10. — En el proceso de elaboración y emisión de normas el Organismo de Normalización, debe: a) garantizar la representación de todos los sectores de la comunidad con intereses en la actividad de normalización. Se entenderá que los intereses involucrados en el proceso de normalización son los del sector productivo, del consumo y de las instituciones de interés general representadas entre otras por las tecnológicas, las científicas, las profesionales y las educativas. Asimismo, debe asegurar a través del equilibrio de intereses de sus miembros, que las decisiones adoptadas estén libres de presiones comerciales y financieras que pongan en duda su imparcialidad y contar con una organización y procedimientos de toma de decisiones tal que asegure la total independencia entre las actividades de normalización y de certificación."

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>The highlighting of organizations from the productive and consuming sectors and organizations representing public interests imply the focus on materially affected stakeholders during the identification of stakeholders concerned.</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2</p> <p>"2.3.3 When a Standard setting forum shall be constituted, expanded or reorganized, a circular shall be sent to the members allegedly interested in the matter, inviting them to collaborate in the respective studies.</p> <p>2.3.4 The intention of opening a new Standard setting forum, inviting the members to incorporate, shall be published in the Newsletter of the IRAM, or other equivalent media of the IRAM.</p> <p>2.3.5 When necessary, a circular shall be sent to the entities which are not members of the IRAM, which are supposed to be interested in the matter, highlighting the general advantages of the standardization, the importance which that study in particular means to them, inviting them to incorporate to the Standard setting forum and to the IRAM."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar__Technical Document Chapter 3.2</p> <p>"All stakeholders with interests in the sustainability of forest management were invited to participate in the standardization forum (IRAM WG2), which in its final configuration maintained a balanced and highly representative structure made up of representatives, amongst others, forest owners, trade unions, professional colleges, industrial associations, public research institutes, forest-based enterprises, consultants, public organisms, universities, and end consumers, and also invited the main environmental organizations in the Argentinean forestry sector to participate. (See Annex 6 IRAM WG2 Members). The IRAM WG2 is organized to provide a balanced representation of interest categories such as producers, consumers, and neutrals."</p> <p>Base de datos prograna GF (additionally provided during assessment on 08.01.2014)</p> <p>This document shows an extensive list from organizations representing the Public sector (Administration), Universities, relevant chambers, private companies, NGOs, professional experts and press organizations which were identified to be relevant stakeholders.</p>
5.2 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged and key	Procedures	YES	<p>The SSRC of Cerfoar refers to the Presidential Decree 1474/94 Article 10 and to chapter 2.3 of the Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual. Even though no direct information about disadvantaged and key stakeholders can be found in the procedures, the procedures refer to the implementation of good practice and the implemented process (see below) demonstrated that the IRAM was active in trying to reach as many disadvantaged and key stakeholders as possible by</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>stakeholders. The standardising body shall address the constraints of their participation and proactively seek their participation and contribution in the standard-setting activities.</p>	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>various ways of announcements and workshops held in different regions of the country.</p> <p>Evidence for stakeholder identification.zip (provided during the assessment, Spanish documents)</p> <p>Cerfoar submitted on 19.01.2014 a zip file containing evidence for the awareness raising activities concerning the standard setting process of the SFM standard and the Group Certification standard of the Cerfoar system. The evidence contains various announcements (internet, journals, e.g.) of the scheme elaboration, various presentations held during workshops in different regions of the country to proactively reach interest groups outside of Buenos Aires, and presentations held on conferences related to the standard development.</p> <p>This evidence can be seen as sufficient to prove that the process of identifying and proactively seek for the contribution of all kind of stakeholders nationwide to participate in the standard setting process was implemented according to PEFC requirements.</p>
<p>5.3 The standardising body shall make a public announcement of the start of the standard-setting process and include an invitation for participation in a timely manner on its website and in suitable media as appropriate to afford stakeholders an opportunity for meaningful contributions.</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2.3</p> <p>"2.3.3 When a Standard setting forum shall be constituted, expanded or reorganized, a circular shall be sent to the members allegedly interested in the matter, inviting them to collaborate in the respective studies.</p> <p>2.3.4 The intention of opening a new Standard setting forum, inviting the members to incorporate, shall be published in the Newsletter of the IRAM, or other equivalent media of the IRAM.</p> <p>2.3.5 When necessary, a circular shall be sent to the entities which are not members of the IRAM, which are supposed to be interested in the matter, highlighting the general advantages of the standardization, the importance which that study in particular means to them, inviting them to incorporate to the Standard setting forum and to the IRAM."</p> <p>DN-PG 010. Plan de estudio de normas Chapter 4.1.3 (Spanish document submitted during the assessment)</p> <p>The IRAM Institute shall elaborate an annual plan of elaboration and revision of standards and circulate it to all interested parties and publish it on the website.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
	Process	YES	Cerfoar__ Technical Document Chapter 3.2 "Since the beginning of ATN/ME-8532.RG Project and IRAM WG2's work, there was an extensive and specific process to publicize it to the different stakeholders categories through electronic means, and the publication of minutes and newsletters. There was also a participative process in several events related to the topic (meetings, seminars, congresses, etc.) to divulge the standards draft." Evidence for stakeholder identification.zip (provided during the assessment, Spanish documents) Cerfoar submitted on 19.01.2014 a zip file containing evidence for the awareness raising activities concerning the standard setting process of the SFM standard and the Group Certification standard of the Cerfoar system. The evidence contains various announcements (internet, journals, e.g.) of the scheme elaboration, various presentations held in different regions of the country to proactively reach interest groups outside of Buenos Aires, and presentations held on conferences related to the standard development.
5.3 The announcement and invitation shall include:			
a) information about the objectives, scope and the steps of the standard-setting process and its timetable,	Procedures	YES	DN-PN 006. Elaboración o revisión de normas IRAM (submitted during assessment, Spanish documents) The above mentioned internal procedure requires the distribution of all information to the potential participants.
	Process	YES	Invitation of stakeholders.zip (submitted during assessment, Spanish documents) The documents show the invitation documents which were sent prior to each reunion of the WG2 (forum) including objectives, scope and timetable of the assessment.
b) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the	Procedures	YES	DN-PN 002. Formación de Organismos de Estudio (Subcomités, Comisiones y Grupos de Trabajo) DN-PN 006. Elaboración o revisión de normas IRAM (submitted during assessment, Spanish documents) The above mentioned internal procedures require the distribution of all information to the potential participants.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
process,	Process	YES	Evidence for stakeholder identification.zip (provided during the assessment, Spanish documents) Cerfoar submitted on 19.01.2014 a zip file containing evidence for the awareness raising activities concerning the standard setting process of the SFM standard and the Group Certification standard of the Cerfoar system. Workshops were held in different regions of the country to inform as many stakeholders as possible and inform them about the opportunities to participate in the workshop. The evidence contains various examples of invitation letters to stakeholders to participate in the workshops. Furthermore, various announcements (internet, journals, e.g.) of the scheme elaboration, various presentations held in different regions of the country to proactively reach interest groups outside of Buenos Aires, and presentations held on conferences related to the standard development are documented.
(c) an invitation to stakeholders to nominate their representative(s) to the working group/committee. The invitation to disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made in a manner that ensures that the information reaches intended recipients and in a format that is understandable,	Procedures	YES	DN-PN 002. Formación de Organismos de Estudio (submitted during assessment, Spanish documents) DN-PN 006. Elaboración o revisión de normas IRAM (submitted during assessment, Spanish documents) The above mentioned internal procedures require the distribution of all information to the potential participants.
	Process	YES	Evidence for stakeholder identification.zip (provided during the assessment, Spanish documents) Cerfoar submitted on 19.01.2014 a zip file containing evidence for the awareness raising activities concerning the standard setting process of the SFM standard and the Group Certification standard of the Cerfoar system. Workshops were held in different regions of the country to inform as many stakeholders as possible and inform them about the opportunities to participate in the workshop. The evidence contains various examples of invitation letters to stakeholders to participate in the workshops. Furthermore, various announcements (internet, journals, e.g.) of the scheme elaboration, various presentations held in different regions of the country to proactively reach interest groups outside of Buenos Aires, and presentations held on conferences related to the standard development are documented.
d) an invitation to comment on the scope and the standard-setting	Procedures	YES	DN-FN 013. Solicitud de nuevo estudio IRAM (submitted during assessment, Spanish document) The above mentioned document is a request form provided by IRAM to invite stakeholders to comment on the implementation of standard setting process.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
process, and	Process	YES	Evidence for stakeholder identification.zip (provided during the assessment, Spanish documents) Cerfoar submitted on 19.01.2014 a zip file containing evidence for the awareness raising activities concerning the standard setting process of the SFM standard and the Group Certification standard of the Cerfoar system. Workshops were held in different regions of the country to inform as many stakeholders as possible and inform them about the opportunities to participate in the workshop. The evidence contains various examples of invitation letters to stakeholders to participate in the workshops. Furthermore, various announcements (internet, journals, e.g.) of the scheme elaboration, various presentations held in different regions of the country to proactively reach interest groups outside of Buenos Aires, and presentations held on conferences related to the standard development are documented. This implies that the stakeholders had the opportunity to comment on the scope of the standard setting process.
e) reference to publicly available standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	YES	DN-PN 002. Formación de Organismos de Estudio (submitted during assessment, Spanish documents) DN-PN 006. Elaboración o revisión de normas IRAM (submitted during assessment, Spanish documents) The above mentioned internal procedures require the distribution of all information including the standard documents to the potential participants.
	Process	YES	http://www.iram.org.ar/ http://www.iram.org.ar/index.php?IDM=2&alias=NORMALIZACION-IRAM http://www.iram.org.ar/index.php?IDM=6&alias=CONTACTENOS-IRAM http://www.iram.org.ar/index.php?IDM=9&mpal=2&alias=Participacion-en-los-Comites http://www.iram.org.ar/index.php?IDM=10&mpal=2&alias=Agenda-de-Reuniones-de-Normalizacion http://www.iram.org.ar/index.php?IDM=125&mpal=2&alias=Normas-ultimas-publicaciones-y-novedades The above quoted webpages from IRAM contain the necessary information and links concerning the standard setting process.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
5.4 The standardising body shall review the standard-setting process based on comments received from the public announcement and establish a working group/committee or adjust the composition of an already existing working group/committee based on received nominations. The acceptance and refusal of nominations shall be justifiable in relation to the requirements for balanced representation of the working group/committee and resources available for the standard-setting.	Procedures	YES	DN-PN 001. Gestión de solicitudes de estudio , revisión o anulación de normas IRAM (Spanish document submitted during the assessment) The document describes detailed procedures how to deal with external comments made by external parties or members of the working groups for standard setting and how to take decisions by committees or working groups. The final conclusion about the consideration of the comments is taken by the WG2 on consensus. DN-FN 013. Solicitud de nuevo estudio IRAM (Spanish document submitted during the assessment) Application form to submit a comment concerning the standard setting process. Manual de Calidad (submitted during assessment, Spanish language)
	Process	YES	During the two weeks comment period it was stated by Cerfoar that no requests for participation in the WG 2 were rejected. A broad list of stakeholders covering all interest sectors (see Base de datos programa GF) were invited to participate in the standard development process which all had the opportunity to participate in the process Thus, no justifications for refusals have to be provided. <i>The stakeholder survey revealed that 13 % of the respondents (representing two organizations) were partially dissatisfied with the balanced representation of stakeholders in the WG 2. Most of the stakeholders confirmed their satisfaction regarding this point, no stakeholder expressed complete dissatisfaction.</i> Thus, this requirement can be seen as fulfilled by the Cerfoar scheme.
5.5 The work of the working group/committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:			
a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group/committee,	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 5 "5.3 Standard 5.3.1 The outline shall be considered by the Standard setting forum in periodical meetings, of which the Coordinator of the IRAM shall write the minutes containing the resolutions adopted and their main fundamentals. As a consequence of such

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>setting, new outlines shall be prepared, as many as the Standard setting forum deems necessary."</p> <p>DN-PN 006. Elaboración o revisión de normas IRAM Chapter 4.2.1 (Spanish document submitted during the assessment)</p> <p>In every meeting of the working group the minutes shall include the decisions taking on consensus. The minutes and further supporting documents serve as working drafts for the members of the working groups for further standard setting (see also Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind).</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Working Drafts.zip (Provided during the assessment, Spanish documents)</p> <p>A file containing all working drafts which were sent to the members of the WG2 prior to the meetings was provided during the assessment.</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind</p> <p>The provided minutes of the meetings of the working group contain the process of acknowledgement of the minutes from the previous meeting by the participants and document the relevant points and amendments taken upon consensus during the meetings. The minutes contain the acknowledgement of the relevant working draft.</p>
b) all members of the working group shall be provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the development or revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts, and	Procedures	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 5</p> <p>"5.3 Standard</p> <p>5.3.1 The outline shall be considered by the Standard setting forum in periodical meetings, of which the Coordinator of the IRAM shall write the minutes containing the resolutions adopted and their main fundamentals. As a consequence of such setting, new outlines shall be prepared, as many as the Standard setting forum deems necessary."</p> <p>As the above quotation indicates, meetings including face to face discussions are required for the working group. The minutes of the meetings of the WG2 show, that also comments sent per mail / letter by absent members were made transparent to the participants and considered in the meeting.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>As the above quotation indicates, meetings including face to face discussions were used for the Forum Participants to contribute to the development process. However, in the list of participants of the WG2 (Forum) are named 97 representatives. The lists of participants of the meetings of WG2 (see Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind)</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>show that in the majority of the meetings only 5 - 15 participants were present. No information was found how the absentees were enabled to contribute to the standard setting process.</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind</p> <p>The minutes of the WG2 meetings document, that comments send by absent members of the WG2 were made transparent to the participants of the meeting and finally documented in the minutes of the respective meeting - see e.g Acta 2 – 2003 (temas considerados); Acta 7 – 2003 (Norma IRAM 39800); Acta 9 – 2003 (Norma IRAM 39801); Acta 3 – 2004 (8. Esquema A4); Acta 7 – 2005 (16. Esquema A5); Acta 8 – 2005 (18.Asuntos entrados); Acta 10 – 2005 (24. Asuntos entrados y 25. Esquema A5); Acta 2 – 2006 (5. Asuntos entrados); Acta 8 – 2006 (21. Asuntos entrados); Acta 15 – 2006 (34. Asuntos entrados.); Acta 16 – 2006 (34. Aprobación del Acta.); Acta 17 – 2006 (38. Asuntos entrados.); Acta 6 – 2007 (18. Asuntos entrados.); Acta 3 – 2008 (6. Asuntos entrados y 7. Norma IRAM 39803); Acta 5 – 2008 (11. Asuntos entrados.); Acta 8 – 2009 (27. Esquema 1); Acta 9 – 2009 (30. Norma IRAM 39801); Acta 10 – 2009 (32. Asuntos entrados); Acta 14 – 2009 (48. Asuntos entrados.).</p>
c) comments and views submitted by any member of the working group/committee shall be considered in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes shall be recorded.	Procedures	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 5</p> <p>"5.3 Standard</p> <p>5.3.1 The outline shall be considered by the Standard setting forum in periodical meetings, of which the Coordinator of the IRAM shall write the minutes containing the resolutions adopted and their main fundamentals. As a consequence of such setting, new outlines shall be prepared, as many as the Standard setting forum deems necessary."</p> <p>As the above quotation indicates, meetings including face to face discussions are required for the working group and participants have the opportunity to bring in comments and to follow up during the meeting how the comments are considered.</p> <p>See also 5.5.b) above.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind</p> <p>The minutes document that the decisions taken in the previous meetings were approved by the participants during the following meetings and comments of absent members were made transparent and considered in the meetings. Thus it can be implied that the participants agreed upon the way of consideration of comments and views.</p> <p>See also 5.5.b) above.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
5.6 The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that:			
a) the start and the end of the public consultation is announced in a timely manner in suitable media,	Procedures	YES	<p>The SSRC of Cerfoar refers to the Presidential Decree 1474/94.</p> <p>Presidential Decree 1474/94 National System for Standards, Quality and Certification</p> <p>"Art. 11. — Previo a su emisión las normas deben someterse a una discusión pública. A tal fin debe instrumentarse una consulta a través de los medios que asegure la amplia difusión de las normas proyectadas de manera que los sectores involucrados puedan formular observaciones."</p> <p>The presidential decree requires that the public consultation is announced by media which assure the open distribution of the necessary information about the public consultation.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar__Technical Document Chapter 3.4</p> <p>"the standard projects and the forms were sent to present the observations to all the members of IRAM Standard Setting Forum: Strategic Environmental Committee, Environmental Management sub-committee and Forest Management – Standardization Forum WG2 and to the interested parties specified in each case. At the same time, the beginning of the Process of Public Discussion and the way to access information and the methodology to present the observations was informed through IRAM web page and other means of communication of the forest sector.</p> <p>Cerfoar standards were under the process of Public Discussion during the following periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRAM 39801: From March 25th, 2009 to May 25th 2009; • IRAM 39803: From February 18th, 2009 to March 18th 2009; • IRAM 39805: From October 13th to December 13th 2009."
b) the invitation of disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made by means that ensure that the	Procedures	YES	<p>DN-PN 006. Elaboración o revisión de normas IRAM chapter 4.3.4 (Spanish document submitted during the assessment)</p> <p>The SSRC filled by Cerfoar refers to the internal document DN-PN 006. Elaboración o revisión de normas IRAM chapter 4.3.4 (Public discussion). This chapter requires that the Secretariat of the Standardization Department publishes the enquiry draft according to DN-PS-005 and DN-PS-008. The working instruction DN-IS 005 finally describes the different ways of submitting the invitations, either by email, postal address or fax. The documents have to be submitted to all</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
information reaches its recipient and is understandable,	Process	YES	<p>organizations / individuals registered in the SIGN (see Base de datos programa GF).</p> <p>see Base de datos programa GF (provided during the assessment, Spanish language)</p> <p>The disadvantaged and key stakeholders are included in the above mentioned database in the SIGN program. Invitations were sent by email, postal address or fax. Phone numbers are also included in the database and in case of bouncing emails or other indications of non-submittal of the invitations, phone calls were used to reach the stakeholder.</p> <p>5_6_b(Public consultation).zip (provided during the assessment, Spanish language)</p> <p>The additionally provided file documents a number of emails containing the invitation to the 60 days public consultation period to a number of individuals. Furthermore, the announcement of the public consultation period in different publications (Internet) is documented.</p> <p>During the two weeks comment period, Cerfoar explained that "during the disadvantaged and key stakeholders identification process (e.g. indigenous forest dwelling communities without access to internet) the local INTA Experimental Stationsi agents and local NGOs, who interact and work with local communities, disadvantaged and key stakeholders, were contacted." A list showing all INTA stations (The National Institute of Agricultural Technology) in the country including contact details was submitted as evidence (see Base de datos programa GF).</p> <p><i>The majority of 87% of stakeholders were satisfied with the way of approaching disadvantaged stakeholders during the standard setting process. Only 13% expressed partial dissatisfaction, no stakeholder expressed complete dissatisfaction.</i></p> <p>The above given information shows that the requirement can be seen as fulfilled by Cerfoar.</p>
c) the enquiry draft is publicly available and accessible,	Procedures	YES	<p>The SSRC filled by Cerfoar refers to the internal document DN-PN 006. Elaboración o revisión de normas IRAM chapter 4.3.4 (Public discussion). This chapter requires that the Secretariat of the Standardization Department publishes the enquiry draft according to DN-PS-005 and DN-PS-008. Finally, the enquiry draft was sent to all stakeholders in the SIGN database and were accessible to interested parties upon request.</p> <p><i>87% of the stakeholders expressed their satisfaction with the availability of the enquiry draft during the stakeholder survey. Only 13% expressed partial dissatisfaction, no stakeholder expressed complete dissatisfaction.</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar__ Technical Document Chapter 3.4</p> <p>"the standard projects and the forms were sent to present the observations to all the members of IRAM Standard Setting Forum: Strategic Environmental Committee, Environmental Management sub-committee and Forest Management – Standardization Forum WG2 and to the interested parties specified in each case. At the same time, the beginning of the Process of Public Discussion and the way to access information and the methodology to present the observations was informed through IRAM web page and other means of communication of the forest sector.</p> <p>Cerfoar standards were under the process of Public Discussion during the following periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRAM 39801: From March 25th, 2009 to May 25th 2009; • IRAM 39803: From February 18th, 2009 to March 18th 2009; • IRAM 39805: From October 13th to December 13th 2009." <p>The enquiry draft was accessible under the following link on the IRAM homepage: http://www.iram.org.ar/index.php?IDM=125&mpal=2&alias=Normas-ultimas-publicaciones-y-novedades</p>
d) the public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 5</p> <p>"5.3.2 Once the standard setting of the outline is completed, and if the Standard setting forum considers that it can be discussed publicly, the term for the query shall be fixed, which shall not be less than 30 days or exceed 180, except for reasons that justify so. It shall be explained that the observations shall be formulated in writing and shall be based on information."</p> <p>"During the two weeks comment period, Cerfoar stated that "the 30 days period is mostly used for the public consultation of standards which correspond to the adoption of international or regional standards (ISO, IEC or AMN) where IRAM had an active participation representing the national positions on such international or regional standards. For IRAM standards related to PEFC interest a minimum period of 60 days was applied as required."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar__ Technical Document Chapter 3.4</p> <p>"Cerfoar standards were under the process of Public Discussion during the following periods:</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRAM 39801: From March 25th, 2009 to May 25th 2009; • IRAM 39803: From February 18th, 2009 to March 18th 2009; • IRAM 39805: From October 13th to December 13th 2009." <p>The IRAM 39803 SFM Auditing was only published for 30 days. This standard is not required by the PEFC requirements for the endorsement process of a national scheme and, thus, is not required to be published for a minimum of 60 days. The requirements for CB auditing SFM are documented in the Cerfoar_ANNEX 12_PG 0502.</p>
e) all comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner,	Procedures	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 5</p> <p>"5.3.6 When the period of public discussion ends, the Standard setting forum shall consider the observations which may have been formulated, inviting the observants especially to do so.</p> <p>5.3.7 The Standard setting forum shall consider the outline, report and observations of the intervening Manager. If fundamental changes were introduced in the outline of the standard as a result of this analysis, the Standard setting forum shall submit it to public discussion again."</p> <p>These procedures imply that the working group considers the comments in an objective way, since the observants are invited to explain and, if necessary, defend their views and comments.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind</p> <p>The provided minutes describe clearly the provided observations and the details of the observer. The observers were invited to participate in the WG2 meeting on 4th of June 2009 to present and defend their comments. All comments are documented in the Act 07-2009. This can be considered as consideration in an objective manner.</p>
(f) a synopsis of received comments compiled from material issues, including the results of their consideration, is publicly	Procedures	YES	<p>DN-PN 006. Elaboración o revisión de normas IRAM Chapter 4.3.4 (submitted during assessment, Spanish language)</p> <p>The internal procedures of IRAM require that all received comments are considered by the WG2 (Forum) and the results of their consideration are incorporated into the draft standard. The draft standard is again send for public consultation.</p> <p>This procedure shows that interested parties are able to see if their comments were considered or not.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
available, for example on a website.	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind</p> <p>The provided minutes summarize the comments made by the observers during the public consultation period. The observers were invited to participate in the WG2 meeting to present and defend their comments and got informed about their consideration. The minutes were available to all interested parties upon request from the IRAM secretariat.</p> <p>Observation</p> <p>It should be considered if the availability of the Minutes from IRAM upon request can be seen as sufficient in terms of public availability.</p>
5.7 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of the new standards and the results of the pilot testing shall be considered by the working group/committee.	Procedures	YES	<p>The SSRC filled by Cerfoar refers to specific procedures for IRAM Standard Pilot Testing elaborated by the working group WG2:</p> <p>5_7(Pilot test).zip (Submitted during assessment, Spanish language)</p> <p>The procedures for the implementation of the pilot tests are described in detail in the submitted documents.</p> <p>For further information see process described below.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar__Technical Document Chapter 3.3</p> <p>"sustainable forest management (IRAM 39801) pilot test were performed during its manufacturing process and prior to the stage of public discussion. These tests, in audit process, allowed validation of the standard in the field. The conclusions obtained from the tests were used to make adjustments and incorporate improvements to the standards and to the system.</p> <p>The first pilot test in plantations took place in a facility that operates on planted forest resources (forest plantations) in the Delta del Paraná, located in the district of Campana, province of Buenos Aires, in March 2007 The audit team was led by a Finnish forest engineer, lead forest auditor of the Finnish forest certification system certified by PEFC and participant in the development of the same. Also in this team participated technical experts from the Forest Direction of the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development - SAyDS and the Forest Production Direction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries - MAGyP, local technical experts and IRAM environmental auditors.</p> <p>The second field test was conducted in plantations in all management units, belonging to a single forest producer, located</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>in the northeast of the province of Corrientes and south of the province of Misiones. In this case, the audit team was led by a Chilean forest engineer, lead auditor of the Chilean System for Sustainable Forest Management Certification – CERTFOR and the Forest Stewardship Council – FSC for Chile and who also acted in the application of these systems in small producers in the south of her country and in the development of CERTFOR (endorsed by PEFC). The rest of the team was completed by local technical experts from the Forestry Extension Core - NEF North Corrientes of the Forest Production Direction of the MAGyP, technical experts from the Forest Direction of SAyDS, technical experts and auditors from AFoA and IRAM.</p> <p>To finish the required test and aiming at the objective of IRAM 39801 (Sustainable Forest Management in native and implanted forest in the Argentine territory) a third pilot test was performed in native forest in Nahuel Huapi National Park. The development of this test in a national park allowed the evaluation of the behaviour of the standards against the situation of the state as principal (not private producer) and the multiple management objectives, taking into consideration forest goods and services and the existence of local and indigenous communities living in relation to the management units. For this test the auditor team was led by an Argentinean forest engineer and lead auditor of ISO standards 14001 and 9001, PEFC Chain of Custody auditor and the FSC certification system with wide experience in forest management certification in Argentina and countries of the region. The rest of the team was completed by local technical experts of the NEF Patagonia and technical experts of the Forest Production Direction of MAGyP and technical experts of the Forest Direction of SAyDS and IRAM auditors."</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind</p> <p>The implementation of the pilot tests are documented in the Minutes of the WG2 (Forum) in the following Akts: 4-2007, 5-2007, 6-2007, 11-2007, 13-2007, 14-2007, 16-2007, 1-2008, 5-2008, 6-2008, 7-2008.</p>
5.8 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval	Procedures	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2.8</p> <p>"2.8.1 Consensus In the resolutions adopted during the standards setting, the consensus of all the present members shall be sought, trying to avoid voting."</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
shall be taken on the basis of a consensus.	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar__Technical Document Chapter 3.4</p> <p>"All of the materials related to the process for developing the IRAM standards for sustainable forest management standard were approved by consensus by the IRAM WG2. Formal approvals of standards are based on evidence of consensus."</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind Act 9-2008 Chapter 25</p> <p>"Se presenta un documento borrador de la IRAM 39801 que es producto del ajuste final que se le hicieran los coordinadores del WG 2 al Esquema 9 de la 39801 (consensuado en la reunión del WG 2 de febrero de 2007) en función de las conclusiones obtenidas de las pruebas de campo, de los talleres con productores forestales y de los documentos de referencia que establece PEFC."</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind Act 9-2008 Chapter 21</p> <p>"21. Norma IRAM 39805 Gestión forestal sostenible. Certificación en grupo. Se continúa con el estudio del Esquema A y se aprueba su paso a Esquema 1 tal como se copia a continuación: Gestión forestal sostenible Certificación en grupo"</p> <p>The above mentioned minutes show that the IRAM 39801 (SFM) and the IRAM 39805 (Group Certification) were approved by the present members of WG2 by consensus.</p> <p><i>Even though the stakeholder survey shows that 13% of the respondents (representing two organizations) claim that they had no access to the final draft document and were not able to comment on the final draft, the demonstration of the SIGN Software at IRAM which documents each individual email, fax or letter sent during the SSP proved that all members of the working group were provided with the final draft documents.</i></p>
5.8 In order to reach a consensus the working group/committee can utilise the following alternative processes to establish whether there is opposition:			

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
a) a face-to face meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote, show of hands for a yes/no vote; a statement on consensus from the Chair where there are no dissenting voices or hands (votes); a formal balloting process, etc.,	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2.8 "2.8.1 Consensus In the resolutions adopted during the standards setting, the consensus of all the present members shall be sought, trying to avoid voting." This implies, that the consensus shall be reached by present members of the WG2 (Forum) by verbal yes/no vote or show of hands.
	Process	YES	Cerfoar__Technical Document Chapter 3.4 "All of the materials related to the process for developing the IRAM standards for sustainable forest management standard were approved by consensus by the IRAM WG2. Formal approvals of standards are based on evidence of consensus." Cerfoar_ANNEX 05_IRAM WG2 Minutes Bind The minutes of the meetings of WG2 (Forum) were approved by the representatives of the following meetings which documents the consent on the documented results of the meetings (see chapters Aprobación del acta).
b) a telephone conference meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	N/A	Present members of the WG2 can contribute directly to the result of a WG2 meeting (see above) and not present members were able to submit comments via email or letter prior to the meeting and their comments were made transparent to the participants and considered during the meeting. This was documented in the minutes which were distributed to all members. No telephone conference meetings were foreseen.
	Process	N/A	Not applied during standard setting process according to SSRC of Cerfoar.
c) an e-mail meeting where a request for agreement or objection is provided to members	Procedures	N/A	Present members of the WG2 can contribute directly to the result of a WG2 meeting (see above) and not present members were able to submit comments via email or letter prior to the meeting and their comments were made transparent to the participants and considered during the meeting. This was documented in the minutes which were distributed to all members. No general email meetings were foreseen.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
with the members providing a written response (a proxy for a vote), or	Process	N/A	Not applied during standard setting process according to SSRC of Cerfoar.
d) combinations thereof.	Procedures	N/A	Present members of the WG2 can contribute directly to the result of a WG2 meeting (see above) and not present members were able to submit comments via email or letter prior to the meeting and their comments were made transparent to the participants and considered during the meeting. This was documented in the minutes which were distributed to all members. No other forms of meetings were foreseen.
	Process	N/A	Not applied during standard setting process according to SSRC of Cerfoar.
5.9 In the case of a negative vote which represents sustained opposition to any important part of the concerned interests surrounding a substantive issue, the issue shall be resolved using the following mechanism(s):			
a) discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group/committee in order to find a compromise,	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2.8 "2.8.2 Voting 2.8.2.1 If the agreement is not achieved, after having exhausted every means of action, (seek advice from specialists, international and national suitable forums, agreed mediated resolutions, etc.), the pending matters shall be resolved by voting." The above quotation indicates that every means of finding a consensus by discussion and negotiation shall be used.
	Process	N/A	Not applied during standard setting process according to SSRC of Cerfoar.
b) direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) submitting	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2.8 "2.8.2 Voting 2.8.2.1 If the agreement is not achieved, after having exhausted every means of action, (seek advice from

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
the objection and stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue in order to find a compromise,			specialists, international and national suitable forums, agreed mediated resolutions, etc.), the pending matters shall be resolved by voting." The above quotation indicates that every means of finding a consensus by discussion and negotiation shall be used.
	Process	N/A	Not applied during standard setting process according to SSRC of Cerfoar.
c) dispute resolution process.	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2.8 "2.8.2 Voting 2.8.2.1 If the agreement is not achieved, after having exhausted every means of action, (seek advice from specialists, international and national suitable forums, agreed mediated resolutions, etc.), the pending matters shall be resolved by voting. 2.8.2.2 So that voting takes place, a special meeting shall be summoned, with return receipt (fax, e-mail, etc.) at least 20 days in advance. In this way, whoever is not able to attend the meeting, may send their vote in writing, in which case, the IRAM reserves the right to request the certification of the cast vote. 2.8.2.3 For the purpose of the voting, a form similar to the one indicated as Form N° 1 shall be sent, where all the proposals to be voted for shall be clearly detailed, doing it in a way that people vote for YES or NO, or Proposal 1 or Proposal 2, etc. 2.8.2.4 Only the members of the Standard setting forum who are members of the IRAM and who meet the following requirements shall have the right to vote: a) Be enabled to do so, according to the Articles of Association of the IRAM. b) Having been accepted as members of the IRAM no less than 6 months before the voting date. c) Having participated in the meetings where the technical Forum treated the matter in question with an attendance of no less than 70% of all the meetings. This percentage shall not take into account the attendance at study meetings of earlier editions. d) When an entity is represented by more than one person, only one of them shall be able to vote. If a person represents more than one entity, they shall only have the right to one vote. 2.8.2.5 The voting shall be resolved in favour of the most voted proposal, provided the number of votes obtained by this one represents, at least, 75% (3/4) of all the votes, without taking into account the abstentions or the votes which were not made. 2.8.2.6 In case of no definite result, a second voting shall be summoned, sending the corresponding form

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			together with the minutes in which the first voting was considered and the comments on the matter, applying the criteria indicated in 2.8.2.5. 2.8.2.7 Considering nothing is resolved in this second voting either, the opposing parties shall be requested to elaborate a report which maintains their position properly, quoting bibliography, foreign and national background, essay results, etc. 2.8.2.8 A mediating resolution shall be resorted to immediately afterwards. The arbitrators shall have the previous agreement of the parties. All the documentation belonging to the study and the reports indicated in 2.8.2.7 shall be sent to them. The report of the arbitrator or arbitrators shall be observed without right to subsequent appeals. 2.8.2.9 If the mediating instance is not resorted to, a third voting shall be summoned, sending the voting form together with the reports mentioned in 2.8.2.7. If in this third instance the matter is not resolved in the conditions indicated in 2.8.2.5 either, the suspension of the study shall be decided until there are reasons which justify taking it up again."
	Process	N/A	Not applied during standard setting process according to SSRC of Cerfoar.
5.10 Documentation on the implementation of the standard-setting process shall be made publicly available.	Procedures	YES	Manual de Calidad (submitted during the assessment, Spanish language) The IRAM is obliged by law (presidential Decree 1474) to make all standard documents and the minutes and records concerning the standard setting process publicly available. The standards and accompanying minutes and records can be requested from IRAM.
	Process	YES	The SSRC filled by Cerfoar refers to the IRAM Website and the documentation centre where approved standards are accessible against a fee. The IRAM website shows the standards under currently consultation at the date of accessing the website under: http://www.iram.org.ar/index.php?IDM=125&mpal=2&alias=Normas-ultimas-publicaciones-y-novedades The standards and minutes / records of the standard setting process can be requested by interested individuals / organizations from IRAM via the following link: http://www.iram.org.ar/index.php?IDM=6&alias=CONTACTENOS-IRAM The final standards IRAM 39801 (SFM requirements), IRAM 39803 (SFM Auditing) and IRAM 39805 (Group Certification

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>requirements) are accessible via the following link: http://aplicaciones.iram.org.ar/carritoiram/BuscalnicialCD.asp</p> <p>IRAM collects a fee for distributing the standard documents after finalization of the standard setting process.</p> <p>Observation: It should be considered by Cerfoar and PEFC Council in how far the availability of records and procedures upon request and the availability of finalized standard documents against a fee from IRAM can be seen as sufficient to fulfill the requirements of PEFC Council in this respect.</p>
<p>5.11 The standardising body shall formally approve the standards/normative documents based on evidence of consensus reached by the working group/committee.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 2 and 3</p> <p>The chapter 2 and 3 of the above mentioned document describe the procedures of reaching consensus by the Forum (WG2) and quality control of the outcome by the General Committee of Standards (GCS). In case of differences between the Forum and the GCS, these have to be again discussed and the outcome approved on consensus.</p> <p>Chapter 3 defines procedures for the final approval of the standard document:</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 3.5</p> <p>"3.5.5 Approval and enactment of standards</p> <p>3.5.5.1 The Coordinator of the GCS shall submit the list of projects of standard and other approved documents to the Board of Directors, so as to proceed to their enactment and later printing.</p> <p>3.5.5.2 The standards shall come into effect as from the moment when they are available to the public, which shall coincide with the edition date. This date shall be included in the cover of the standard."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>Cerfoar__Technical Document Chapter 3.4</p> <p>"All of the materials related to the process for developing the IRAM standards for sustainable forest management standard were approved by consensus by the IRAM WG2. Formal approvals of standards are based on evidence of consensus."</p> <p>See also 5.8 above.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
5.12 The formally approved standards/normative documents shall be published in a timely manner and made publicly available.	Procedures	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 04_IRAM_REN Dual Chapter 3.5 "3.5.5.2 The standards shall come into effect as from the moment when they are available to the public, which shall coincide with the edition date. This date shall be included in the cover of the standard."
	Process	YES	The edition date of the IRAM 39801 (SFM) and of IRAM 39805 (Group Certification) is 2010.06.10. The edition date of the IRAM 39803 (SFM Auditing) is 2009.11.25. This shows that the standards were published directly after the official approval by the IRAM BoD. The standards are publicly available under http://aplicaciones.iram.org.ar/carritoiram/BuscalnicialCD.asp . However, the standards have to be paid for the following fees: IRAM 39801 (SFM): 270 Pesos IRAM 39803 (Auditing): 270 Pesos IRAM 39805 (Group Certification): 190 Pesos
Revisions of standards/normative documents			
6.1 The standards/normative documents shall be reviewed and revised at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The procedures for the revision of the standards/normative documents shall follow those set out in chapter 5.	Process	YES	Cerfoar - Technical Document Chapter 2.2 "Revision: Cerfoar Association takes the responsibility of the development, administration and maintenance of the Cerfoar, including a total review of the system, in the light of new scientific knowledge and practical experience, at least every 5 years."

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
6.2 The revision shall define the application date and transition date of the revised standards/normative documents.	Process	YES	Since this assessment is a first endorsement assessment, no revision processes have been implemented so far. However, the scheme has to have procedures in place to provide for revision processes in future. Cerfoar__Technical Document Chapter 8 "8. SYSTEM'S REVISIONS Whenever changes are made to the Cerfoar as a result of the periodic revision or any initiative prior to the periodic revision, the documentation is obliged to define a transition period for implementation of those changes. The length of the transition period shall take into account the time required for the changes to be implemented, information circulated and training provided, as well as for endorsement of those changes by the PEFC Council."
6.3 The application date shall not exceed a period of one year from the publication of the standard. This is needed for the endorsement of the revised standards/normative documents, introducing the changes, information dissemination and training.	Process	N/A	Since this assessment is a first endorsement assessment, no revision processes have been implemented so far.
6.4 The transition date shall not exceed a period of one year except in justified exceptional circumstances where the implementation of the revised	Process	N/A	Since this assessment is a first endorsement assessment, no revision processes have been implemented so far. <u>Observation</u> The IRAM procedures state that no transition periods for revised standard documents are defined and the revised documents replace the former versions from the date of publication. The Cerfoar Technical Document Chapter 8 (see above) requires the definition of a transition period. It is generally recommendable to define transition periods to support CBs and organizations applying the SFN and COC standards in adapting their

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
standards/normative documents requires a longer period.			procedures to the new requirements.

1.1.3 Application documentation

The application for the endorsement and mutual recognition as defined in Chapter 5 of Annex 7 (*Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision*) shall include information which enables the assessment of the applicant system's compliance with the PEFC Council requirements.

The application documentation should identify and make reference to other detailed documentation such as minutes, internal procedures and rules, reports, etc. which do not need to create a part of the application documentation.

Asses. basis* The standard setting is assessed against the PEFC Council requirements in two stages: (i) compliance of written standard setting procedures ("Procedures") and (ii) compliance of the standard setting process itself ("Process").

For "Procedures" the applicant should refer to the part(s) of its standard setting procedures related to the respective PEFC requirement. For "Process" the applicant should either refer to the report/records of the standard setting process forming a part of the submitted application documents, or describe how the PEFC requirement was fulfilled during the standard setting process.

YES/NO* If the answer to any question is no, the application documentation shall indicate for each element why and what alternative measures have been taken to address the element in question.

1.2 PART II: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for Group FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION (PEFC ST 1002:2010)

1.2.1 1 Scope

Part II covers requirements for group forest management certification as defined in PEFC ST 1002:2010, *Group Forest Management Certification – Requirements*. Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

1.2.2 2 Checklist

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
General		
4.1 Does the forest certification scheme provide clear definitions for the following terms in conformity with the definitions of those terms presented in chapter 3 of PEFC ST 1002:2010:		
a) the group organisation,	YES	<p>“Cerfoar – Technical Document: 4. Certification 4.3 Group forest management certification - IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 4. Requirements for the setting up of the certification group.”</p> <p>“4.3 Group forest management certification Group forest management certification represents the most cost effective form of forest certification that allows participation of all forest producers regardless of legal form and size of forest property. Group forest management certification requires the association of forest producer interested in the process through an associative entity legally constituted to be designated as the entity applying for certification, or through a legally documented agreement which will determine who will exercise as applying entity. The applying entity for the group forest management certification shall represent the group certification members and shall be responsible for requesting and guarding the sustainable forest management group certificate. The group forest management certificate constitutes the documents which ensure that the group fulfils the requirements of the sustainable forest management standards and any other corresponding requirement established by Cerfoar. The scope of the group forest management certificate is the addition of all the areas of the forest management units participating in the certification group. The entity applying for group forest management certification shall request cefoar Association the PEFC Trademark and Logo usage license once the sustainable forest management certification is obtained in conformity with Cerfoar. Also, it shall give each member of the group a copy of the sustainable forest management certificate including a list of the members of the group and its managements units included in the scope of the certificate. The certificate shall indicate the registration number and its validity period, together with the information about the applicant entity of certification and the certification body that issued it. This document does not grant the holder the right to use PEFC</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>logo, such right is only granted by Cerfoar Association through a PEFC Trademark and Logo usage License. The entity applying for group forest management certification shall take responsibility for the correct usage of the certificate and the PEFC Trademark and Logo usage license and sub-licenses. The requirements for the creation, organization and management of a group certification, including the obligations and rights of the entity applying for certification and certification group members as well as requirements for dismissal or expulsion of members of the group or admission of new members are established in IRAM 39805: in force.”</p> <p>“4 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SETTING UP OF THE CERTIFICATION GROUP</p> <p>4.1 General requirements</p> <p>4.1.1 The certification group shall have a legally established name and entity which allows them to sign contracts with their own members and other organizations.</p> <p>NOTE. The certification group as a legally established entity is the sustainable forest management certificate holder and is the one that signs the contract with the certification body.</p> <p>4.1.2 The certification group shall define and document their objectives and scope.</p> <p>NOTE 1. The certification group scope includes the whole area limited by the participating management units in the group certification.</p> <p>NOTE 2. If the certification group or their members perform activities which are not included in the sustainable forest management certification, these do not oppose IRAM 39801.</p> <p>4.1.3 The certification group members shall formalize their joining through a contract.</p> <p>4.2 Certification group policy for sustainable forest management</p> <p>4.2.1 The certification group shall define the certification group policy for sustainable forest management and shall make sure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) It is reached by consensus and known by every certification group member; b) it is documented, implemented and maintained; c) it includes a commitment to respect IRAM 39801's principles and Criteria; d) it is actively communicated to forest workers and interested parties; and e) it is available to the public. <p>4.2.2 The certification group members shall agree to obey this policy in the membership contract or agreement to join the certification group.</p> <p>4.3 Economic/financial resources</p> <p>The certification group shall have a long term budget where it is specified how their functioning and administration costs shall be financed.</p> <p>NOTE. The financial planning has, at least, a 5-year horizon (certificate validity period).”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
b) the group entity,	YES	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 3. Definitions: 3.7 Certification group.”</p> <p>“3.7 certification group. Legally constituted entity or organization which requests the certification on behalf of a group of forest producers who agree on taking part in the group. NOTE 1. The certification group, as a legally constituted entity, is the certificate holder. NOTE 2. The certification group can be an existing organization (a company, a private, a chamber or a sectorial association, a non-governmental organization, a governmental organization, a communal organization), or can be expressly formed for the certification process and it shall be the one in charge of signing agreements with the group members and with the certification entity.”</p>
c) the participant,	YES	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 3. Definitions: 3.8 Certification group member.”</p> <p>“3.8 certification group member. A physical or legal person (forest producer) who is responsible for the management unit included in the certification group.”</p>
d) the certified area,	YES	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 4. Requirements for the setting up of the certification group. 4.1 General requirements. ”</p> <p>“4.1 General requirements 4.1.1 The certification group shall have a legally established name and entity which allows them to sign contracts with their own members and other organizations. NOTE. The certification group as a legally established entity is the sustainable forest management certificate holder and is the one that signs the contract with the certification body. 4.1.2 The certification group shall define and document their objectives and scope. NOTE 1. The certification group scope includes the whole area limited by the participating management units in the group certification. NOTE 2. If the certification group or their members perform activities which are not Included in the sustainable forest management certification, these do not oppose IRAM 39801 4.1.3 The certification group members shall formalize their joining through a contract.”</p>
e) the group forest certificate, and	YES	<p>“Cerfoar – Technical Document: 4. Certification</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>4.3 Group forest management certification”</p> <p>“4.3 Group forest management certification Group forest management certification represents the most cost effective form of forest certification that allows participation of all forest producers regardless of legal form and size of forest property. Group forest management certification requires the association of forest producer interested in the process through an associative entity legally constituted to be designated as the entity applying for certification, or through a legally documented agreement which will determine who will exercise as applying entity. The applying entity for the group forest management certification shall represent the group certification members and shall be responsible for requesting and guarding the sustainable forest management group certificate. The group forest management certificate constitutes the documents which ensure that the group fulfils the requirements of the sustainable forest management standards and any other corresponding requirement established by Cerfoar. The scope of the group forest management certificate is the addition of all the areas of the forest management units participating in the certification group. The entity applying for group forest management certification shall request cefoar Association the PEFC Trademark and Logo usage license once the sustainable forest management certification is obtained in conformity with Cerfoar. Also, it shall give each member of the group a copy of the sustainable forest management certificate including a list of the members of the group and its managements units included in the scope of the certificate. The certificate shall indicate the registration number and its validity period, together with the information about the applicant entity of certification and the certification body that issued it. This document does not grant the holder the right to use PEFC logo, such right is only granted by Cerfoar Association through a PEFC Trademark and Logo usage License. The entity applying for group forest management certification shall take responsibility for the correct usage of the certificate and the PEFC Trademark and Logo usage license and sub-licenses. The requirements for the creation, organization and management of a group certification, including the obligations and rights of the entity applying for certification and certification group members as well as requirements for dismissal or expulsion of members of the group or admission of new members are established in IRAM 39805: in force.”</p>
<p>f) the document confirming participation in group forest certification.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 4. Requirements for the setting up of the certification group. 4.1 General requirements.”</p> <p>“4.1 General requirements 4.1.1 The certification group shall have a legally established name and entity which allows them to sign contracts with their own members and other organizations. NOTE. The certification group as a legally established entity is the sustainable forest management certificate holder and is the one that signs the contract with the certification body. 4.1.2 The certification group shall define and document their objectives and scope. NOTE 1. The certification group scope includes the whole area limited by the participating management units in the group</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		certification. NOTE 2. If the certification group or their members perform activities which are not Included in the sustainable forest management certification, these do not oppose IRAM 39801 4.1.3 The certification group members shall formalize their joining through a contract.”
4.1.2 In cases where a forest certification scheme allows an individual forest owner to be covered by additional group or individual forest management certifications, the scheme shall ensure that non-conformity by the forest owner identified under one forest management certification scheme is addressed in any other forest management certification scheme that covers the forest owner.	YES	“Cerfoar – Technical Document: 4. Certification 4.1 Levels of application of the certification” “4.1 Levels of application of the certification The Cerfoar has the same levels of application for forest certification as those laid down in the PEFC Council's technical documents. Forest Certification consists of two clearly differentiated parts, details of which are given below: ☑ Forest management certification: is that in which the forest management implemented in the forests of the entity applying for certification is the object of an audit by an independent third party to certify that such forest management is performed in accordance with IRAM 39801 and/or IRAM 39805 standards on Sustainable Forest Management and all relevant legislation. Forest management shall include programmed inventories and planning, monitoring and assessment activities, as well as giving proper consideration to the social, environmental and economic impacts of the forest management. That is the basis of a continuous improvement process to minimize or prevent negative impacts. The standard IRAM 39801 gives details of the Principles, Criteria and Indicators underlying sustainable forest management relevant fulfillment of which is mandatory and which are listed in the management plan, thus enabling the sustainable management of the forest management unit to be guaranteed. The standard IRAM 39805 establishes the requirements to be fulfilled by the management structure of a forest certification group to ensure that all requirements in IRAM 39801 are fulfilled in each forest management unit part of the group. The entity applying for forest management certification may be individual or a group. In the case of a group applicant entity, forest producers (certification group member) voluntarily participate and pledge in writing to fulfill the certification requirements. Except for specific cases authorised by Cerfoar, the same forestland may not be included in more than one Sustainable Forest Management certificate. For those forests that are so authorised, in the event that a non compliance is detected in one certificate, the corresponding certification body shall be responsible for giving adequate notification thereof to the other certification bodies and to Cerfoar Association. Chain of Custody certification: is that in which the traceability of forest based raw materials and their derivatives is the object of audit throughout the different transformation processes as far as the certified end product authorised to bear the PEFC logo and registered trademark. The entity applying for chain of custody certification may be individual or the representative of a set of installations, known as ‘multisite’ or ‘multiple’ certification. Audited companies pledge in writing and voluntarily to fulfill the requirements of certification. Each of these modalities is detailed in the following points.” <u>Observation:</u>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		Also there is provision for exchange of information regarding non-conformities under different forest management certification systems between certification bodies this may not result in any activities by the receiving certification bodies as they are per accreditation protocol not obliged to handle non-conformities issued by other certification bodies certifying requirements of other systems.
4.1.3 The forest certification scheme shall define requirements for group forest certification which ensure that participants' conformity with the sustainable forest management standard is centrally administered and is subject to central review and that all participants shall be subject to the internal monitoring programme.	YES	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.1.2 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group”</p> <p>“5.1.2 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group. 5.1.2.1 The certification group shall at least: a) request the group certification; b) keep an updated record of the members of the certification group; c) communicate to the certification entity within a maximum of 30 days when a member joins or leaves the certification group; d) communicate to the certification group members their obligations and responsibilities; e) verify and assure that every member of the certification group meets the IRAM 39801 sustainable forest management requirements; f) define, verify and assure the compliance of the requirements of admission of new members and of expulsion of members; g) monitor and control the compliance of the management system requirements which govern the functioning of the certification group and the performance level of the forest management activities of the members; h) control the management system documentation of the certification group; i) provide the members with technical support and advice during the whole process of certification, audits and management of the certificate; j) guard and watch over the maintenance of the certification group certificate, issued by the certification body. 5.1.2.2 The certification group shall appoint a certification group manager and shall define their functions, responsibilities and management authority. NOTE. The certification group manager is allowed to perform all the tasks which they are requested to perform by this standard or they are able to delegate some of them to other people of the certification group or to external consultants. Keeping the corresponding records. 5.1.2.3 The certification group manager shall identify the training needs of the certification group members related to sustainable forest management and to the certification group management system. They shall provide the training or</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>undertake other actions to meet these needs and shall keep the associated records.”</p> <p>“5.2.4.2 The certification group manager shall plan and implement a program of internal audits to evaluate the performance of the forest management activities of the certification group members. The procedures of the audit program shall consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the planning and elaboration of the audit calendar at intervals inferior to a year; b) at least an annual audit by a member of the certification group to their management unit; c) the evaluation of all the aspects of sustainable forest management and the conformity with the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801 which the certification group member is responsible for; d) the monitoring and control of the corrective actions implementation in the time prescribed; e) the selection of the appropriate audit teams and the appointment of functions and responsibilities; f) the conservation of the records of the audit program for 5 years.”
<p>4.1.4 The forest certification scheme shall define requirements for an annual internal monitoring programme that provides sufficient confidence in the conformity of the whole group organisation with the sustainable forest management standard.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.2.4 Internal audit”</p> <p>“5.2.4 Internal audit 5.2.4.1 The certification group manager shall plan and implement a program of internal audits to evaluate the conformity of the certification group management system with the requirements of this standard. The procedures of the audit program shall consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the planning and elaboration of the audit calendar at intervals inferior to a year; b) the definition of intensity and the size of the sample to be audited; c) the verification of the conformity with this standard of all the requirements of the certification group management system and the compliance of the obligations and responsibilities of all the parties; d) the monitoring and control of the corrective actions implementation in the time prescribed; e) the selection of the appropriate audit teams and the appointment of functions and responsibilities; f) the conservation of the records of the audit program for 5 years. <p>5.2.4.2 The certification group manager shall plan and implement a program of internal audits to evaluate the performance of the forest management activities of the certification group members. The procedures of the audit program shall consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the planning and elaboration of the audit calendar at intervals inferior to a year; b) at least an annual audit by a member of the certification group to their management unit; c) the evaluation of all the aspects of sustainable forest management and the conformity with the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801 which the certification group member is responsible for; d) the monitoring and control of the corrective actions implementation in the time prescribed;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		e) the selection of the appropriate audit teams and the appointment of functions and responsibilities; f) the conservation of the records of the audit program for 5 years.”
Functions and responsibilities of the group entity		
4.2.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the function and responsibility of the group entity:		
<p>a) To represent the group organisation in the certification process, including in communications and relationships with the certification body, submission of an application for certification, and contractual relationship with the certification body;</p>	YES	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.1.2 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group.”</p> <p>“5.1.2 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group. 5.1.2.1 The certification group shall at least: a) request the group certification; b) keep an updated record of the members of the certification group; c) communicate to the certification entity within a maximum of 30 days when a member joins or leaves the certification group; d) communicate to the certification group members their obligations and responsibilities; e) verify and assure that every member of the certification group meets the IRAM 39801 sustainable forest management requirements; f) define, verify and assure the compliance of the requirements of admission of new members and of expulsion of members; g) monitor and control the compliance of the management system requirements which govern the functioning of the certification group and the performance level of the forest management activities of the members; h) control the management system documentation of the certification group; i) provide the members with technical support and advice during the whole process of certification, audits and management of the certificate; j) guard and watch over the maintenance of the certification group certificate, issued by the certification body. 5.1.2.2 The certification group shall appoint a certification group manager and shall define their functions, responsibilities and management authority. NOTE. The certification group manager is allowed to perform all the tasks which they are requested to perform by this standard or they are able to delegate some of them to other people of the certification group or to external consultants. Keeping the corresponding records. 5.1.2.3 The certification group manager shall identify the training needs of the certification group members related to sustainable forest management and to the certification group management system. They shall provide the training or undertake other actions to</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>meet these needs and shall keep the associated records.”</p> <p>“3. Definitions: 3.7 Certification group.“</p> <p>“3.7 certification group. Legally constituted entity or organization which requests the certification on behalf of a group of forest producers who agree on taking part in the group. NOTE 1. The certification group, as a legally constituted entity, is the certificate holder. NOTE 2. The certification group can be an existing organization (a company, a private, a chamber or a sectorial association, a non-governmental organization, a governmental organization, a communal organization), or can be expressly formed for the certification process and it shall be the one in charge of signing agreements with the group members and with the certification entity.”</p>
<p>b) To provide a commitment on behalf of the whole group organisation to comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 4. Requirements for the setting up of the certification group. 4.2 Certification group policy for sustainable forest management.”</p> <p>“4.2 Certification group policy for sustainable forest management 4.2.1 The certification group shall define the certification group policy for sustainable forest management and shall make sure that: a) It is reached by consensus and known by every certification group member; b) it is documented, implemented and maintained; c) it includes a commitment to respect IRAM 39801's principles and Criteria; d) it is actively communicated to forest workers and interested parties; and e) it is available to the public. 4.2.2 The certification group members shall agree to obey this policy in the membership contract or agreement to join the certification group.”</p>
<p>c) To establish written procedures for the management of the group organisation;</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.2 Minimum requirements of the certification group management system.”</p> <p>“5.2 Minimum requirements of the certification group management system. 5.2.1 General requirements The certification group shall establish, document, maintain and improve a management system in accordance with the following requirements 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.2.4 and 5.2.5, which guarantees the correct implementation of this standard and assures its compliance. NOTE: Within the certification group management system, the requirements which govern its correct functioning are defined.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>“5.2.2.1 The management system documentation shall include at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the policy and objectives of the certification group; b) the description of the application field which includes an updated map with the location and extension of the management units which make up the certification group; c) the structure of the certification group and the obligations and responsibilities of each one of its components; d) the description of the main elements of the system and their functioning, as well as the reference to related documents; e) every procedure required by this standard and those which determine the certification group manager as necessary to assure the correct certification group management; f) the records required by this standard. <p>NOTE. The documentation required by this standard, the description of the group functioning and all that essential information which contributes to the correct performance of the certification group members can be found summarized in a unique document called <i>Certification group manual</i>, like the one presented in appendix A.”</p> <p>“5.2.2.2 The manager shall have an updated list of all the required documentation and a copy of every document, which includes the date of the latest revision.”</p>
<p>d) To keep records of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the group entity and participants’ conformity with the requirements of the sustainable forest management standard, and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme, - all participants, including their contact details, identification of their forest property and its/their size(s), - the certified area, - the implementation of an internal monitoring 	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification:</p> <p>4. Requirements for the setting up of the certification group.</p> <p>4.1 General requirements.</p> <p>5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group.</p> <p>5.1 Obligations and responsibilities.</p> <p>5.1.2 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group.</p> <p>5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members.</p> <p>5.2 Minimum requirements of the certification group management system.</p> <p>5.2.4 Internal audit.</p> <p>5.2.5 Nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action.”</p> <p>“4.1 General requirements</p> <p>4.1.1 The certification group shall have a legally established name and entity which allows them to sign contracts with their own members and other organizations.</p> <p>NOTE. The certification group as a legally established entity is the sustainable forest management certificate holder and is the one that signs the contract with the certification body.</p> <p>4.1.2 The certification group shall define and document their objectives and scope.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<p>programme, its review and any preventive and/or corrective actions taken;</p>		<p>NOTE 1. The certification group scope includes the whole area limited by the participating management units in the group certification.</p> <p>NOTE 2. If the certification group or their members perform activities which are not Included in the sustainable forest management certification, these do not oppose IRAM 39801</p> <p>4.1.3 The certification group members shall formalize their joining through a contract.”</p> <p>“5.1.2 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group.</p> <p>5.1.2.1 The certification group shall at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) request the group certification; b) keep an updated record of the members of the certification group; c) communicate to the certification entity within a maximum of 30 days when a member joins or leaves the certification group; d) communicate to the certification group members their obligations and responsibilities; e) verify and assure that every member of the certification group meets the IRAM 39801 sustainable forest management requirements; f) define, verify and assure the compliance of the requirements of admission of new members and of expulsion of members; g) monitor and control the compliance of the management system requirements which govern the functioning of the certification group and the performance level of the forest management activities of the members; h) control the management system documentation of the certification group; i) provide the members with technical support and advice during the whole process of certification, audits and management of the certificate; j) guard and watch over the maintenance of the certification group certificate, issued by the certification body. <p>5.1.2.2 The certification group shall appoint a certification group manager and shall define their functions, responsibilities and management authority.</p> <p>NOTE. The certification group manager is allowed to perform all the tasks which they are requested to perform by this standard or they are able to delegate some of them to other people of the certification group or to external consultants, keeping the corresponding records.</p> <p>5.1.2.3 The certification group manager shall identify the training needs of the certification group members related to sustainable forest management and to the certification group management system. They shall provide the training or undertake other actions to meet these needs and shall keep the associated records.”</p> <p>“5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members</p> <p>The certification group members shall at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) sign a membership contract to join the certification group which includes at least the following points:

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>- a commitment to fulfill the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801;</p> <p>- the description of the obligations and responsibilities of the certification group manager and member related to forest management;</p> <p>- the authorization for the certification group manager's free access to the management units with monitoring and control objectives;</p> <p>- the respect of the decisions of the certification group manager in case of suspension or expulsion of a certification group member because of a serious mistake in the forest management performance;</p> <p>- the authorization for the certification body's access to perform the monitoring and certification audits;</p> <p>b) specify and document the management units which request their inclusion within the certification group certification;</p> <p>c) achieve and maintain the management levels required;</p> <p>d) participate in the training activities established by the certification group manager;</p> <p>e) request the necessary advice to the certification group manager.”</p> <p>“5.2.4 Internal audit</p> <p>5.2.4.1 The certification group manager shall plan and Implement a program of internal audits to evaluate the conformity of the certification group management system with the requirements of this standard. The procedures of the audit program shall consider:</p> <p>a) the planning and elaboration of the audit calendar at intervals inferior to a year:</p> <p>b) the definition of intensity and the size of the sample to be audited;</p> <p>c) the verification of the conformity with this standard of all the requirements of the certification group management system and the compliance of the obligations and responsibilities of all the parties;</p> <p>d) the monitoring and control of the corrective actions implementation in the time prescribed;</p> <p>e) the selection of the appropriate audit teams and the appointment of functions and responsibilities;</p> <p>f) the conservation of the records of the audit program for 5 years.</p> <p>5.2.4.2 The certification group manager shall plan and implement a program of internal audits to evaluate the performance of the forest management activities of the certification group members. The procedures of the audit program shall consider:</p> <p>a) the planning and elaboration of the audit calendar at intervals inferior to a year;</p> <p>b) at least an annual audit by a member of the certification group to their management unit;</p> <p>c) the evaluation of all the aspects of sustainable forest management and the conformity with the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801 which the certification group member is responsible for;</p> <p>d) the monitoring and control of the corrective actions implementation 10 the time prescribed;</p> <p>e) the selection of the appropriate audit teams and the appointment of functions and responsibilities;</p> <p>f) the conservation of the records of the audit program for 5 years.”</p> <p>“5.2.5 Nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>The certification group manager shall establish, Implement and maintain one or various procedures to deal with real and potential nonconformities and take corrective and preventive actions. The procedures shall contain, at least specifications for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the identification, description and correction of nonconformities; b) the description, identification of the responsible person and period of implementation of corrective and preventive actions; c) the investigation of nonconformities, determination of their causes and actions to prevent them from happening again; d) the record of corrective and preventive actions taken and their conservation for a period of 5 years; e) the revision of the efficiency of the corrective and preventive actions taken.” <p>“5.2.2.1 The management system documentation shall include at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the policy and objectives of the certification group; b) the description of the application field which includes an updated map with the location and extension of the management units which make up the certification group; c) the structure of the certification group and the obligations and responsibilities of each one of its components; d) the description of the main elements of the system and their functioning, as well as the reference to related documents; e) every procedure required by this standard and those which determine the certification group manager as necessary to assure the correct certification group management; f) the records required by this standard. <p>NOTE. The documentation required by this standard, the description of the group functioning and all that essential information which contributes to the correct performance of the certification group members can be found summarized in a unique document called Certification group manual, like the one presented in appendix A.”</p> <p>“5.2.2.2 The manager shall have an updated list of all the required documentation and a copy of every document, which includes the date of the latest revision.”</p>
<p>e) To establish connections with all participants based on a written agreement which shall include the participants’ commitment to comply with the sustainable forest management standard. The group entity shall have a written contract or other written agreement with all</p>		<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group 5.1 Obligations and responsibilities 5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members”</p> <p>“5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members The certification group members shall at least: a) sign a membership contract to join the certification group which includes at least the following points:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<p>participants covering the right of the group entity to implement and enforce any corrective or preventive measures, and to initiate the exclusion of any participant from the scope of certification in the event of non-conformity with the sustainable forest management standard;</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a commitment to fulfill the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801; - the description of the obligations and responsibilities of the certification group manager and member related to forest management; - the authorization for the certification group manager's free access to the management units with monitoring and control objectives; - the respect of the decisions of the certification group manager in case of suspension or expulsion of a certification group member because of a serious mistake in the forest management performance; - the authorization for the certification body's access to perform the monitoring and certification audits; <p>b) specify and document the management units which request their inclusion within the certification group certification;</p> <p>c) achieve and maintain the management levels required;</p> <p>d) participate in the training activities established by the certification group manager;</p> <p>e) request the necessary advice to the certification group manager.”</p> <p>“5.2.5 Nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action The certification group manager shall establish, implement and maintain one or various procedures to deal with real and potential nonconformities and take corrective and preventive actions. The procedures shall contain, at least specifications for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the identification, description and correction of nonconformities; b) the description, identification of the responsible person and period of implementation of corrective and preventive actions; c) the investigation of nonconformities, determination of their causes and actions to prevent them from happening again; d) the record of corrective and preventive actions taken and their conservation.” <p>“5.4.3 Expulsion and suspension The procedure of expulsion and suspension from the certification group shall specify at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the circumstances of suspension and expulsion from the certification group; <p>NOTE. The circumstances of expulsion and suspension are directly related to the characteristics/magnitude of the detected nonconformities (noncompliance of established requirements)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) the method of communication to the member about the suspension until the corrective actions are complete in order to eliminate the cause of the detected nonconformities; c) the method of communication to the member about their expulsion; d) the method of readmission in accordance with the requirements defined in 5.3.3 of the present standard;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		e) the maintenance of relevant records; f) the communication to the certification body, the remaining members and the interested parties.”
f) To provide participants with a document confirming participation in the group forest certification;	YES	“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group 5.1 Obligations and responsibilities. 5.1.1 General requirements.” “5.1.1 General requirements 5.1.1.1 The certification group shall define and document the organizational structure and establish the obligations and responsibilities of each one of their components. NOTE 1. A certification group formed by a few members can present a simple organizational structure and a certification group which has a lot of members can present various levels of responsibility or management with a wide variety of support personnel. NOTE 2. Regardless of the complexity the organizational structure presents, it is always useful to have an organization chart containing the responsibilities of every position in the chart. 5.1.1.2 Every member of the certification group shall have an updated document which describes their obligations and responsibilities towards sustainable forest management of their resources and the obligations and responsibilities delegated to the certification group manager. 5.1.1.3 The members of the certification group shall receive information and training which is adequate to fulfill their obligations.” “Cerfoar – Technical Document: 4. Certification 4.3 Group forest management certification” “4.3 Group forest management certification Also, it shall give each member of the group a copy of the sustainable forest management certificate including a list of the members of the group and its managements units included in the scope of the certificate. The certificate shall indicate the registration number and its validity period, together with the information about the applicant entity of certification and the certification body that issued it”
g) To provide all participants with information and guidance required for the effective implementation of the sustainable forest	YES	“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.1 Obligations and responsibilities. 5.1.1 General requirements.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;		<p>5.1.2 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group.”</p> <p>“5.1.1 General requirements</p> <p>5.1.1.1 The certification group shall define and document the organizational structure and establish the obligations and responsibilities of each one of their components.</p> <p>NOTE 1. A certification group formed by a few members can present a simple organizational structure and a certification group which has a lot of members can present various levels of responsibility or management with a wide variety of support personnel.</p> <p>NOTE 2. Regardless of the complexity the organizational structure presents, it is always useful to have an organization chart containing the responsibilities of every position in the chart.</p> <p>5.1.1.2 Every member of the certification group shall have an updated document which describes their obligations and responsibilities towards sustainable forest management of their resources and the obligations and responsibilities delegated to the certification group manager.</p> <p>5.1.1.3 The members of the certification group shall receive information and training which is adequate to fulfill their obligations.”</p> <p>“5.1.2 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group.</p> <p>5.1.2.1 The certification group shall at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) request the group certification; b) keep an updated record of the members of the certification group; c) communicate to the certification entity within a maximum of 30 days when a member joins or leaves the certification group; d) communicate to the certification group members their obligations and responsibilities; e) verify and assure that every member of the certification group meets the IRAM 39801 sustainable forest management requirements; f) define, verify and assure the compliance of the requirements of admission of new members and of expulsion of members; g) monitor and control the compliance of the management system requirements which govern the functioning of the certification group and the performance level of the forest management activities of the members; h) control the management system documentation of the certification group; i) provide the members with technical support and advice during the whole process of certification, audits and management of the certificate; j) guard and watch over the maintenance of the certification group certificate, issued by the certification body. <p>5.1.2.2 The certification group shall appoint a certification group manager and shall define their functions, responsibilities and management authority.</p> <p>NOTE. The certification group manager is allowed to perform all the tasks which they are requested to perform by this standard or they are able to delegate some of them to other people of the certification group or to external consultants. Keeping the</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>corresponding records.</p> <p>5.1.2.3 The certification group manager shall identify the training needs of the certification group members related to sustainable forest management and to the certification group management system. They shall provide the training or undertake other actions to meet these needs and shall keep the associated records.”</p> <p>“5.2.2.3 Each member of the certification group shall have an updated list of all the documentation required by them and a copy of every document, which includes the date of the latest revision.”</p>
<p>h) To operate an annual internal monitoring programme that provides for the evaluation of the participants’ conformity with the certification requirements, and;</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.2.4 Internal audit.”</p> <p>“5.2.4 Internal audit 5.2.4.1 The certification group manager shall plan and implement a program of internal audits to evaluate the conformity of the certification group management system with the requirements of this standard. The procedures of the audit program shall consider: a) the planning and elaboration of the audit calendar at intervals inferior to a year; b) the definition of intensity and the size of the sample to be audited; c) the verification of the conformity with this standard of all the requirements of the certification group management system and the compliance of the obligations and responsibilities of all the parties; d) the monitoring and control of the corrective actions implementation in the time prescribed; e) the selection of the appropriate audit teams and the appointment of functions and responsibilities; f) the conservation of the records of the audit program for 5 years. 5.2.4.2 The certification group manager shall plan and implement a program of internal audits to evaluate the performance of the forest management activities of the certification group members. The procedures of the audit program shall consider: a) the planning and elaboration of the audit calendar at intervals inferior to a year; b) at least an annual audit by a member of the certification group to their management unit; c) the evaluation of all the aspects of sustainable forest management and the conformity with the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801 which the certification group member is responsible for; d) the monitoring and control of the corrective actions implementation in the time prescribed; e) the selection of the appropriate audit teams and the appointment of functions and responsibilities; f) the conservation of the records of the audit program for 5 years.”</p>
<p>i) To operate a review of conformity with the sustainable forest management standard, that</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.2.4 Internal audit.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<p>includes reviewing the results of the internal monitoring programme and the certification body's evaluations and surveillance; corrective and preventive measures if required; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken.</p>		<p>5.2.5 Nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action.”</p> <p>“5.2.4 Internal audit</p> <p>5.2.4.1 The certification group manager shall plan and implement a program of internal audits to evaluate the conformity of the certification group management system with the requirements of this standard. The procedures of the audit program shall consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the planning and elaboration of the audit calendar at intervals inferior to a year; b) the definition of intensity and the size of the sample to be audited; c) the verification of the conformity with this standard of all the requirements of the certification group management system and the compliance of the obligations and responsibilities of all the parties; d) the monitoring and control of the corrective actions implementation in the time prescribed; e) the selection of the appropriate audit teams and the appointment of functions and responsibilities; f) the conservation of the records of the audit program for 5 years. <p>5.2.4.2 The certification group manager shall plan and implement a program of internal audits to evaluate the performance of the forest management activities of the certification group members. The procedures of the audit program shall consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the planning and elaboration of the audit calendar at intervals inferior to a year; b) at least an annual audit by a member of the certification group to their management unit; c) the evaluation of all the aspects of sustainable forest management and the conformity with the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801 which the certification group member is responsible for; d) the monitoring and control of the corrective actions implementation in the time prescribed; e) the selection of the appropriate audit teams and the appointment of functions and responsibilities; f) the conservation of the records of the audit program for 5 years.” <p>“5.2.5 Nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action</p> <p>The certification group manager shall establish, implement and maintain one or various procedures to deal with real and potential nonconformities and take corrective and preventive actions. The procedures shall contain, at least specifications for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the identification, description and correction of nonconformities; b) the description, identification of the responsible person and period of implementation of corrective and preventive actions; c) the investigation of nonconformities, determination of their causes and actions to prevent them from happening again; d) the record of corrective and preventive actions taken and their conservation for a period of 5 years; e) the revision of the efficiency of the corrective and preventive actions taken.” <p>Additional information provided by the scheme:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		<p>“In reference to the Functions and Responsibilities of the Group Entity and to the requirements established by PEFC ST 1002:2010 - 4.2.1 (i) the IRAM 39805 standard established as group certification obligations: 5.1.2 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group. 5.1.2.1 The certification group shall at least: ... e) verify and assure that every member of the certification group meets the IRAM 39801 sustainable forest management requirements; ... j) guard and watch over the maintenance of the certification group certificate, issued by the certification body.”</p>
Function and responsibilities of participants		
4.3.1 The forest certification scheme shall define the following requirements for the participants:		
<p>a) To provide the group entity with a written agreement, including a commitment on conformity with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;</p>	YES	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members”</p> <p>“5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members The certification group members shall at least: a) sign a membership contract to join the certification group which includes at least the following points: - a commitment to fulfill the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801; - the description of the obligations and responsibilities of the certification group manager and member related to forest management; - the authorization for the certification group manager's free access to the management units with monitoring and control objectives; - the respect of the decisions of the certification group manager in case of suspension or expulsion of a certification group member because of a serious mistake in the forest management performance; - the authorization for the certification body's access to perform the monitoring and certification audits; b) specify and document the management units which request their inclusion within the certification group certification; c) achieve and maintain the management levels required; d) participate in the training activities established by the certification group manager; e) request the necessary advice to the certification group manager.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<p>b) To comply with the sustainable forest management standard and other applicable requirements of the forest certification scheme;</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members.”</p> <p>“5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members The certification group members shall at least: a) sign a membership contract to join the certification group which includes at least the following points: - a commitment to fulfill the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801; - the description of the obligations and responsibilities of the certification group manager and member related to forest management; - the authorization for the certification group manager's free access to the management units with monitoring and control objectives; - the respect of the decisions of the certification group manager in case of suspension or expulsion of a certification group member because of a serious mistake in the forest management performance; - the authorization for the certification body's access to perform the monitoring and certification audits; b) specify and document the management units which request their inclusion within the certification group certification; c) achieve and maintain the management levels required; d) participate in the training activities established by the certification group manager; e) request the necessary advice to the certification group manager.”</p>
<p>c) To provide full co-operation and assistance in responding effectively to all requests from the group entity or certification body for relevant data, documentation or other information; allowing access to the forest and other facilities, whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise;</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members.”</p> <p>“5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members The certification group members shall at least: a) sign a membership contract to join the certification group which includes at least the following points: - a commitment to fulfill the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801; - the description of the obligations and responsibilities of the certification group manager and member related to forest management; - the authorization for the certification group manager's free access to the management units with monitoring and control objectives; - the respect of the decisions of the certification group manager in case of suspension or expulsion of a certification group member because of a serious mistake in the forest management performance; - the authorization for the certification body's access to perform the monitoring and certification audits; b) specify and document the management units which request their inclusion within the certification group certification; c) achieve and maintain the management levels required; d) participate in the training activities established by the certification group manager;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
<p>d) To implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the group entity.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>e) request the necessary advice to the certification group manager.”</p> <p>“IRAM 39805. Sustainable forest management. Group certification: 5. Requirements for the functioning of the certification group. 5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members.”</p> <p>“5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members The certification group members shall at least: a) sign a membership contract to join the certification group which includes at least the following points: - a commitment to fulfill the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801; - the description of the obligations and responsibilities of the certification group manager and member related to forest management; - the authorization for the certification group manager's free access to the management units with monitoring and control objectives; - the respect of the decisions of the certification group manager in case of suspension or expulsion of a certification group member because of a serious mistake in the forest management performance; - the authorization for the certification body's access to perform the monitoring and certification audits; b) specify and document the management units which request their inclusion within the certification group certification; c) achieve and maintain the management levels required; d) participate in the training activities established by the certification group manager; e) request the necessary advice to the certification group manager.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “The IRAM 39805 Standard establish the following requirements in relation to 5.1.3 Obligations and responsibilities of the certification group members The certification group members shall at least: a) sign a membership contract to join the certification group which includes at least the following points: - a commitment to fulfill the principles, criteria and indicators of IRAM 39801 ... c) achieve and maintain the management levels required; NOTE 1: The IRAM 39805 in 5.2.4 Internal Audit specify in paragraphs 5.2.4.1 and 5.2.4.2 that the certification group manager shall plan and implement, respectively, a program of internal audits to evaluate the compliance of `the group system management against the certification requirements of this standard, and a program of internal audits to evaluate forest management activities of the certification group members. NOTE 2: as well, the point 5.2.5 describes how non-conformities should be treated, including identification, description, implement corrective actions, identification of the person / member responsible and the deadline for implementation of the indicated corrective</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to system documentation
		and preventive actions.”

1.3 PART III: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (PEFC ST 1003:2010)

1.3.1 Scope

Part III covers requirements for sustainable forest management as defined in PEFC ST 1003:2010, *Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements*. Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

1.3.2 Checklist

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
General requirements for SFM standards		
4.1 The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall		
a) include management and performance requirements that are applicable at the forest management unit level, or at another level as appropriate, to ensure that the intent of all requirements is achieved at the forest management unit level.	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.10 sustainable forest management. 3.17 management plan. 3.22 forest producer. 3.31 management unit.”</p> <p>“3.10 sustainable forest management. Stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way and at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, ecological, economic and social functions relevant at a local, national and global level, and without causing any damages to other ecosystems NOTE. Extracted from item D of Resolution H1 - General guidelines for the sustainable management of forests, Second Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Helsinki 1993.”</p> <p>“3.17 management plan. An instrument which regulates the rational exploitation and use of renewable natural resources of the management unit, with the aim of obtaining their maximum benefit, assuring at the same time the preservation, conservation, improvement and increase of such resources and their ecosystem. NOTE. The management plan includes, at least, the following: legal aspects, in particular the matter concerning the possession or control of land; description and characterization of the place and the forest resource; appropriate cartography;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>definition of management objectives; economic-financial planning and accounting statements; annual plan of forest operations; a silvicultural system consistent with management objectives; activities to be executed contained in the silvicultural treatment; specifications, technical prescriptions and protection measures of the environment and hydrographic basins necessary to protect the soil, courses and water masses, flora and fauna. limitations and environmental risks; identification and evaluation of the relevant impacts and aspects of the activities in the management unit; protection measures to prevent damages caused by fires, plagues, weeds and illnesses, harmful agents and other disturbances.”</p> <p>“3.22 forest producer. A physical or legal person responsible for the operations of the resource management and the forest company, as well as for the management structure and system, the planning and of the field works.”</p> <p>“3.31 management unit. An area which is subject to sustainable forest management. NOTE. The management unit is the area of land mainly covered in forests and clearly demarcated, managed by a series of explicit objectives and in accordance with a management plan.”</p>
<p>b) be clear, objective-based and auditable.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.6 criterion. 3.13 indicator. 4. Principles, criteria and indicators.”</p> <p>“3.6 criterion. A category of conditions and processes by means of which forest sustainable management can be evaluated. NOTE 1. Extracted from Section 2 Definitions of the Montreal Process. NOTE 2. A criterion is a state or an aspect of the dynamic process of the forest ecosystem, or a state of the interacting social system, which should be in place as a result of adherence to a principle. They way criteria are formulated should give rise to a verdict on the degree of compliance in an actual situation.”</p> <p>“3.13 indicator. A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described and when it is observed periodically, it shows tendency. NOTE 1. Extracted from Section 2 of the Montreal Process. NOTE 2. An indicator is a qualitative or quantitative parameter which is assessed in relation with a criterion. The indicator</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>describes, in a non-ambiguous and objectively verifiable way, the state of an aspect of the criterion which it refers to.”</p> <p>“4 PRINCIPLES, CRITERIA AND INDICATORS The principles established in this standard constitute the reference for sustainable forest management and are developed on the basis of the criteria and indicators of the Montreal Process. NOTE 1. The Montreal Process is the Group of work about criteria and indicators for the conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests, created by initiative of the non-European countries which have temperate and boreal forests. To elaborate and motivate the application of criteria and indicators agreed at an international level for the forest sustainable management. NOTE 2. The Criteria and Indicators of the Montreal Process foresee their application nationwide in all the forests of a country and in every kind of land ownership, and consider sustainable forest management globally, taking into account all the products, values and forest services. The participating countries, when adopting these criteria and indicators, engage in trying to achieve sustainable management of all their forests. NOTE 3. Argentina has adhered to the Montreal Process since 1995, and it has participated actively at the meetings of the Group of Work of Montreal and the Technical Consultant Committee (TCe). The principles are itemized in criteria which are the expression of situations or aspects of the dynamic process of the forest ecosystem or a situation of the associated social system. The verification of the compliance of every criterion is established through the careful evaluation of a set of specific indicators subordinate to it, which can be quantitative or qualitative. Depending on the location and the objective of the management unit, not every indicator is applicable, is present or is as important. It is always necessary to guarantee all those corresponding to a local situation. In this way, a hierarchical structure of principles, criteria and indicators which have to allow the monitoring and demonstration of forest management sustainability is defined. The implementation of a criterion is considered complied with when it is demonstrated that the respective indicators are properly complied with. At the same time, a principle is considered implemented when it is confirmed that the respective criteria are complied with. Finally, forest management is considered to be implemented in accordance with this standard when there is evidence that the following principles are complied with:”</p>
c) apply to activities of all operators in the defined forest area who have a measurable impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.22 forest producer. 3.30 forest worker. 3.31 management unit. 4.1 Principle 1 – Compliance with the law. 4.1.1 Criterion 1.1.”

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“3.22 forest producer. A physical or legal person responsible for the operations of the resource management and the forest company, as well as for the management structure and system, the planning and of the field works.”</p> <p>“3.30 forest worker. A worker who acts at the forest management unit, as a self-employed worker or with a direct work tie with the organization or with service provider companies.”</p> <p>“3.31 management unit. An area which is subject to sustainable forest management. NOTE. The management unit is the area of land mainly covered in forests and clearly demarcated, managed by a series of explicit objectives and in accordance with a management plan.”</p> <p>“4.1.1 Criterion 1.1. The forest producer performs the activities corresponding to the management unit in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable and in force. Indicators: a) proceedings of identification and update of laws and regulations applicable to the management unit, including among others, forest, environmental, work, on transportation and on use and rights of land ownership. b) compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to the activities of the management unit; c) the implemented management plan approved by the competent authority; NOTE. The cases in which the application authority requests so. d) the forest producer complies with the policies, procedures, reference manual and codes of practice which are signed or defined for the management unit. e) the service providers comply with the laws and regulations applicable to their activity.”</p> <p>“1 SCOPE This standard establishes the principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management regarding native forests and cultivated forests and it is applicable to the management unit, whether this is managed by a forest producer or by a group of these.”</p> <p><u>Observation</u> To only reference legal compliance is not addressing fully the requirements by Cerfoar, which exceed legal compliance in forestry.</p>
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“4.7 Principle 7 - Monitoring and control The forest producer shall establish and implement a monitoring and control program of the management plan which contributes to the continuous improvement of forest management, to evaluate the condition of the management unit and the degree of advance in the compliance of the principles of this standard. The monitoring is systematic, replicable in time and allows the comparison of results and evaluation of changes.”</p> <p>“7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations, Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations; b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest health state; c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products; d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies; e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results; f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.1.4 Criterion 1.4. The forest producer pays all the fees, taxes, royalties and other charges legally established and applicable. Indicator: records which show the compliance of the work, tax, commercial, professional and contractual obligations.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; ...”</p> <p>“4.6.5 Criterion 6.5. The forest producer safeguards the health and safety of forest workers and trains them in the correct performance of the labor they do. Indicators:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>...</p> <p>c) records of work illnesses, accidents and evidence of the implementation of corrective measures when necessary; ...”</p> <p>“4.1.3 Criterion 1.3. The forest producer knows and respects the legally binding international treaties and conventions of which the country is signatory, applicable to the management unit. Indicators: ...</p> <p>c) records of the fact that forest workers have been trained on conventions and treaties applicable to the management unit. ...”</p>
Specific requirements for SFM standards		
Criterion 1: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle		
<p>5.1.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain or increase forests and other wooded areas and enhance the quality of the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water. This shall be done by making full use of related services and tools that support land-use planning and nature conservation.</p>	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.17 management plan. 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1.”</p> <p>“3.17 management plan. An instrument which regulates the rational exploitation and use of renewable natural resources of the management unit, with the aim of obtaining their maximum benefit, assuring at the same time the preservation, conservation, improvement and increase of such resources and their ecosystem. NOTE. The management plan includes, at least, the following: legal aspects, in particular the matter concerning the possession or control of land; description and characterization of the place and the forest resource; appropriate cartography; definition of management objectives; economic-financial planning and accounting statements; annual plan of forest operations; a silvicultural system consistent with management objectives; activities to be executed contained in the silvicultural treatment; specifications, technical prescriptions and protection measures of the environment and hydrographic basins necessary to protect</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>the soil, courses and water masses, flora and fauna. limitations and environmental risks; identification and evaluation of the relevant impacts and aspects of the activities in the management unit; protection measures to prevent damages caused by fires, plagues, weeds and illnesses, harmful agents and other disturbances.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified, which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“3. Definitions: 3.10 sustainable forest management. Stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way and at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, ecological, economic and social functions relevant at a local, national and global level, and without causing any damages to other ecosystems NOTE. Extracted from item D of Resolution H1 – General guidelines for the sustainable management of forests, Second Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Helsinki 1993.”</p> <p>“4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. The applied silvicultural treatments are clearly specified and justified in the management plan and they assure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term. Indicators: a) the silvicultural processes applied are based on the ecology, on the dynamics or on both, of each place and on information obtained through forest inventories of the management unit and they make sure that forest resources are sustainable in the long term.”</p> <p>“4.2 Principle 2 - Search for forest resources sustainability</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		The forest producer shall plan and implement forest resource management in a sustainable way, so as to maintain or increase the production of goods and forest, environmental and social services through time, in accordance with a long-term forest management plan, appropriate to the operations scale and applicable to the management unit."
5.1.2 Forest management shall comprise the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and shall include an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management operations. This shall form a basis for a cycle of continuous improvement to minimise or avoid negative impacts.	YES	<p>"Cerfoar – Technical Document: 4. Certification. 4.1 Levels of application of the certification."</p> <p>"4.1 Levels of application of the certification The Cerfoar has the same levels of application for forest certification as those laid down in the PEFC Council's technical documents. Forest Certification consists of two clearly differentiated parts, details of which are given below: Forest management certification: is that in which the forest management implemented in the forests of the entity applying for certification is the object of an audit by an independent third party to certify that such forest management is performed in accordance with IRAM 39801 and/or IRAM 39805 standards on Sustainable Forest Management and all relevant legislation. Forest management shall include programmed inventories and planning, monitoring and assessment activities, as well as giving proper consideration to the social, environmental and economic impacts of the forest management. That is the basis of a continuous improvement process to minimize or prevent negative impacts. The standard IRAM 39801 gives details of the Principles, Criteria and Indicators underlying sustainable forest management relevant fulfillment of which is mandatory and which are listed in the management plan, thus enabling the sustainable management of the forest management unit to be guaranteed. The standard IRAM 39805 establishes the requirements to be fulfilled by the management structure of a forest certification group to ensure that all requirements in IRAM 39801 are fulfilled in each forest management unit part of the group. The entity applying for forest management certification may be individual or a group. In the case of a group applicant entity, forest producers (certification group member) voluntarily participate and pledge in writing to fulfill the certification requirements. Except for specific cases authorised by Cerfoar, the same forestland may not be included in more than one Sustainable Forest Management certificate. For those forests that are so authorised, in the event that a non compliance is detected in one certificate, the corresponding certification body shall be responsible for giving adequate notification thereof to the other certification bodies and to Cerfoar Association. Chain of Custody certification: is that in which the traceability of forest based raw materials and their derivatives is the object of audit throughout the different transformation processes as far as the certified end product authorised to bear the PEFC logo and registered trademark. The entity applying for chain of custody certification may be individual or the representative of a set of installations, known as 'multisite' or 'multiple' certification. Audited companies pledge in writing and voluntarily to fulfill the requirements of certification. Each of these modalities is detailed in the following points."</p> <p>"IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>3. Definitions: 3.10 sustainable forest Management. 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control.”</p> <p>“3.10 sustainable forest management. Stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way and at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, Vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, ecological, economic and social functions relevant at a local, national and global level, and without causing any damages to other ecosystems NOTE. Extracted from item D of Resolution H1 - General guidelines for the sustainable management of forests, Second Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Helsinki 1993.”</p> <p>“4.2 Principle 2 - Search for forest resources sustainability The forest producer shall plan and implement forest resource management in a sustainable way, so as to maintain or increase the production of goods and forest, environmental and social services through time, in accordance with a long-term forest management plan, appropriate to the operations scale and applicable to the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.7 Principle 7 - Monitoring and control The forest producer shall establish and implement a monitoring and control program of the management plan which contributes to the continuous improvement of forest management, to evaluate the condition of the management unit and the degree of advance in the compliance of the principles of this standard. The monitoring is systematic, replicable in time and allows the comparison of results and evaluation of changes.”</p> <p>“4.7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations. Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations; b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest health state; c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products; d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies; e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results; f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.7.2 Criterion 7.2. The forest producer incorporates the results of the periodical evaluations so as to improve forest operations in a continuous way. Effectivity and efficiency of forest management is regularly evaluated and improved.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the results of the periodical evaluations are recorded, compared and analyzed so as to determine changes in the performance of the forest management of the management unit;</p> <p>b) the management plan and all their procedures are revised periodically so as to incorporate the monitoring and evaluation conclusions;</p> <p>c) a documented and implemented procedure to evaluate and record emergency situations occurred during forest operations and the conclusions are properly incorporated in the management plan.”</p>
<p>5.1.3 Inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the topics described in this document.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit:</p> <p>3.Definitions:</p> <p>3.17 management plan.</p> <p>4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability.</p> <p>4.2.1 Criterion 2.1.</p> <p>4.2.2 Criterion 2.2.”</p> <p>“3.17 management plan. An instrument which regulates the rational exploitation and use of renewable natural resources of the management unit, with the aim of obtaining their maximum benefit, assuring at the same time the preservation, conservation, improvement and increase of such resources and their ecosystem.</p> <p>NOTE. The management plan includes, at least, the following:</p> <p>legal aspects, in particular the matter concerning the possession or control of land;</p> <p>description and characterization of the place and the forest resource;</p> <p>appropriate cartography;</p> <p>definition of management objectives;</p> <p>economic-financial planning and accounting statements;</p> <p>annual plan of forest operations;</p> <p>a silvicultural system consistent with management objectives;</p> <p>activities to be executed contained in the silvicultural treatment;</p> <p>specifications, technical prescriptions and protection measures of the environment and hydrographic basins necessary to protect the soil, courses and water masses, flora and fauna.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>limitations and environmental risks; identification and evaluation of the relevant impacts and aspects of the activities in the management unit; protection measures to prevent damages caused by fires, plagues, weeds and illnesses, harmful agents and other disturbances.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified. which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.2.2 Criterion 2.2. In the management plan the uses and possession regime of the different areas of the management unit are defined. Indicators: a) updated cartography where the areas with their present and potential uses and the possession regime are delimited; NOTE. The periodic update of the cartography allows to reflect the changes in the areas use and the situation of the forest resources b) the prescriptions contained in the management plan reflect correspondence with those which are executed in the land.”</p> <p>“4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. The applied silvicultural treatments are clearly specified and justified in the management plan and they assure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term. Indicators: a) the silvicultural processes applied are based on the ecology, on the dynamics or on both, of each place and on information obtained through forest inventories of the management unit and they make sure that forest resources are sustainable in the long term. b) an implemented procedure for the performance of forest inventories;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>c) in case there is not enough technical information on the ecology and dynamics of the place, the silvicultural treatments are defined on the base of the precautionary principle and these make sure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; ...”</p>
<p>5.1.4 Management plans or their equivalents, appropriate to the size and use of the forest area, shall be elaborated and periodically updated. They shall be based on legislation as well as existing land-use plans, and adequately cover the forest resources.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.17 management plan. 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control.”</p> <p>“3.17 management plan. An instrument which regulates the rational exploitation and use of renewable natural resources of the management unit, with the aim of obtaining their maximum benefit, assuring at the same time the preservation, conservation, improvement and increase of such resources and their ecosystem. NOTE. The management plan includes, at least, the following: legal aspects, in particular the matter concerning the possession or control of land; description and characterization of the place and the forest resource; appropriate cartography; definition of management objectives; economic-financial planning and accounting statements; annual plan of forest operations; a silvicultural system consistent with management objectives; activities to be executed contained in the silvicultural treatment; specifications, technical prescriptions and protection measures of the environment and hydrographic basins necessary to protect the soil, courses and water masses, flora and fauna. limitations and environmental risks; identification and evaluation of the relevant impacts and aspects of the activities in the management unit; protection measures to prevent damages caused by fires, plagues, weeds and illnesses, harmful agents and other disturbances.”</p> <p>“4.2 Principle 2 - Search for forest resources sustainability</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>The forest producer shall plan and implement forest resource management in a sustainable way, so as to maintain or increase the production of goods and forest, environmental and social services through time, in accordance with a long-term forest management plan, appropriate to the operations scale and applicable to the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.7 Principle 7 - Monitoring and control The forest producer shall establish and implement a monitoring and control program of the management plan which contributes to the continuous improvement of forest management, to evaluate the condition of the management unit and the degree of advance in the compliance of the principles of this standard. The monitoring is systematic, replicable in time and allows the comparison of results and evaluation of changes.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified, which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p>
<p>5.1.5 Management plans or their equivalents shall include at least a description of the current condition of the forest management unit, long-term objectives; and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification and, where relevant, the annually allowable exploitation of non-timber forest products.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.17 management plan. 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.2.4 Criterion 2.4.”</p> <p>“3.17 management plan. An instrument which regulates the rational exploitation and use of renewable natural resources of the management unit, with the aim of obtaining their maximum benefit, assuring at the same time the preservation, conservation, improvement and increase of such resources and their ecosystem.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>NOTE. The management plan includes, at least, the following: legal aspects, in particular the matter concerning the possession or control of land; description and characterization of the place and the forest resource; appropriate cartography; definition of management objectives; economic-financial planning and accounting statements; annual plan of forest operations; a silvicultural system consistent with management objectives; activities to be executed contained in the silvicultural treatment; specifications, technical prescriptions and protection measures of the environment and hydrographic basins necessary to protect the soil, courses and water masses, flora and fauna. limitations and environmental risks; identification and evaluation of the relevant impacts and aspects of the activities in the management unit; protection measures to prevent damages caused by fires, plagues, weeds and illnesses, harmful agents and other disturbances.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified. which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity.</p> <p>c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured;</p> <p>NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate.</p> <p>d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”</p>
<p>5.1.6 A summary of the forest management plan or its equivalent appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, which contains information about the forest management measures to be applied, is publicly available. The summary may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by national legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.17 management plan. 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1.”</p> <p>“3.17 management plan. An instrument which regulates the rational exploitation and use of renewable natural resources of the management unit, with the aim of obtaining their maximum benefit, assuring at the same time the preservation, conservation, improvement and increase of such resources and their ecosystem. NOTE. The management plan includes, at least, the following: legal aspects, in particular the matter concerning the possession or control of land; description and characterization of the place and the forest resource; appropriate cartography; definition of management objectives; economic-financial planning and accounting statements; annual plan of forest operations; a silvicultural system consistent with management objectives; activities to be executed contained in the silvicultural treatment; specifications, technical prescriptions and protection measures of the environment and hydrographic basins necessary to protect the soil, courses and water masses, flora and fauna. limitations and environmental risks; identification and evaluation of the relevant impacts and aspects of the activities in the management unit; protection measures to prevent damages caused by fires, plagues, weeds and illnesses, harmful agents and other disturbances.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented. updated and implemented, consistent with its</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified. which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.” <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “In the context of cerfoar and IRAM 39801 "available to interested parties" means "publicly available"”</p>
<p>5.1.7 Monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.17 management plan. 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control. 4.7.1 Criterion 7.1. 4.7.2 Criterion 7.2.”</p> <p>“3.17 management plan. An instrument which regulates the rational exploitation and use of renewable natural resources of the management unit, with the aim of obtaining their maximum benefit, assuring at the same time the preservation, conservation, improvement and increase of such resources and their ecosystem. NOTE. The management plan includes, at least, the following: legal aspects, in particular the matter concerning the possession or control of land; description and characterization of the place and the forest resource; appropriate cartography; definition of management objectives; economic-financial planning and accounting statements;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>annual plan of forest operations; a silvicultural system consistent with management objectives; activities to be executed contained in the silvicultural treatment; specifications, technical prescriptions and protection measures of the environment and hydrographic basins necessary to protect the soil, courses and water masses, flora and fauna. limitations and environmental risks; identification and evaluation of the relevant impacts and aspects of the activities in the management unit; protection measures to prevent damages caused by fires, plagues, weeds and illnesses, harmful agents and other disturbances.”</p> <p>“4.2 Principle 2 - Search for forest resources sustainability The forest producer shall plan and implement forest resource management in a sustainable way so as to maintain or increase the production of goods and forest, environmental and social services through time. in accordance with a long-term forest management plan appropriate to the operations scale and applicable to the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations, Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations; b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest health state; c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products; d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies; e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results; f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.7.2 Criterion 7.2. The forest producer incorporates the results of the periodical evaluations so as to improve forest operations in a continuous way. Effectivity and efficiency of forest management is regularly evaluated and improved, Indicators: a) the results of the periodical evaluations are recorded, compared and analyzed so as to determine changes in the performance of the forest management of the management unit;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		b) the management plan and all their procedures are revised periodically so as to incorporate the monitoring and evaluation conclusions; c) a documented and implemented procedure to evaluate and record emergency situations occurred during forest operations and the conclusions are properly incorporated in the management plan.” “4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control The forest producer shall establish and implement a monitoring and control program of the management plan which contributes to the continuous improvement of forest management, to evaluate the condition of the management unit and the degree of advance in the compliance of the principles of this standard. The monitoring is systematic, replicable in time and allows the comparison of results and evaluation of changes.”
5.1.8 Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.22 forest producer.” “3.22 forest producer. A physical or legal person responsible for the operations of the resource management and the forest company, as well as for the management structure and system, the planning and of the field works.” “4.1.1 Criterion 1.1. The forest producer performs the activities corresponding to the management unit in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable and in force.”
5.1.9 Forest management practices shall safeguard the quantity and quality of the forest resources in the medium and long term by balancing harvesting and growth rates, and by preferring techniques that minimise direct or indirect damage to forest, soil or water resources.	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. 4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. 4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. 4.5 Principle 5 – Water, soil and air care. 4.5.1 Criterion 5.1.” “4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. The applied silvicultural treatments are clearly specified and justified in the management plan and they assure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term. Indicators: a) the silvicultural processes applied are based on the ecology, on the dynamics or on both, of each place and on information

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>obtained through forest inventories of the management unit and they make sure that forest resources are sustainable in the long term.</p> <p>b) an implemented procedure for the performance of forest inventories;</p> <p>c) in case there is not enough technical information on the ecology and dynamics of the place, the silvicultural treatments are defined on the base of the precautionary principle and these make sure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories;</p> <p>b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services;</p> <p>NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity.</p> <p>c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured;</p> <p>NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate.</p> <p>d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”</p> <p>“4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. In the management plan, actions to optimize the generation and exploitation of goods and services and to stimulate their diversification in the long term are foreseen.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the management plan considers and foresees mechanisms for the diversification and use of other forest, timber and non-timber, commercial and non-commercial products;</p> <p>b) planning and implementation of actions which tend to maintain or increase the future value of the forest resources of the management unit;</p> <p>c) adoption of techniques to minimize the waste of forest products associated to the in situ transformation and exploitation operations;</p> <p>d) implementation of techniques, actions or both to minimize forest operations damages to the remaining forest;”</p> <p>“4.5.1 Criterion 5.1. Sustainable forest management planning is based on environmental information of the area and it favors the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources.</p> <p>Indicators:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>a) the description and record of base environmental information, considered in forest management planning; b) the cartography which represents soil characteristics indicating their degree of erosion and fragility; c) the cartography which identifies the characteristics of the hydrologic basin, water bodies and courses, where the management unit is inserted; d) the documented, updated and implemented management plan clearly specifies the environmental objectives and the means and activities to achieve them, related to the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources; e) planned management activities are based on the environmental characterization of the area and reflect correspondence with those which are executed.”</p> <p>“4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain the quality of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which consider the maintenance of the soil quality; b) the use of fire is avoided for the authorization of lands assuring the maintenance of the soil quality of the management unit; c) forest operations are planned and the equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of the slope, soil fragility and pluviometry are selected, so as to minimize the erosion and soil compression and maintain its quality; d) technical specifications which consider the soil conservation of the management unit, in the planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, engineering structures and possible works which imply significant movements of land; e) damages in the land caused by forest operations which can cause erosion are mitigated or repaired before the task end; f) procedures of emergency response for soil contamination, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts; g) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve the soil and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.3 Criterion 5.3. The forest producer plans and implements forest operations so as to maintain the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators: a) the producer knows and considers the uses of water of local communities of the area of influence of the management unit when planning forest operations; b) planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, works of art and possible works which imply significant movements of land and water, include actions to minimize the erosion and the dragging of sediments towards water bodies and courses; c) protection strips on the banks of water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>d) procedures of emergency response for the contamination of water resources, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts;</p> <p>e) procedures to prevent or mitigate the fall of harvest waste into water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;</p> <p>f) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve water resources and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p>
<p>5.1.10 Appropriate silvicultural measures shall be taken to maintain or reach a level of the growing stock that is economically, ecologically and socially desirable.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. 4.2.5 Criterion 2.5.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services; NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity. c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured; NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate. d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”</p> <p>“4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. In the management plan, actions to optimize the generation and exploitation of goods and services and to stimulate their diversification in the long term are foreseen. Indicators: a) the management plan considers and foresees mechanisms for the diversification and use of other forest, timber and non-timber, commercial and non-commercial products; b) planning and implementation of actions which tend to maintain or increase the future value of the forest resources of the management unit; c) adoption of techniques to minimize the waste of forest products associated to the in situ transformation and exploitation</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>operations; d) implementation of techniques, actions or both to minimize forest operations damages to the remaining forest;"</p> <p>"4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. The applied silvicultural treatments are clearly specified and justified in the management plan and they assure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term. Indicators: a) the silvicultural processes applied are based on the ecology, on the dynamics or on both, of each place and on information obtained through forest inventories of the management unit and they make sure that forest resources are sustainable in the long term. b) an implemented procedure for the performance of forest inventories; c) in case there is not enough technical information on the ecology and dynamics of the place, the silvicultural treatments are defined on the base of the precautionary principle and these make sure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term."</p>
<p>5.1.11 Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <p>1 is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation relevant for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with materially and directly interested persons and organisations; and</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>"Cerfoar – Technical Document: 2. Argentine Fores Certification System - Cerfoar 2.3 Cerfoar's documentary basis"</p> <p>"2.3 Cerfoar's documentary basis Cerfoar is based on the PEFC Scheme's normative documentation approved by the PEFC Council and its corresponding guidelines. Cerfoar establishes the requirements for forest management certification of native and implanted forest and also, the requirements to track the related industries located in the Argentine Republic. The documentary basis of the system is composed of Cerfoar's Technical Document (this document), IRAM standards of sustainable forest management, normative documentation of the PEFC Council and Cerfoar's General Procedures. The technical standards of voluntary application which constitute the normative base of the Argentine Forest Certification System are the following IRAM Standards Series 39800 of Sustainable Forest Management, - IRAM 39801: in force, Sustainable Forest Management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management units. - IRAM 39803: in force, Sustainable forest management. Audit. - IRAM 39805: in force, Sustainable Forest Management. Group certification Cerfoar Association adopts as Cerfoar standards the internationally established PEFC standards for chain of custody certification and logo usage: - PEFC ST 2002: in force, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements - PEFC ST 2001: in force, PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements At the same time, through its general and internal procedures approved by the Board of Directors, Cerfoar Association details the rules for different areas of Cerfoar, such as requirements and procederes for the authorization of certification bodies, the</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>2 entails a small proportion of forest type; and</p> <p>3 does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and</p> <p>4 makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.</p>		<p>arrangement to apply for the PEFC logo and trademark, tariff schedules, sampling ratio structure, etc. Cerfoar's General Procedures are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PG01: in force. Cerfoar notification of certification bodies operating forest management and/or chain of custody certification in Argentina. - PG02: in force. Procedure to be implemented by certification bodies to carry out forest management audits and certifications. - PG03: in force. Consultation procedure to the interested parties that shall implement certification bodies during forest management audits. - PG04: in force. Peers review procedure of the forest management certification report that shall implement the certification bodies. - PG05: in force. Procedures to elaborate forest management audits reports that shall be implemented by the certification bodies. - PG06 in force. Procedure for the resolution of disputes that the Association Cerfoar shall implement - PG07 in force. Procedure of issuance of PEFC logo use licenses by Cerfoar Association <p>In addition to the requirements explicitly established by Cerfoar, applicant certification entities must meet national and local regulations and laws apply to them including those relating to fundamental ILO conventions, and other international conventions ratified by the country and that have a relationship and direct impact on sustainable forest management principles, or the traceability of forest-based products. Any apparent violation to the legislation must be considered in the certification and audit processes.</p> <p>With regards to the conversion of timberlands to other land uses, including the conversion of native forests to plantations, such conversion should not take place except in justified circumstances in which conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - complies with national or provincial policies and relevant legislation on land use and forest management and is the result of state or regional territorial organization undertaken by the competent authority or another authority that includes consultation of people and organizations with a material and direct stake, and - involves a small proportion of the type of forest, and - has no negative effects on endangered forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare or endangered ecosystems), in culturally and socially significant areas, in the main habitats of endangered species or in other protected nature reserves, and - represents a long-term contribution to conservation, the economy or social benefit." <p>"IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>4.4.1 Criterion 4.1.”</p> <p>“4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas;</p> <p>b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance;</p> <p>NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of.</p> <p>c) the planning and management of the plantations and works of infrastructure and services assure the connectivity of the natural systems of the management unit or the areas adjacent to it;</p> <p>NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through corridors of an appropriate size (functional) which connect remaining patches of the original native system and protected areas, between each other.</p> <p>d) the planning and management promote the species and ecosystems diversity;</p> <p>e) the planning considers actions to prevent the reduction of genetic diversity;</p> <p>f) planned activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed and assure the maintenance of biological diversity values and the functions of present ecosystems.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme:</p> <p>“Cerfoar – Technical Document: 2. Argentine Forest Certification System - Cerfoar 2.3 Cerfoar’s documentary basis”</p> <p>In the refered paragraph, the term should is a translation error, it must say shall (the term should is not used in any part of the cerfoar – Technical Document)</p> <p>“IRAM 39801:2010. Sustainable Forest Management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management units.”</p> <p>The requirements in reference to the Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations are established in the following points of the standard:</p> <p>4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas;</p> <p>Regulatory Framework</p> <p>The Law N° 26,331 “Of Minimum Budget Requeriments for Environmental Protection of Native Forests” provides the regulatory requirements for the transformation (conversion) of native forests to other land uses</p> <p>Terminology:</p> <p>Transformation is a synonym for conversion. (See: http://lema.rae.es/drae/?val=convertir)</p> <p>Transformation is the term used in the legislation. Act 26.331”</p>
<p>5.1.12 Conversion of abandoned agricultural and treeless land into forest land shall be taken into consideration, whenever it can add economic, ecological, social and/or cultural value.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit:</p> <p>4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance.</p> <p>4.4.1 Criterion 4.1.”</p> <p>“4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas;</p> <p>b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance;</p> <p>NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of.</p> <p>c) the planning and management of the plantations and works of infrastructure and services assure the connectivity of the natural systems of the management unit or the areas adjacent to it;</p> <p>NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through corridors of an appropriate size (functional) which connect remaining patches of the original native system and protected areas, between each other.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>d) the planning and management promote the species and ecosystems diversity; e) the planning considers actions to prevent the reduction of genetic diversity; f) planned activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed and assure the maintenance of biological diversity values and the functions of present ecosystems.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “The term “conversion of abandoned agricultural and treeless land” is not used explicitly in the IRAM 39801 standard because of... The characteristics of primary production and the history of productive land use in Argentina; the forestry was developed and is currently developed in native forests and soils unsuitable for agriculture. The pressure for land use was historically brought by farming activities (mainly agriculture), and nowadays soils that have lost some of its production capacity, reducing its suitability for agriculture, have recovered for agricultural use from new technologies (mainly soy and corn) or have become mixed herding activities like silvopastoral systems. Agriculture in Argentina competes in the use of the land with the forestry activities. Also the IRAM 39801 standard establishes the following requirements involving the issue addressed in the PEFC ST 1003:2010 – 5.1.12: 4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. In the management plan, actions to optimize the generation and exploitation of goods and services and to stimulate their diversification in the long term are foreseen. 4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain and if necessary to recover the productive capacity of the management unit soils. 4.4 Principle 4 The forest producer shall plan and implement the forest resource management in a sustainable way, so as to maintain or improve biological diversity and ecosystem functions present in the management unit. 4.6.3 Criterion 6.3. The forest producer promotes actions which lead to the development of local communities - Indicator: a) complementary actions, specified in the management plan, which promote or support developing entrepreneurship, health and education programs on environmental and forest topics together with local communities;”</p>
Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality		
5.2.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and increase the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and to rehabilitate degraded forest ecosystems, whenever this is possible by silvicultural means.	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.1 Criterion 3.1. 4.3.2 Criterion 3.2.”

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified, which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.3.1 Criterion 3.1. The forest producer implements forest practices appropriate to local peculiarities and justified throughout the project which assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) the definition of the used silvicultural system is based on results from studies and research carried out for conditions similar to the ones of the management unit and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; b) documented, updated and implemented procedures for forest production processes which assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; c) the equipment, machines and consumables used are appropriate to the local conditions of topography, soil, weather and characteristics of the forest resources produced and they assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; d) implemented training programs and courses for forest workers on the tasks they perform and on how these contribute to the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources.”</p> <p>“4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain and if necessary to recover the productive capacity of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which assure the maintenance of the soil productive capacity; b) soils which present nutritional deficiencies, or structural deficiencies, or nutritional and structural deficiencies as a consequence of forest activity are recovered using appropriate methods;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>c) the in situ transformation and the harvest waste are arranged in the forest so as to favor the natural nutrient cycling, avoid erosion and maintain the place productivity.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “The IRAM standard does not request explicitly to rehabilitate degraded forest ecosystems, whenever this is possible by silvicultural means, but establish as fundamental requirement of Principle 4 The forest producer shall plan and implement the forest resource management in a sustainable way, so as to maintain or improve biological diversity and ecosystem functions present in the management unit NOTE: 3.18 principle. A fundamental law or rule serving as a basis for an action, and which expresses a type of objective or concerning the function of the forest ecosystem and the relevant aspects of the related social system”</p>
<p>5.2.2 Health and vitality of forests shall be periodically monitored, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. 4.3.3 Criterion 3.3. 4.3.4 Criterion 3.4. 4.3.5 Criterion 3.5. 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control. 4.7.1 Criterion 7.1.”</p> <p>“4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain and if necessary to recover the productive capacity of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which assure the maintenance of the soil productive capacity; b) soils which present nutritional deficiencies, or structural deficiencies, or nutritional and structural deficiencies as a consequence of forest activity are recovered using appropriate methods; c) the in situ transformation and the harvest waste are arranged in the forest so as to favor the natural nutrient cycling, avoid erosion and maintain the place productivity.”</p> <p>“4.3.3 Criterion 3.3. The forest producer plans and controls harmful pathogenic agents following the guidelines of integrated management so as to assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) identification of the potential harmful and pathogenic agents which require control; NOTE. When identifying potential harmful and pathogenic agents, plagues, weeds, illnesses and livestock (overgrazing and browse) are considered, when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>b) a procedure implemented for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents which considers the best practices available and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>c) forest workers responsible for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents are trained for the work they perform.“</p> <p>“4.3.4 Criterion 3.4. The forest producer adopts a responsible program of use of chemical products in general which assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) use of chemical products which are not prohibited by international agreements or laws in force in the country; b) the use of chemical products is limited to situations where there is no other economic or technically feasible and effective alternative; c) updated record of chemical products purchased, stored and used in the management unit which includes the safety sheet of the product; d) a documented and implemented procedure for the appropriate transportation, handling, use and storage of chemical products and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force and with the manufacturer instructions, which assure the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; e) a documented and implemented procedure to prevent and mitigate negative impacts caused by the use of chemical products; f) implemented procedures of chemical products use consider weather, soil and topographic conditions; g) forest workers who work with chemical products are trained and use appropriate personal protective equipment.”</p> <p>“4.3.5 Criterion 3.5. The forest producer adopts effective measures to prevent, detect and control forest fires. Indicators: a) an implemented program, to prevent and control the occurrence of forest fires; b) training for forest workers on how to prevent and control forest fires.”</p> <p>“4.7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations, Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations; b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest health state; c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies; e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results; f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “Forestry in Argentina has distinct local characteristics, which are determined by the different biogeography regions and the type of forest resource on it (native and / or planted forest). The IRAM 39801 standard identifies common aspects that determine the productivity of the different types of forests and forestry production in Argentina and establishes requirements for routine maintenance and monitoring (appropriate to local peculiarities forestry practices; soil productive capacity of the unit management; control of pathogens and harmful agents; responsible use of and chemicals and prevention, detection and control of forest fires). The impact and / or damage caused by other extraordinary events (weather related such as frosts, floods or tornadoes, volcanic eruptions and air pollutants) that may affect the different forest areas in the country also should be evaluated taking into account the following criteria: 4.7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations. Indicators: b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest health state”</p>
<p>5.2.3 The monitoring and maintaining of health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall take into consideration the effects of naturally occurring fire, pests and other disturbances.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity 4.3.2 Criterion 3.2 4.3.3 Criterion 3.3 4.3.5 Criterion 3.5”</p> <p>“4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain and if necessary to recover the productive capacity of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which assure the maintenance of the soil productive capacity; b) soils which present nutritional deficiencies, or structural deficiencies, or nutritional and structural deficiencies as a consequence of forest activity are recovered using appropriate methods;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>c) the in situ transformation and the harvest waste are arranged in the forest so as to favor the natural nutrient cycling, avoid erosion and maintain the place productivity.”</p> <p>“4.3.3 Criterion 3.3. The forest producer plans and controls harmful pathogenic agents following the guidelines of integrated management so as to assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) identification of the potential harmful and pathogenic agents which require control; NOTE. When identifying potential harmful and pathogenic agents, plagues, weeds, illnesses and livestock (overgrazing and browse) are considered, when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources. b) a procedure implemented for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents which considers the best practices available and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; c) forest workers responsible for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents are trained for the work they perform.”</p> <p>“4.3.5 Criterion 3.5. The forest producer adopts effective measures to prevent, detect and control forest fires. Indicators: a) an implemented program, to prevent and control the occurrence of forest fires; b) training for forest workers on how to prevent and control forest fires.”</p> <p>“Definitions 3.17 management plan. An instrument which regulates the rational exploitation and use of renewable natural resources of the management unit, with the aim of obtaining their maximum benefit, assuring at the same time the preservation, conservation, improvement and increase of such resources and their ecosystem. NOTE. The management plan includes, at least, the following: - legal aspects, in particular the matter concerning the possession or control of land; - description and characterization of the place and the forest resource; - appropriate cartography; - definition of management objectives; - economic-financial planning and accounting statements; - annual plan of forest operations; - a silvicultural system consistent with management objectives; - activities to be executed contained in the silvicultural treatment; - specifications, technical prescriptions and protection measures of the environment and hydrographic basins necessary to protect the soil, courses and water masses, flora and fauna. - limitations and environmental risks;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		- identification and evaluation of the relevant impacts and aspects of the activities in the management unit; - protection measures to prevent damages caused by fires, plagues, weeds and illnesses, harmful agents and other disturbances."
5.2.4 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall specify ways and means to minimise the risk of degradation of and damages to forest ecosystems. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support these activities.	YES	"IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. 4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. 4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.1 Criterion 3.1." "4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified, which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties." "4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. The applied silvicultural treatments are clearly specified and justified in the management plan and they assure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term. Indicators: a) the silvicultural processes applied are based on the ecology, on the dynamics or on both, of each place and on information obtained through forest inventories of the management unit and they make sure that forest resources are sustainable in the long term. b) an implemented procedure for the performance of forest inventories; c) in case there is not enough technical information on the ecology and dynamics of the place, the silvicultural

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>treatments are defined on the base of the precautionary principle and these make sure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services; NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity. c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured; NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate. d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”</p> <p>“4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. In the management plan, actions to optimize the generation and exploitation of goods and services and to stimulate their diversification in the long term are foreseen. Indicators: a) the management plan considers and foresees mechanisms for the diversification and use of other forest, timber and non-timber, commercial and non-commercial products; b) planning and implementation of actions which tend to maintain or increase the future value of the forest resources of the management unit; c) adoption of techniques to minimize the waste of forest products associated to the in situ transformation and exploitation operations; d) implementation of techniques, actions or both to minimize forest operations damages to the remaining forest;”</p> <p>“4.3.1 Criterion 3.1. The forest producer implements forest practices appropriate to local peculiarities and justified throughout the project which assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) the definition of the used silvicultural system is based on results from studies and research carried out for conditions similar to the ones of the management unit and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; b) documented, updated and implemented procedures for forest production processes which assure the vitality,</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>c) the equipment, machines and consumables used are appropriate to the local conditions of topography, soil, weather and characteristics of the forest resources produced and they assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>d) implemented training programs and courses for forest workers on the tasks they perform and on how these contribute to the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources.”</p> <p>“Definitions 3.17 management plan. An instrument which regulates the rational exploitation and use of renewable natural resources of the management unit, with the aim of obtaining their maximum benefit, assuring at the same time the preservation, conservation, improvement and increase of such resources and their ecosystem. NOTE. The management plan includes, at least, the following: - legal aspects, in particular the matter concerning the possession or control of land; - description and characterization of the place and the forest resource; - appropriate cartography; - definition of management objectives; - economic-financial planning and accounting statements; - annual plan of forest operations; - a silvicultural system consistent with management objectives; - activities to be executed contained in the silvicultural treatment; - specifications, technical prescriptions and protection measures of the environment and hydrographic basins necessary to protect the soil, courses and water masses, flora and fauna. - limitations and environmental risks; - identification and evaluation of the relevant impacts and aspects of the activities in the management unit; - protection measures to prevent damages caused by fires, plagues, weeds and illnesses, harmful agents and other disturbances.”</p>
5.2.5 Forest management practices shall make best use of natural structures and processes and use preventive biological measures wherever and as far as economically feasible to maintain and enhance the health and vitality of forests. Adequate	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. 4.2.6 Criterion 2.6. 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.3 Criterion 3.3. 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.1 Criterion 4.1.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>genetic, species and structural diversity shall be encouraged and/or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resistance capacity of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.</p>		<p>“4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. The applied silvicultural treatments are clearly specified and justified in the management plan and they assure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term. Indicators: a) the silvicultural processes applied are based on the ecology, on the dynamics or on both, of each place and on information obtained through forest inventories of the management unit and they make sure that forest resources are sustainable in the long term. b) an implemented procedure for the performance of forest inventories; c) in case there is not enough technical information on the ecology and dynamics of the place, the silvicultural treatments are defined on the base of the precautionary principle and these make sure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term.”</p> <p>“4.2.6 Criterion 2.6. The introduction of genetic material and its use is controlled and evaluated Indicators: a) records of experience in the locality or region about the fact that the genetic material to be introduced has had no negative environmental, social or economic impacts; b) an updated and implemented procedure to monitor and evaluate the productive potential and the possible environmental, social and economic impacts of the genetic material introduced; c) compliance of the regulations in force with regard to the release of genetically modified vegetable organisms into the environment;”</p> <p>“4.3.3 Criterion 3.3. The forest producer plans and controls harmful pathogenic agents following the guidelines of integrated management so as to assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) identification of the potential harmful and pathogenic agents which require control; NOTE. When identifying potential harmful and pathogenic agents, plagues, weeds, illnesses and livestock (overgrazing and browse) are considered, when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources. b) a procedure implemented for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents which considers the best practices available and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; c) forest workers responsible for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents are trained for the work they perform.”</p> <p>“4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas;</p> <p>b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance;</p> <p>NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of.</p> <p>c) the planning and management of the plantations and works of infrastructure and services assure the connectivity of the natural systems of the management unit or the areas adjacent to it;</p> <p>NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through corridors of an appropriate size (functional) which connect remaining patches of the original native system and protected areas, between each other.</p> <p>d) the planning and management promote the species and ecosystems diversity;</p> <p>e) the planning considers actions to prevent the reduction of genetic diversity;</p> <p>f) planned activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed and assure the maintenance of biological diversity values and the functions of present ecosystems.”</p>
<p>5.2.6 Lighting of fires shall be avoided and is only permitted if it is necessary for the achievement of the management goals of the forest management unit.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.5 Principle 5 – Water, soil and air care. 4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. 4.5.5 Criterion 5.5.”</p> <p>“4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain the quality of the management unit soils.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) adoption of techniques which consider the maintenance of the soil quality;</p> <p>b) the use of fire is avoided for the authorization of lands assuring the maintenance of the soil quality of the management unit;</p> <p>c) forest operations are planned and the equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of the slope, soil fragility and pluviometry are selected, so as to minimize the erosion and soil compression and maintain its quality;</p> <p>d) technical specifications which consider the soil conservation of the management unit, in the planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, engineering structures and possible works which imply significant movements of land;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>e) damages in the land caused by forest operations which can cause erosion are mitigated or repaired before the task end;</p> <p>f) procedures of emergency response for soil contamination, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts;</p> <p>g) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve the soil and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.5 Criterion 5.5. The forest producer adopts and implements a program for the reduction, the reuse or the appropriate treatment or the reuse and appropriate treatments of solid, liquid and gas waste. Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure of waste management of any kind which includes the identification, classification, transportation and final disposal; b) dangerous waste is treated in accordance with the legislation in force; c) dangerous waste and liquid effluents are treated and are disposed of in accordance with the legislation in force; d) maintenance procedures of vehicles and machinery which minimize environmental contamination risks; e) the forest producer avoids the use of fire for waste treatment; f) forest workers are trained on the waste management policy.”</p> <p>“4.3.5 Criterion 3.5. The forest producer adopts effective measures to prevent, detect and control forest fires. Indicators: a) an implemented program, to prevent and control the occurrence of forest fires; b) training for forest workers on how to prevent and control forest fires.”</p>
<p>5.2.7 Appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied. The spillage of oil during forest management operations or the indiscriminate disposal of</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.6 Criterion 2.6. 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.1 Criterion 3.1. 4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. 4.5 Principle 5 – Water, soil and air care. 4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. 4.5.4 Criterion 5.4. 4.5.5 Criterion 5.5.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be avoided, collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner.</p>		<p>“4.2.6 Criterion 2.6. The introduction of genetic material and its use is controlled and evaluated Indicators: a) records of experience in the locality or region about the fact that the genetic material to be introduced has had no negative environmental, social or economic impacts; b) an updated and implemented procedure to monitor and evaluate the productive potential and the possible environmental, social and economic impacts of the genetic material introduced; c) compliance of the regulations in force with regard to the release of genetically modified vegetable organisms into the environment;”</p> <p>“4.3.1 Criterion 3.1. The forest producer implements forest practices appropriate to local peculiarities and justified throughout the project which assure the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) the definition of the used silvicultural system is based on results from studies and research carried out for conditions similar to the ones of the management unit and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; b) documented, updated and implemented procedures for forest production processes which assure the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; c) the equipment, machines and consumables used are appropriate to the local conditions of topography, soil, weather and characteristics of the forest resources produced and they assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; d) implemented training programs and courses for forest workers on the tasks they perform and on how these contribute to the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources.”</p> <p>“4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain and if necessary to recover the productive capacity of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which assure the maintenance of the soil productive capacity; b) soils which present nutritional deficiencies, or structural deficiencies, or nutritional and structural deficiencies as a consequence of forest activity are recovered using appropriate methods; c) the in situ transformation and the harvest waste are arranged in the forest so as to favor the natural nutrient cycling, avoid erosion and maintain the place productivity.”</p> <p>“4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain the quality of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which consider the maintenance of the soil quality;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>b) the use of fire is avoided for the authorization of lands assuring the maintenance of the soil quality of the management unit;</p> <p>c) forest operations are planned and the equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of the slope, soil fragility and pluviometry are selected, so as to minimize the erosion and soil compression and maintain its quality;</p> <p>d) technical specifications which consider the soil conservation of the management unit, in the planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, engineering structures and possible works which imply significant movements of land;</p> <p>e) damages in the land caused by forest operations which can cause erosion are mitigated or repaired before the task end;</p> <p>f) procedures of emergency response for soil contamination, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts;</p> <p>g) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve the soil and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.4 Criterion 5.4. The forest producer uses chemical products to prevent the contamination of the soil and water resources. Indicators: a) when applying chemical products, measures are taken to avoid soil contamination; b) when applying chemical products, measures are taken to avoid the contamination of water resources;”</p> <p>“4.5.5 Criterion 5.5. The forest producer adopts and implements a program for the reduction, the reuse or the appropriate treatment or the reuse and appropriate treatments of solid, liquid and gas waste. Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure of waste management of any kind which includes the identification, classification, transportation and final disposal; b) dangerous waste is treated in accordance with the legislation in force; c) dangerous waste and liquid effluents are treated and are disposed of in accordance with the legislation in force; d) maintenance procedures of vehicles and machinery which minimize environmental contamination risks; e) the forest producer avoids the use of fire for waste treatment; f) forest workers are trained on the waste management policy.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services; NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured; NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate.</p> <p>d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”</p>
<p>5.2.8 The use of pesticides shall be minimised and appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures preferred.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.3 Criterion 3.3. 4.3.4 Criterion 3.4.”</p> <p>“4.3.3 Criterion 3.3. The forest producer plans and controls harmful pathogenic agents following the guidelines of integrated management so as to assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) identification of the potential harmful and pathogenic agents which require control; NOTE. When identifying potential harmful and pathogenic agents, plagues, weeds, illnesses and livestock (overgrazing and browse) are considered, when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources. b) a procedure implemented for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents which considers the best practices available and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; c) forest workers responsible for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents are trained for the work they perform.”</p> <p>“4.3.4 Criterion 3.4. The forest producer adopts a responsible program of use of chemical products in general which assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) use of chemical products which are not prohibited by international agreements or laws in force in the country; b) the use of chemical products is limited to situations where there is no other economic or technically feasible and effective alternative; c) updated record of chemical products purchased, stored and used in the management unit which includes the safety sheet of the product; d) a documented and implemented procedure for the appropriate transportation, handling, use and storage of chemical products and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force and with the manufacturer</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>instructions, which assure the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; e) a documented and implemented procedure to prevent and mitigate negative impacts caused by the use of chemical products; f) implemented procedures of chemical products use consider weather, soil and topographic conditions; g) forest workers who work with chemical products are trained and use appropriate personal protective equipment.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “The IRAM 39801 standard establish as requirement in the 4.3.3 Criterion 3.3. The forest producer plans and controls harmful pathogenic agents following the guidelines of integrated management so as to assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources – Indicator b) a procedure implemented for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents which considers the best practices available and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Understanding as the best practices available and appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures preferred, following the definition given by FAO Integrated Pest Management (IPM) means the careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment. IPM emphasizes the growth of a healthy crop with the least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms. This requirement should be supplemented with the 4.3.4 Criterion 3.4. The forest producer adopts a responsible program of use of chemical products in general which assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources –Indicators b) the use of chemical products is limited to situations where there is no other economic or technically feasible and effective alternative;”</p>
<p>5.2.9 The WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.4 Criterion 3.4.”</p> <p>“4.3.4 Criterion 3.4. The forest producer adopts a responsible program of use of chemical products in general which assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) use of chemical products which are not prohibited by international agreements or laws in force in the country; b) the use of chemical products is limited to situations where there is no other economic or technically feasible and effective alternative; c) updated record of chemical products purchased, stored and used in the management unit which includes the safety sheet of the product; d) a documented and implemented procedure for the appropriate transportation, handling, use and storage of chemical products</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force and with the manufacturer instructions, which assure the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>e) a documented and implemented procedure to prevent and mitigate negative impacts caused by the use of chemical products;</p> <p>f) implemented procedures of chemical products use consider weather, soil and topographic conditions;</p> <p>g) forest workers who work with chemical products are trained and use appropriate personal protective equipment.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “In Argentinean Law system there are no authorized phytosanitary products WHO Class Ia and Ib to be used in in forestry crops (forest plantation and native forest) Phytosanitary products used in the Republic of Argentina shall have specific use authorization in the different crops developed in the national territory. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK Revision of cerfoar’s requirement In the case of changes in the Argentinean law related to the authorization of WHO Class Ia and Ib pesticides for forestry, the cerfoar has established the following requirements that oblige to the revision of the standard IRAM 39801 to allow the addition of this clause, (“The WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides Shall be prohibited, except where no other feasible alternative is available”) and / or any additional clause driven by PEFC requirements:”</p>
<p>5.2.10 Pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivates remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.4 Criterion 3.4.”</p> <p>“4.3.4 Criterion 3.4. The forest producer adopts a responsible program of use of chemical products in general which assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) use of chemical products which are not prohibited by international agreements or laws in force in the country; b) the use of chemical products is limited to situations where there is no other economic or technically feasible and effective alternative; c) updated record of chemical products purchased, stored and used in the management unit which includes the safety sheet of the product; d) a documented and implemented procedure for the appropriate transportation, handling, use and storage of chemical products and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force and with the manufacturer instructions, which assure the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; e) a documented and implemented procedure to prevent and mitigate negative impacts caused by the use of</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>chemical products; f) implemented procedures of chemical products use consider weather, soil and topographic conditions; g) forest workers who work with chemical products are trained and use appropriate personal protective equipment.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “In Argentinean Law system there are no authorized chlorinated hydrocarbons phytosanitary products to be used in in forestry crops (forest plantation and native forest) Phytosanitary products used in the Republic of Argentina shall have specific use authorization in the different crops developed in the national territory. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: see above NOTE: Argentina signed the Stockholm Convention by the National Act 26.011 of December 2004 and ratified it on 25 January 2005, which became the Country Party on April 25 of that year. 7 Feb 2012 entry into force of the 2009 amendments listing 9 new POPs Resolution 511/2011 National Service for Agrifood Health and Quality (SENASA). The import of the active ingredient endosulfan is prohibited and its formulated products Resolution 532/2011. SENASA. Processing, import, export, processing, commercialization and use of various active substances for agricultural use is prohibited. Revision of cerfoar’s requirement In the case of changes in the Argentinean law related to the authorization of chlorinated hydrocarbons pesticides for forestry, the cerfoar has established the following requirements that oblige to the revision of the standard IRAM 39801 to allow the addition of this clause, (“Pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivates remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited”) and / or any additional clause driven by PEFC requirements. ... General question to 4.5.4: Error in translation. Correct translation is 4.5.4 Criterion 5.4. The forest manager uses chemicals such a way to prevent contamination of soil and water resources. Spanish: 4.5.4 Criterio 5.4. El productor forestal utiliza los productos químicos previniendo la contaminación del suelo y los recursos hídricos.”</p>
5.2.11 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.4 Criterion 3.4.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>implemented with proper equipment and training.</p>		<p>“4.3.4 Criterion 3.4. The forest producer adopts a responsible program of use of chemical products in general which assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) use of chemical products which are not prohibited by international agreements or laws in force in the country; b) the use of chemical products is limited to situations where there is no other economic or technically feasible and effective alternative; c) updated record of chemical products purchased, stored and used in the management unit which includes the safety sheet of the product; d) a documented and implemented procedure for the appropriate transportation, handling, use and storage of chemical products and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force and with the manufacturer instructions, which assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; e) a documented and implemented procedure to prevent and mitigate negative impacts caused by the use of chemical products; f) implemented procedures of chemical products use consider weather, soil and topographic conditions; g) forest workers who work with chemical products are trained and use appropriate personal protective equipment.”</p>
<p>5.2.12 Where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.21 chemical product . 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. 4.3.4 Criterion 3.4.”</p> <p>“3.21 chemical product. The variety of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, hormones, fuel and lubricants which are used in the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain and if necessary to recover the productive capacity of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which assure the maintenance of the soil productive capacity; b) soils which present nutritional deficiencies, or structural deficiencies, or nutritional and structural deficiencies as a consequence of forest activity are recovered using appropriate methods; c) the in situ transformation and the harvest waste are arranged in the forest so as to favor the natural nutrient cycling, avoid erosion and maintain the place productivity.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“4.3.4 Criterion 3.4. The forest producer adopts a responsible program of use of chemical products in general which assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) use of chemical products which are not prohibited by international agreements or laws in force in the country; b) the use of chemical products is limited to situations where there is no other economic or technically feasible and effective alternative; c) updated record of chemical products purchased, stored and used in the management unit which includes the safety sheet of the product; d) a documented and implemented procedure for the appropriate transportation, handling, use and storage of chemical products and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force and with the manufacturer instructions, which assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; e) a documented and implemented procedure to prevent and mitigate negative impacts caused by the use of chemical products; f) implemented procedures of chemical products use consider weather, soil and topographic conditions; g) forest workers who work with chemical products are trained and use appropriate personal protective equipment.”</p>
<p>Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)</p>		
<p>5.3.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. 4.2.5 Criterion 2.5.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified, which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services; NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity. c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured; NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate. d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”</p> <p>“4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. In the management plan, actions to optimize the generation and exploitation of goods and services and to stimulate their diversification in the long term are foreseen. Indicators: a) the management plan considers and foresees mechanisms for the diversification and use of other forest, timber and non-timber, commercial and non-commercial products; b) planning and implementation of actions which tend to maintain or increase the future value of the forest resources of the management unit; c) adoption of techniques to minimize the waste of forest products associated to the in situ transformation and exploitation operations; d) implementation of techniques, actions or both to minimize forest operations damages to the remaining forest;”</p>
<p>5.3.2 Forest management planning shall aim to achieve sound economic performance taking into account any available market studies and possibilities for</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1 4.2.5 Criterion 2.5 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.</p>		<p>4.7.1 Criterion 7.1., Indicator: e)”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified, which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. In the management plan, actions to optimize the generation and exploitation of goods and services and to stimulate their diversification in the long term are foreseen. Indicators: a) the management plan considers and foresees mechanisms for the diversification and use of other forest, timber and non-timber, commercial and non-commercial products; b) planning and implementation of actions which tend to maintain or increase the future value of the forest resources of the management unit; c) adoption of techniques to minimize the waste of forest products associated to the in situ transformation and exploitation operations; d) implementation of techniques, actions or both to minimize forest operations damages to the remaining forest;”</p> <p>“7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations, Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations; b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>health state;</p> <p>c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products;</p> <p>d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies;</p> <p>e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results;</p> <p>f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”</p>
<p>5.3.3 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support the production of commercial and non-commercial forest goods and services.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.3 Criterion 6.3.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified. which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. In the management plan, actions to optimize the generation and exploitation of goods and services and to stimulate their diversification in the long term are foreseen. Indicators: a) the management plan considers and foresees mechanisms for the diversification and use of other forest, timber and non-timber,</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>commercial and non-commercial products;</p> <p>b) planning and implementation of actions which tend to maintain or increase the future value of the forest resources of the management unit;</p> <p>c) adoption of techniques to minimize the waste of forest products associated to the in situ transformation and exploitation operations;</p> <p>d) implementation of techniques, actions or both to minimize forest operations damages to the remaining forest;"</p> <p>"4.6.3 Criterion 6.3. The forest producer promotes actions which lead to the development of local communities. Indicators: a) complementary actions, specified in the management plan, which promote or support developing entrepreneurship, health and education programs on environmental and forest topics together with local communities; b) the members of the local community, in equal suitability conditions, are prioritized when it comes to hiring, employment and work promotion possibilities and training; c) the forest producer supports the maintenance and improvement of local infrastructure; d) under equal market conditions, the sale of forest products coming from the management unit to local processing factories is prioritized, when this does not affect the commercial objectives of the management unit."</p> <p>"4.2.2 Criterion 2.2. In the management plan the uses and possession regime of the different areas of the management unit are defined. Indicators: a) updated cartography where the areas with their present and potential uses and the possession regime are delimited; NOTE. The periodic update of the cartography allows to reflect the changes in the areas use and the situation of the forest resources. b) the prescriptions contained in the management plan reflect correspondence with those which are executed in the land."</p> <p>"4.2.7 Criterion 2.7. The planning and implementation of forest management maintains the forest contribution to the carbon cycle. Indicators: a) the forest producer recognizes the ability of the forests to act as carbon drain; b) the forest producer implements actions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases."</p>
5.3.4 Forest management practices shall maintain and improve the forest resources and encourage a diversified output of	YES	<p>"IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. 4.2.5 Criterion 2.5."</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
goods and services over the long term.		<p>“4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. The applied silvicultural treatments are clearly specified and justified in the management plan and they assure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term. Indicators: a) the silvicultural processes applied are based on the ecology, on the dynamics or on both, of each place and on information obtained through forest inventories of the management unit and they make sure that forest resources are sustainable in the long term. b) an implemented procedure for the performance of forest inventories; c) in case there is not enough technical information on the ecology and dynamics of the place, the silvicultural treatments are defined on the base of the precautionary principle and these make sure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term.”</p> <p>“4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. In the management plan, actions to optimize the generation and exploitation of goods and services and to stimulate their diversification in the long term are foreseen. Indicators: a) the management plan considers and foresees mechanisms for the diversification and use of other forest, timber and non-timber, commercial and non-commercial products; b) planning and implementation of actions which tend to maintain or increase the future value of the forest resources of the management unit; c) adoption of techniques to minimize the waste of forest products associated to the in situ transformation and exploitation operations; d) implementation of techniques, actions or both to minimize forest operations damages to the remaining forest;”</p>
5.3.5 Regeneration, tending and harvesting operations shall be carried out in time, and in a way that does not reduce the productive capacity of the site, for example by avoiding damage to retained stands and trees as well as to the forest soil, and by using appropriate systems.	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. 4.2.4 Criterion 2.4.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified. which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. The applied silvicultural treatments are clearly specified and justified in the management plan and they assure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term. Indicators: a) the silvicultural processes applied are based on the ecology, on the dynamics or on both, of each place and on information obtained through forest inventories of the management unit and they make sure that forest resources are sustainable in the long term. b) an implemented procedure for the performance of forest inventories; c) in case there is not enough technical information on the ecology and dynamics of the place, the silvicultural treatments are defined on the base of the precautionary principle and these make sure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services; NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity. c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured; NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate. d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”</p> <p>“4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain the quality of the management unit soils. Indicators:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>a) adoption of techniques which consider the maintenance of the soil quality;</p> <p>b) the use of fire is avoided for the authorization of lands assuring the maintenance of the soil quality of the management unit;</p> <p>c) forest operations are planned and the equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of the slope, soil fragility and pluviometry are selected, so as to minimize the erosion and soil compression and maintain its quality;</p> <p>d) technical specifications which consider the soil conservation of the management unit, in the planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, engineering structures and possible works which imply significant movements of land;</p> <p>e) damages in the land caused by forest operations which can cause erosion are mitigated or repaired before the task end;</p> <p>f) procedures of emergency response for soil contamination, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts;</p> <p>g) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve the soil and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.3 Criterion 5.3. The forest producer plans and implements forest operations so as to maintain the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators:</p> <p>a) the producer knows and considers the uses of water of local communities of the area of influence of the management unit when planning forest operations;</p> <p>b) planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, works of art and possible works which imply significant movements of land and water, include actions to minimize the erosion and the dragging of sediments towards water bodies and courses;</p> <p>c) protection strips on the banks of water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;</p> <p>d) procedures of emergency response for the contamination of water resources, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts;</p> <p>e) procedures to prevent or mitigate the fall of harvest waste into water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;</p> <p>f) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve water resources and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p>
5.3.6 Harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>made of the harvested forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.</p>		<p>4.3.2 Criterion 3.2.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified. which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services; NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity. c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured; NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate. d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”</p> <p>“4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain and if necessary to recover the productive capacity of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which assure the maintenance of the soil productive capacity;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>b) soils which present nutritional deficiencies, or structural deficiencies, or nutritional and structural deficiencies as a consequence of forest activity are recovered using appropriate methods; c) the in situ transformation and the harvest waste are arranged in the forest so as to favor the natural nutrient cycling, avoid erosion and maintain the place productivity.”</p> <p>“4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. In the management plan, actions to optimize the generation and exploitation of goods and services and to stimulate their diversification in the long term are foreseen. Indicators: a) the management plan considers and foresees mechanisms for the diversification and use of other forest, timber and non-timber, commercial and non-commercial products; b) planning and implementation of actions which tend to maintain or increase the future value of the forest resources of the management unit; c) adoption of techniques to minimize the waste of forest products associated to the in situ transformation and exploitation operations; d) implementation of techniques, actions or both to minimize forest operations damages to the remaining forest;”</p>
<p>5.3.7 Where it is the responsibility of the forest owner/manager and included in forest management, the exploitation of non-timber forest products, including hunting and fishing, shall be regulated, monitored and controlled.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.4 Criterion 4.4.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services; NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity. c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured; NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate. d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”</p> <p>“4.4.4 Criterion 4.4. Rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, as well as their habitats have specific prescriptions of protection, included in the management plan, which assure their conservation. Indicators: a) implemented procedures for the identification and record of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, and their habitat, present in the management unit; NOTE. In the identification of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, it is considered what is important in the red books or what is stated by the competent authority, among others. b) identification in the cartography of the management plan of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species and their habitats; c) adoption of practices for the protection of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species and their habitats during forest operations; d) the extraction, cutting, hunting of any rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species is controlled; e) implemented procedure of record and report to the competent authority, of the presence of non-authorized hunters, fishers or harvesters within the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations. Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations; b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest health state; c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products; d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies; e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results; f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”
5.3.8 Adequate infrastructure such as roads, skid tracks or bridges shall be planned, established and maintained to ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment.	YES	“RAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.25 road network. 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. 4.5 Principle 5 – Water, soil and air care. 4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. 4.5.3 Criterion 5.3.” “3.25 road network. A set of streets and roads used for movement, personal transportation, machines, equipment and product supply in the forest management unit.” “4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation. Indicators: a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas; b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of.</p> <p>c) the planning and management of the plantations and works of infrastructure and services assure the connectivity of the natural systems of the management unit or the areas adjacent to it;</p> <p>NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through corridors of an appropriate size (functional) which connect remaining patches of the original native system and protected areas, between each other.</p> <p>d) the planning and management promote the species and ecosystems diversity;</p> <p>e) the planning considers actions to prevent the reduction of genetic diversity;</p> <p>f) planned activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed and assure the maintenance of biological diversity values and the functions of present ecosystems.”</p> <p>“4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain the quality of the management unit soils. Indicators:</p> <p>a) adoption of techniques which consider the maintenance of the soil quality;</p> <p>b) the use of fire is avoided for the authorization of lands assuring the maintenance of the soil quality of the management unit;</p> <p>c) forest operations are planned and the equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of the slope, soil fragility and pluviometry are selected, so as to minimize the erosion and soil compression and maintain its quality;</p> <p>d) technical specifications which consider the soil conservation of the management unit, in the planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, engineering structures and possible works which imply significant movements of land;</p> <p>e) damages in the land caused by forest operations which can cause erosion are mitigated or repaired before the task end;</p> <p>f) procedures of emergency response for soil contamination, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts;</p> <p>g) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve the soil and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.3 Criterion 5.3. The forest producer plans and implements forest operations so as to maintain the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators:</p> <p>a) the producer knows and considers the uses of water of local communities of the area of influence of the management unit when planning forest operations;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		b) planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, works of art and possible works which imply significant movements of land and water, include actions to minimize the erosion and the dragging of sediments towards water bodies and courses; c) protection strips on the banks of water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources; d) procedures of emergency response for the contamination of water resources, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts; e) procedures to prevent or mitigate the fall of harvest waste into water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources; f) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve water resources and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages."
Criterion 4: Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems		
5.4.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain, conserve and enhance biodiversity on ecosystem, species and genetic levels and, where appropriate, diversity at landscape level.	YES	"IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance." "4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified. which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties." "4.4 Principle 4 - Biological diversity maintenance The forest producer shall plan and implement the forest resource management in a sustainable way, so as to maintain or improve

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		biological diversity and ecosystem functions present in the management unit.”
<p>5.4.2 Forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forest resources shall identify, protect and/or conserve ecologically important forest areas containing significant concentrations of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems such as riparian areas and wetland biotopes; 2. areas containing endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists; 3. endangered or protected genetic <i>in situ</i> resources; <p>and taking into account</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species. 	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit:</p> <p>3. Definitions.</p> <p>3.7 biological diversity.</p> <p>3.11 singular habitat.</p> <p>3.29 a priority place for conservation.</p> <p>4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance.</p> <p>4.4.1 Criterion 4.1.</p> <p>4.4.2 Criterion 4.2.</p> <p>4.4.3 Criterion 4.3.”</p> <p>“3.7 biological diversity. Variability of living organisms of any source, including, among others, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, other aquatic ecosystems and ecological complexes they are part of. It includes the diversity within every species, among species and the ecosystems’.</p> <p>NOTE. Extracted from article 2 of the Convention of Biological Diversity.”</p> <p>“3.11 singular habitat. An area or sector which belongs to the unit of management, normally of little extension, which is special for having singular natural characteristics which deserve to be preserved.</p> <p>NOTE. A singular habitat constitutes a kind of environment which can be found replicated in space, like stream banks, mature forests, forests in a pristine state or with limited human intervention, rocky places, among others.”</p> <p>“3.29 a priority place for conservation. An area which has ecological, biological or sociocultural values, considered of big or critical importance at a local, regional or global scale.</p> <p>NOTE. When identifying the areas, the presence of some of the following attributes is considered:</p> <p>areas with concentrations of values of biological diversity (endemisms, critical endangered species, endangered species, vulnerable species, fauna refuges, resting places for migratory birds, nesting places, unique species assemblies, among others):</p> <p>wooded areas which constitute rare ecosystems, rare ecosystems or both threatened or endangered:</p> <p>areas where special processes appear: volcanism, natural floods;</p> <p>wooded areas which provide environmental services in critical situations (protection of basins, protection of recharge zones, protection of hillsides, among others).</p> <p>areas with critical cultural, religious and economic value for local communities.”</p> <p>“4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas;</p> <p>b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance;</p> <p>NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of.</p> <p>c) the planning and management of the plantations and works of infrastructure and services assure the connectivity of the natural systems of the management unit or the areas adjacent to it;</p> <p>NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through corridors of an appropriate size (functional) which connect remaining patches of the original native system and protected areas, between each other.</p> <p>d) the planning and management promote the species and ecosystems diversity;</p> <p>e) the planning considers actions to prevent the reduction of genetic diversity;</p> <p>f) planned activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed and assure the maintenance of biological diversity values and the functions of present ecosystems.”</p> <p>“4.4.2 Criterion 4.2. In the planning of forest management, singular habitats and priority places for conservation present in the management unit are identified.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) procedures for the identification of singular habitats and priority places for conservation present in the management unit.</p> <p>NOTE: When the identification of singular habitats and priority places for conservation takes place, protected areas already established, of any land or jurisdiction, adjacent or which include the management unit in part or in its entirety are considered in the same way.</p> <p>b) identification in the cartography of the management plan and the land of singular habitats and the defined priority places for conservation.”</p> <p>“4.4.3 Criterion 4.3. The singular habitats and priority places for conservation have specific prescriptions, included in the management plan and based on the precautionary approach, which assure the maintenance or increase of their values.</p> <p>Indicators:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>a) every singular habitat and priority place for conservation has specific management objectives which assure the maintenance or increase of their values;</p> <p>b) buffer zones adjacent to singular habitats and priority places for conservation in the management unit.</p> <p>c) in conservation zones the presence of invading wooded species and bushes is minimized;</p> <p>d) a monitoring program to evaluate the maintenance of the values of every singular habitat and priority place for conservation.”</p> <p>“4.4.4 Criterion 4.4. Rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, as well as their habitats have specific prescriptions of protection, included in the management plan, which assure their conservation.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) implemented procedures for the identification and record of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, and their habitat, present in the management unit;</p> <p>NOTE. In the identification of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, it is considered what is important in the red books or what is stated by the competent authority, among others.</p> <p>b) identification in the cartography of the management plan of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species and their habitats;</p> <p>c) adoption of practices for the protection of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species and their habitats during forest operations;</p> <p>d) the extraction, cutting, hunting of any rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species is controlled;</p> <p>e) implemented procedure of record and report to the competent authority, of the presence of non-authorized hunters, fishers or harvesters within the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.5.1 Criterion 5.1. Sustainable forest management planning is based on environmental information of the area and it favors the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the description and record of base environmental information, considered in forest management planning;</p> <p>b) the cartography which represents soil characteristics indicating their degree of erosion and fragility;</p> <p>c) the cartography which identifies the characteristics of the hydrologic basin, water bodies and courses, where the management unit is inserted;</p> <p>d) the documented, updated and implemented management plan clearly specifies the environmental objectives and the means and activities to achieve them, related to the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources;</p> <p>e) planned management activities are based on the environmental characterization of the area and reflect correspondence with those which are executed.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“4.4.6 Criterion 4.6. Forest workers are aware of the importance of the protection of biological diversity and have been trained so that the activities they perform do not damage the protection areas and they know their location within the management unit. Indicators: a) implemented training program for forest workers on the different protection aspects of biological diversity; b) the cartography of protected areas is at the forest workers’ disposal.”</p>
<p>5.4.3 Protected and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.4 Criterion 4.4.”</p> <p>“4.4.4 Criterion 4.4. Rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, as well as their habitats have specific prescriptions of protection, included in the management plan, which assure their conservation. Indicators: a) implemented procedures for the identification and record of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, and their habitat, present in the management unit; NOTE. In the identification of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, it is considered what is important in the red books or what is stated by the competent authority, among others. b) identification in the cartography of the management plan of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species and their habitats; c) adoption of practices for the protection of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species and their habitats during forest operations; d) the extraction, cutting, hunting of any rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species is controlled; e) implemented procedure of record and report to the competent authority, of the presence of non-authorized hunters, fishers or harvesters within the management unit.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “The IRAM 39801 standard establish as requirement in the point 4.4.4 Criterion 4.4. Rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, as well as their habitats have specific prescriptions of protection, included in the management plan, which assure their conservation See Indicators c) adoption of practices for the protection of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species and their habitats during forest operations; d) the extraction, cutting, hunting of any rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species is</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>controlled;</p> <p>e) implemented procedure of record and report to the competent authority, of the presence of non-authorized hunters, fishers or harvesters within the management unit.</p> <p>The extraction, cutting, hunting of any rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - controlled: see 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1 - indicador d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; - Is only permitted in cases of traditional activities of local communities and indigenous peoples, with purpose of subsistence and not as commercial exploitation of protected species: see 4.6.2 Criterion 6.2 - indicador g) the forest producer allows indigenous and other members of the local community to access the lands of the management unit, when they had traditionally had access to them, for their traditional and survival activities;”
<p>5.4.4 Forest management shall ensure successful regeneration through natural regeneration or, where not appropriate, planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit:</p> <p>4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability.</p> <p>4.2.4 Criterion 2.4.</p> <p>4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance.</p> <p>4.4.1 Criterion 4.1.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services; <p>NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured; <p>NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.” <p>“4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Indicators: a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas; b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance; NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of. c) the planning and management of the plantations and works of infrastructure and services assure the connectivity of the natural systems of the management unit or the areas adjacent to it; NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through corridors of an appropriate size (functional) which connect remaining patches of the original native system and protected areas, between each other. d) the planning and management promote the species and ecosystems diversity; e) the planning considers actions to prevent the reduction of genetic diversity; f) planned activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed and assure the maintenance of biological diversity values and the functions of present ecosystems.”
5.4.5 For reforestation and afforestation, origins of native species and local provenances that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred, where appropriate. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.6 Criterion 2.6.” “4.2.6 Criterion 2.6. The introduction of genetic material and its use is controlled and evaluated Indicators: a) records of experience in the locality or region about the fact that the genetic material to be introduced has had no negative environmental, social or economic impacts; b) an updated and implemented procedure to monitor and evaluate the productive potential and the possible environmental, social and economic impacts of the genetic material introduced; c) compliance of the regulations in force with regard to the release of genetically modified vegetable organisms into the environment;” “4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services; NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity. c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured; NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate. d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”
5.4.6 Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.1 Criterion 4.1.” “4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation. Indicators: a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas; b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance; NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of. c) the planning and management of the plantations and works of infrastructure and services assure the connectivity of the natural systems of the management unit or the areas adjacent to it; NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through corridors of an appropriate size (functional) which connect remaining patches of the original native system and protected areas, between each other. d) the planning and management promote the species and ecosystems diversity;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		e) the planning considers actions to prevent the reduction of genetic diversity; f) planned activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed and assure the maintenance of biological diversity values and the functions of present ecosystems."
5.4.7 Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.	YES	"IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.6 Criterion 2.6. - Resolution 39/2003 of the National Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food - Regime for release into the environment of genetically modified plants. Definitions. First and second stage of evaluation. Requirements. Forms." "4.2.6 Criterion 2.6. The introduction of genetic material and its use is controlled and evaluated Indicators: a) records of experience in the locality or region about the fact that the genetic material to be introduced has had no negative environmental, social or economic impacts; b) an updated and implemented procedure to monitor and evaluate the productive potential and the possible environmental, social and economic impacts of the genetic material introduced; c) compliance of the regulations in force with regard to the release of genetically modified vegetable organisms into the environment;" Additional information provided by the scheme: "Currently in Argentina there is no antecedent of investigation or request to the enforcement authority for investigation or experimental release of GMPO with forest species (native or exotic). REGULATORY FRAMEWORK The Argentine norms have regulated the technological advances and developments in the agricultural biotechnology field since this activities began in Argentina in 1991. Their aim is to ensure that the genetically modified organisms (GMOs) with which experimental trials are conducted and, which eventually are granted a commercial permit, are safe for the agroecosystem and for human and animal consumption. Revision of cerfoar’s requirement In the case that the enforcement authority grants the authorization to experimental or commercial use of GMPOs the cerfoar has established the following requirements that oblige to the revision of the standard IRAM 39801 SFM to allow the addition of a clause to put a ban on the use of GMPOs and / or any additional clause driven by PEFC requirements."
5.4.8 Forest management	YES	"IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>practices shall, where appropriate, promote a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures such as uneven-aged stands and the diversity of species such as mixed stands. Where appropriate, the practices shall also aim to maintain and restore landscape diversity.</p>		<p>Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.1 Criterion 4.1.”</p> <p>“4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation. Indicators: a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas; b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance; NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of. c) the planning and management of the plantations and works of infrastructure and services assure the connectivity of the natural systems of the management unit or the areas adjacent to it; NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through corridors of an appropriate size (functional) which connect remaining patches of the original native system and protected areas, between each other. d) the planning and management promote the species and ecosystems diversity; e) the planning considers actions to prevent the reduction of genetic diversity; f) planned activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed and assure the maintenance of biological diversity values and the functions of present ecosystems.”</p>
<p>5.4.9 Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, on appropriate sites shall be supported, when economically feasible.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.2 Criterion 4.2. 4.4.3 Criterion 4.3.”</p> <p>“4.4.2 Criterion 4.2. In the planning of forest management, singular habitats and priority places for conservation present in the management unit are identified. Indicators:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>a) procedures for the identification of singular habitats and priority places for conservation present in the management unit. NOTE: When the identification of singular habitats and priority places for conservation takes place, protected areas already established, of any land or jurisdiction, adjacent or which include the management unit in part or in its entirety are considered in the same way.</p> <p>b) identification in the cartography of the management plan and the land of singular habitats and the defined priority places for conservation.”</p> <p>“4.4.3 Criterion 4.3. The singular habitats and priority places for conservation have specific prescriptions, included in the management plan and based on the precautionary approach, which assure the maintenance or increase of their values. Indicators: a) every singular habitat and priority place for conservation has specific management objectives which assure the maintenance or increase of their values; b) buffer zones adjacent to singular habitats and priority places for conservation in the management unit. c) in conservation zones the presence of invading wooded species and bushes is minimized; d) a monitoring program to evaluate the maintenance of the values of every singular habitat and priority place for conservation.”</p> <p>“4.6.2 Criterion 6.2. The forest producer knows and respects the possession rights and land management and resources of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit. Indicators: a) the forest producer knows and respects the rights of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit. b) the forest producer recognizes the lands and territories reached by the rights of indigenous and these are clearly demarcated in the cartography of the management plan and in the field; c) identification and protection measures, agreed between the parties, of the places with a special cultural, religious and economic meaning of indigenous and that these are clearly delimited in the field; d) the forest producer identifies and respects the exclusive traditional knowledge of indigenous; e) indigenous have been informed of the use of the knowledge identified in 4.6.2.d) and of its potential benefits; f) the forest producer adequately compensates indigenous for any use of this knowledge in accordance with what was established in previous agreements; g) the forest producer allows indigenous and other members of the local community to access the lands of the management unit, when they had traditionally had access to them, for their traditional and survival activities; h) procedures to avoid and resolve conflicts with indigenous where the particular characteristics of negotiation of the parties involved are respected.”</p>
5.4.10 Tending and harvesting	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit:

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>operations shall be conducted in a way that does not cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Wherever possible, practical measures shall be taken to improve or maintain biological diversity.</p>		<p>4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.5 Criterion 4.5.”</p> <p>“4.4.5 Criterion 4.5. Forest operations are performed so that the negative impacts in the biological diversity and in the landscape of neighbouring areas are minimized, Indicators: a) implemented procedures to minimize the negative effect of forest operations on biological diversity; b) evidence that no trees are extracted from areas of native vegetation excluded from the management plan; c) evidence that the adjoining areas to the ones considered in the management plan are not negatively affected by forest operations.”</p> <p>“4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain the quality of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which consider the maintenance of the soil quality; b) the use of fire is avoided for the authorization of lands assuring the maintenance of the soil quality of the management unit; c) forest operations are planned and the equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of the slope, soil fragility and pluviometry are selected, so as to minimize the erosion and soil compression and maintain its quality; d) technical specifications which consider the soil conservation of the management unit, in the planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, engineering structures and possible works which imply significant movements of land; e) damages in the land caused by forest operations which can cause erosion are mitigated or repaired before the task end; f) procedures of emergency response for soil contamination, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts; g) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve the soil and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.3 Criterion 5.3. The forest producer plans and implements forest operations so as to maintain the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators: a) the producer knows and considers the uses of water of local communities of the area of influence of the management unit when planning forest operations; b) planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, works of art and possible works which imply significant movements of land and water, include actions to minimize the erosion and the dragging of sediments towards water bodies and courses;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>c) protection strips on the banks of water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;</p> <p>d) procedures of emergency response for the contamination of water resources, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts;</p> <p>e) procedures to prevent or mitigate the fall of harvest waste into water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;</p> <p>f) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve water resources and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p>
<p>5.4.11 Infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.1 Criterion 4.1.”</p> <p>“4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation. Indicators: a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas; b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance; NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of. c) the planning and management of the plantations and works of infrastructure and services assure the connectivity of the natural systems of the management unit or the areas adjacent to it; NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through corridors of an appropriate size (functional) which connect remaining patches of the original native system and protected areas, between each other. d) the planning and management promote the species and ecosystems diversity; e) the planning considers actions to prevent the reduction of genetic diversity; f) planned activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed and assure the maintenance of biological diversity values and the functions of present ecosystems.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain the quality of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which consider the maintenance of the soil quality; b) the use of fire is avoided for the authorization of lands assuring the maintenance of the soil quality of the management unit; c) forest operations are planned and the equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of the slope, soil fragility and pluviometry are selected, so as to minimize the erosion and soil compression and maintain its quality; d) technical specifications which consider the soil conservation of the management unit, in the planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, engineering structures and possible works which imply significant movements of land; e) damages in the land caused by forest operations which can cause erosion are mitigated or repaired before the task end; f) procedures of emergency response for soil contamination, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts; g) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve the soil and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.3 Criterion 5.3. The forest producer plans and implements forest operations so as to maintain the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators: a) the producer knows and considers the uses of water of local communities of the area of influence of the management unit when planning forest operations; b) planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, works of art and possible works which imply significant movements of land and water, include actions to minimize the erosion and the dragging of sediments towards water bodies and courses; c) protection strips on the banks of water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources; d) procedures of emergency response for the contamination of water resources, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts; e) procedures to prevent or mitigate the fall of harvest waste into water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources; f) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve water resources and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p>
5.4.12 With due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3. 3 Criterion 3. 3.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
balance the pressure of animal populations and grazing on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.		"4.3.3 Criterion 3.3. The forest producer plans and controls harmful pathogenic agents following the guidelines of integrated management so as to assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) identification of the potential harmful and pathogenic agents which require control; NOTE. When identifying potential harmful and pathogenic agents, plagues, weeds, illnesses and livestock (overgrazing and browse) are considered, when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources. b) a procedure implemented for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents which considers the best practices available and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; c) forest workers responsible for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents are trained for the work they perform."
5.4.13 Standing and fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and special rare tree species shall be left in quantities and distribution necessary to safeguard biological diversity, taking into account the potential effect on the health and stability of forests and on surrounding ecosystems.	YES	"IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.11 singular habitat . 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.2 Criterion 4.2." "3.11 singular habitat. An area or sector which belongs to the unit of management, normally of little extension, which is special for having singular natural characteristics which deserve to be preserved. NOTE. A singular habitat constitutes a kind of environment which can be found replicated in space, like stream banks, mature forests, forests in a pristine state or with limited human intervention, rocky places, among others." "4.4.2 Criterion 4.2. In the planning of forest management, singular habitats and priority places for conservation present in the management unit are identified. Indicators: a) procedures for the identification of singular habitats and priority places for conservation present in the management unit. NOTE: When the identification of singular habitats and priority places for conservation takes place, protected areas already established, of any land or jurisdiction, adjacent or which include the management unit in part or in its entirety are considered in the same way. b) identification in the cartography of the management plan and the land of singular habitats and the defined priority places for conservation." "4.3.2 Criterion 3.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain and if necessary to recover the productive capacity of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which assure the maintenance of the soil productive capacity;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>b) soils which present nutritional deficiencies, or structural deficiencies, or nutritional and structural deficiencies as a consequence of forest activity are recovered using appropriate methods; c) the in situ transformation and the harvest waste are arranged in the forest so as to favor the natural nutrient cycling, avoid erosion and maintain the place productivity.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: "In addition to the requirements of 4.4. 2 Criteria 4.2 and 3.29 a priority place for conservation., the IRAM 39801 standard establishes requirements for the identification and conservation of these key forest ecosystem structures (fallen dead wood, hollow trees, old groves and special rare tree species) See: 4.4.1 Criterion 4.1, Indicator b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance; NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of.”</p> <p>Observation The aspect of biomass variations is not the decisive aspect and is hard to measure. How to account in terms of biomass for the disappearance of bees placing their beehives in old, half-rotten trees or the disappearance of a certain type of birds that feed on insects which live in the bark of those trees?</p>
Criterion 5: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
<p>5.5.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and enhance protective functions of forests for society, such as protection of infrastructure, protection from soil erosion, protection of water resources and from adverse impacts of water such as floods or avalanches.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“ IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified, which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management;</p> <p>f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“Definitions 3.17 management plan. An instrument which regulates the rational exploitation and use of renewable natural resources of the management unit, with the aim of obtaining their maximum benefit, assuring at the same time the preservation, conservation, improvement and increase of such resources and their ecosystem. NOTE. The management plan includes, at least, the following: legal aspects, in particular the matter concerning the possession or control of land; description and characterization of the place and the forest resource; appropriate cartography; definition of management objectives; economic-financial planning and accounting statements; annual plan of forest operations; a silvicultural system consistent with management objectives; activities to be executed contained in the silvicultural treatment; specifications, technical prescriptions and protection measures of the environment and hydrographic basins necessary to protect the soil, courses and water masses, flora and fauna. limitations and environmental risks; identification and evaluation of the relevant impacts and aspects of the activities in the management unit; protection measures to prevent damages caused by fires, plagues, weeds and illnesses, harmful agents and other disturbances.”</p>
5.5.2 Areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society shall be registered and mapped, and forest management plans or their equivalents shall take these areas into account.	YES	<p>“ IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.29 a priority place for conservation. 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.2 Criterion 4.2. 4.4.3 Criterion 4.3. ”</p> <p>“3.29 a priority place for conservation. An area which has ecological, biological or sociocultural values, considered of big or critical importance at a local, regional or global scale. NOTE. When identifying the areas, the presence of some of the following attributes is considered: areas with concentrations of values of biological diversity (endemisms, critical endangered species, endangered species, vulnerable species, fauna refuges. resting places for migratory birds, nesting places, unique species assemblies, among others): wooded areas which constitute rare ecosystems, rare ecosystems or both threatened or endangered: areas where special processes appear: volcanism, natural floods;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>wooded areas which provide environmental services in critical situations (protection of basins, protection of recharge zones, protection of hillsides, among others). areas with critical cultural, religious and economic value for local communities.”</p> <p>“4.4.2 Criterion 4.2. In the planning of forest management, singular habitats and priority places for conservation present in the management unit are identified. Indicators: a) procedures for the identification of singular habitats and priority places for conservation present in the management unit. NOTE: When the identification of singular habitats and priority places for conservation takes place, protected areas already established, of any land or jurisdiction, adjacent or which include the management unit in part or in its entirety are considered in the same way. b) identification in the cartography of the management plan and the land of singular habitats and the defined priority places for conservation.”</p> <p>“4.4.3 Criterion 4.3. The singular habitats and priority places for conservation have specific prescriptions, included in the management plan and based on the precautionary approach, which assure the maintenance or increase of their values. Indicators: a) every singular habitat and priority place for conservation has specific management objectives which assure the maintenance or increase of their values; b) buffer zones adjacent to singular habitats and priority places for conservation in the management unit. c) in conservation zones the presence of invading wooded species and bushes is minimized; d) a monitoring program to evaluate the maintenance of the values of every singular habitat and priority place for conservation.”</p>
5.5.3 Special care shall be given to silvicultural operations on sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas as well as in areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Inappropriate techniques such as deep soil tillage and use of unsuitable machinery shall be avoided in such areas. Special measures shall be taken to	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.5 Principle 5 – Water, soil and air care. 4.5.1 Criterion 5.1. 4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. 4.5.4 Criterion 5.4.”</p> <p>“4.5.1 Criterion 5.1. Sustainable forest management planning is based on environmental information of the area and it favors the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators: a) the description and record of base environmental information, considered in forest management planning; b) the cartography which represents soil characteristics indicating their degree of erosion and fragility;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>minimise the pressure of animal populations.</p>		<p>c) the cartography which identifies the characteristics of the hydrologic basin, water bodies and courses, where the management unit is inserted; d) the documented, updated and implemented management plan clearly specifies the environmental objectives and the means and activities to achieve them, related to the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources; e) planned management activities are based on the environmental characterization of the area and reflect correspondence with those which are executed.”</p> <p>“4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain the quality of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which consider the maintenance of the soil quality; b) the use of fire is avoided for the authorization of lands assuring the maintenance of the soil quality of the management unit; c) forest operations are planned and the equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of the slope, soil fragility and pluviometry are selected, so as to minimize the erosion and soil compression and maintain its quality; d) technical specifications which consider the soil conservation of the management unit, in the planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, engineering structures and possible works which imply significant movements of land; e) damages in the land caused by forest operations which can cause erosion are mitigated or repaired before the task end; f) procedures of emergency response for soil contamination, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts; g) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve the soil and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.4 Criterion 5.4. The forest producer uses chemical products to prevent the contamination of the soil and water resources. Indicators: a) when applying chemical products, measures are taken to avoid soil contamination; b) when applying chemical products, measures are taken to avoid the contamination of water resources;”</p> <p>“4.3.1 Criterion 3.1. The forest producer implements forest practices appropriate to local peculiarities and justified throughout the project which assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) the definition of the used silvicultural system is based on results from studies and research carried out for conditions similar to the ones of the management unit and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; b) documented, updated and implemented procedures for forest production processes which assure the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		c) the equipment, machines and consumables used are appropriate to the local conditions of topography, soil, weather and characteristics of the forest resources produced and they assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources; d) implemented training programs and courses for forest workers on the tasks they perform and on how these contribute to the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources.”
5.5.4 Special care shall be given to forest management practices in forest areas with water protection functions to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way shall be avoided.	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.5 Principle 5 – Water, soil and air care. 4.5.1 Criterion 5.1. 4.5.3 Criterion 5.3. 4.5.4 Criterion 5.4.” “4.5.1 Criterion 5.1. Sustainable forest management planning is based on environmental information of the area and it favors the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators: a) the description and record of base environmental information, considered in forest management planning; b) the cartography which represents soil characteristics indicating their degree of erosion and fragility; c) the cartography which identifies the characteristics of the hydrologic basin, water bodies and courses, where the management unit is inserted; d) the documented, updated and implemented management plan clearly specifies the environmental objectives and the means and activities to achieve them, related to the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources; e) planned management activities are based on the environmental characterization of the area and reflect correspondence with those which are executed.” “4.5.3 Criterion 5.3. The forest producer plans and implements forest operations so as to maintain the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators: a) the producer knows and considers the uses of water of local communities of the area of influence of the management unit when planning forest operations; b) planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, works of art and possible works which imply significant movements of land and water, include actions to minimize the erosion and the dragging of sediments towards water bodies and courses; c) protection strips on the banks of water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources; d) procedures of emergency response for the contamination of water resources, product of forest operations, which foresee

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts; e) procedures to prevent or mitigate the fall of harvest waste into water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources; f) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve water resources and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.4 Criterion 5.4. The forest producer uses chemical products to prevent the contamination of the soil and water resources. Indicators: a) when applying chemical products, measures are taken to avoid soil contamination; b) when applying chemical products, measures are taken to avoid the contamination of water resources;”</p>
<p>5.5.5 Construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure shall be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and preserves the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities shall be installed and maintained.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.5 Principle 5 – Water, soil and air care. 4.5.1 Criterion 5.1. 4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. 4.5.3 Criterion 5.3.”</p> <p>“4.5.1 Criterion 5.1. Sustainable forest management planning is based on environmental information of the area and it favors the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators: a) the description and record of base environmental information, considered in forest management planning; b) the cartography which represents soil characteristics indicating their degree of erosion and fragility; c) the cartography which identifies the characteristics of the hydrologic basin, water bodies and courses, where the management unit is inserted; d) the documented, updated and implemented management plan clearly specifies the environmental objectives and the means and activities to achieve them, related to the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources; e) planned management activities are based on the environmental characterization of the area and reflect correspondence with those which are executed.”</p> <p>“4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain the quality of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which consider the maintenance of the soil quality; b) the use of fire is avoided for the authorization of lands assuring the maintenance of the soil quality of the management unit; c) forest operations are planned and the equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of the slope, soil fragility and</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>pluviometry are selected, so as to minimize the erosion and soil compression and maintain its quality;</p> <p>d) technical specifications which consider the soil conservation of the management unit, in the planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, engineering structures and possible works which imply significant movements of land;</p> <p>e) damages in the land caused by forest operations which can cause erosion are mitigated or repaired before the task end;</p> <p>f) procedures of emergency response for soil contamination, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts;</p> <p>g) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve the soil and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.3 Criterion 5.3. The forest producer plans and implements forest operations so as to maintain the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators:</p> <p>a) the producer knows and considers the uses of water of local communities of the area of influence of the management unit when planning forest operations;</p> <p>b) planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, works of art and possible works which imply significant movements of land and water, include actions to minimize the erosion and the dragging of sediments towards water bodies and courses;</p> <p>c) protection strips on the banks of water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;</p> <p>d) procedures of emergency response for the contamination of water resources, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts;</p> <p>e) procedures to prevent or mitigate the fall of harvest waste into water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;</p> <p>f) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve water resources and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p>
Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions		
5.6.1 Forest management planning shall aim to respect the multiple functions of forests to society, give due regard to the role of forestry in rural development, and especially consider new	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.3 Criterion 6.3.”

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
opportunities for employment in connection with the socio-economic functions of forests.		<p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified. which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.” <p>“4.6.3 Criterion 6.3. The forest producer promotes actions which lead to the development of local communities. Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) complementary actions, specified in the management plan, which promote or support developing entrepreneurship, health and education programs on environmental and forest topics together with local communities; b) the members of the local community, in equal suitability conditions, are prioritized when it comes to hiring, employment and work promotion possibilities and training; c) the forest producer supports the maintenance and improvement of local infrastructure; d) under equal market conditions, the sale of forest products coming from the management unit to local processing factories is prioritized, when this does not affect the commercial objectives of the management unit.”
5.6.2 Forest management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area.	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.3 Criterion 6.3.”</p> <p>“4.6.3 Criterion 6.3. The forest producer promotes actions which lead to the development of local communities. Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) complementary actions, specified in the management plan, which promote or support developing entrepreneurship, health and education programs on environmental and forest topics together with local communities; b) the members of the local community, in equal suitability conditions, are prioritized when it comes to hiring, employment and work promotion possibilities and training;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>c) the forest producer supports the maintenance and improvement of local infrastructure; d) under equal market conditions, the sale of forest products coming from the management unit to local processing factories is prioritized, when this does not affect the commercial objectives of the management unit.”</p> <p>“3. Definitions 3.5 local community. A neighbouring human community or adjacent to the forest management unit.”</p> <p>“4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists The forest producer shall secure the improvement of the life quality of forest workers and the local community.”</p> <p>“4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. The forest producer knows and respects the uses, customs and rights of the local community where the management unit is placed. Indicators: a) the forest producer is aware of the social situation of local communities and respects their uses, customs and rights; b) the forest producer establishes and maintains effective channels of communication and of information exchange with local communities; c) the forest producer identifies, respects and protects the places which have a special meaning for local communities; d) the forest producer identifies and evaluates the social impacts and aspects associated to the activities in the management unit; e) procedures agreed with the local community to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts identified, associated to the activities in the management unit; f) a compensation procedure for direct damages to the people or local communities caused by the activities of the management unit; g) a dissemination procedure towards the local community on the performance and risks associated to forest operations; h) implemented procedures of conflict resolution in a participative way, where every interest involved is considered.”</p>
5.6.3 Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant forest area. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.1 Principle 1 – Compliance with the law. 4.1.2 Criterion 1.2. 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. 4.6.2 Criterion 6.2.”</p> <p>“4.1.2 Criterion 1.2. The possession and the long-term rights of use on the land and the forest resources of the management unit are clearly defined, documented and legally established.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the forest producer has a suitable and updated document which proves their right of use of the land or the forest resources of the management unit.</p> <p>NOTE. The accreditation is done by means of some of the titles recognized by the Argentine legislation (a title deed, a lease or concession contract, a real surface right, recognition of traditional rights, etc., and the right of use is for a period which is coherent with the planning horizon of the management plan).</p> <p>b) cartography which indicates the status of ownership of each management unit area;</p> <p>c) the limits of the management unit are legally determined;</p> <p>d) the forest producer acts in an effective way for the resolution of possible legal conflicts and conflicts of any kind related to the possession of land and damages caused to third parties;</p> <p>e) in lease or concession contracts, soil purchase or forestry projection, the amounts arranged with the owner are paid.”</p> <p>“4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. The forest producer knows and respects the uses, customs and rights of the local community where the management unit is placed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the forest producer is aware of the social situation of local communities and respects their uses, customs and rights;</p> <p>b) the forest producer establishes and maintains effective channels of communication and of information exchange with local communities;</p> <p>c) the forest producer identifies, respects and protects the places which have a special meaning for local communities;</p> <p>d) the forest producer identifies and evaluates the social impacts and aspects associated to the activities in the management unit;</p> <p>e) procedures agreed with the local community to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts identified, associated to the activities in the management unit;</p> <p>f) a compensation procedure for direct damages to the people or local communities caused by the activities of the management unit;</p> <p>g) a dissemination procedure towards the local community on the performance and risks associated to forest operations;</p> <p>h) implemented procedures of conflict resolution in a participative way, where every interest involved is considered.”</p> <p>“4.6.2 Criterion 6.2. The forest producer knows and respects the possession rights and land management and resources of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the forest producer knows and respects the rights of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit.</p> <p>b) the forest producer recognizes the lands and territories reached by the rights of indigenous and these are clearly demarcated in the cartography of the management plan and in the field;</p> <p>c) identification and protection measures, agreed between the parties, of the places with a special cultural, religious and economic</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		meaning of indigenous and that these are clearly delimited in the field: d) the forest producer identifies and respects the exclusive traditional knowledge of indigenous; e) indigenous have been informed of the use of the knowledge identified in 4.6.2.d) and of its potential benefits: f) the forest producer adequately compensates indigenous for any use of this knowledge in accordance with what was established in previous agreements; g) the forest producer allows indigenous and other members of the local community to access the lands of the management unit, when they had traditionally had access to them, for their traditional and survival activities: h) procedures to avoid and resolve conflicts with indigenous where the particular characteristics of negotiation of the parties involved are respected.” “4.2.2 Criterion 2.2. In the management plan the uses and possession regime of the different areas of the management unit are defined. Indicators: a) updated cartography where the areas with their present and potential uses and the possession regime are delimited; NOTE. The periodic update of the cartography allows to reflect the changes in the areas use and the situation of the forest resources. b) the prescriptions contained in the management plan reflect correspondence with those which are executed in the land.”
5.6.4 Forest management activities shall be conducted in recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon without the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of the rights, including the provision of compensation where applicable. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved or is in dispute there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.2 Criterion 6.2.” “4.6.2 Criterion 6.2. The forest producer knows and respects the possession rights and land management and resources of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit. Indicators: a) the forest producer knows and respects the rights of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit. b) the forest producer recognizes the lands and territories reached by the rights of indigenous and these are clearly demarcated in the cartography of the management plan and in the field; c) identification and protection measures, agreed between the parties, of the places with a special cultural, religious and economic meaning of indigenous and that these are clearly delimited in the field: d) the forest producer identifies and respects the exclusive traditional knowledge of indigenous; e) indigenous have been informed of the use of the knowledge identified in 4.6.2.d) and of its potential benefits: f) the forest producer adequately compensates indigenous for any use of this knowledge in accordance with what was established in previous agreements;

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>cases forest managers shall, in the interim, provide meaningful opportunities for parties to be engaged in forest management decisions whilst respecting the processes and roles and responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.</p>		<p>g) the forest producer allows indigenous and other members of the local community to access the lands of the management unit, when they had traditionally had access to them, for their traditional and survival activities: h) procedures to avoid and resolve conflicts with indigenous where the particular characteristics of negotiation of the parties involved are respected.”</p> <p>“4.1 Principle 1 – Compliance with the law The forest producer shall respect the Argentine laws and regulations of national, provincial and municipal order which are in force, legally binding international treaties and conventions of which the country is signatory, as well as the signed commitments for the management unit. In the same way, they shall demonstrate a long term commitment to the principles, criteria and indicators of this standard.”</p> <p>“4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. The forest producer knows and respects the uses, customs and rights of the local community where the management unit is placed. Indicators: a) the forest producer is aware of the social situation of local communities and respects their uses, customs and rights; b) the forest producer establishes and maintains effective channels of communication and of information exchange with local communities; c) the forest producer identifies, respects and protects the places which have a special meaning for local communities; d) the forest producer identifies and evaluates the social impacts and aspects associated to the activities in the management unit; e) procedures agreed with the local community to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts identified, associated to the activities in the management unit; f) a compensation procedure for direct damages to the people or local communities caused by the activities of the management unit; g) a dissemination procedure towards the local community on the performance and risks associated to forest operations; h) implemented procedures of conflict resolution in a participative way, where every interest involved is considered.”</p> <p>Argentina has ratified the 8 fundamental ILO conventions. According to ILO, Argentina has also ratified ILO 169.</p>
<p>5.6.5 Adequate public access to forests for the purpose of recreation shall be provided taking into account respect for ownership rights and the rights of others, the effects on forest resources and</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. 4.6.2 Criterion 6.2.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.		<p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified, which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. The forest producer knows and respects the uses, customs and rights of the local community where the management unit is placed. Indicators: a) the forest producer is aware of the social situation of local communities and respects their uses, customs and rights; b) the forest producer establishes and maintains effective channels of communication and of information exchange with local communities; c) the forest producer identifies, respects and protects the places which have a special meaning for local communities; d) the forest producer identifies and evaluates the social impacts and aspects associated to the activities in the management unit; e) procedures agreed with the local community to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts identified, associated to the activities in the management unit; f) a compensation procedure for direct damages to the people or local communities caused by the activities of the management unit; g) a dissemination procedure towards the local community on the performance and risks associated to forest operations; h) implemented procedures of conflict resolution in a participative way, where every interest involved is considered.”</p> <p>“4.6.2 Criterion 6.2. The forest producer knows and respects the possession rights and land management and resources of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit. Indicators: a) the forest producer knows and respects the rights of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>b) the forest producer recognizes the lands and territories reached by the rights of indigenous and these are clearly demarcated in the cartography of the management plan and in the field;</p> <p>c) identification and protection measures, agreed between the parties, of the places with a special cultural, religious and economic meaning of indigenous and that these are clearly delimited in the field:</p> <p>d) the forest producer identifies and respects the exclusive traditional knowledge of indigenous;</p> <p>e) indigenous have been informed of the use of the knowledge identified in 4.6.2.d) and of its potential benefits:</p> <p>f) the forest producer adequately compensates indigenous for any use of this knowledge in accordance with what was established in previous agreements;</p> <p>g) the forest producer allows indigenous and other members of the local community to access the lands of the management unit, when they had traditionally had access to them, for their traditional and survival activities:</p> <p>h) procedures to avoid and resolve conflicts with indigenous where the particular characteristics of negotiation of the parties involved are respected.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “The IRAM 39801 standard establish as requirements in the 4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. The forest producer knows and respects the uses, customs and rights of the local community where the management unit is placed Indicators a) the forest producer is aware of the social situation of local communities and respects their uses, customs and rights, and in the point 4.6.2 Criterion 6.2. The forest producer knows and respects the possession rights and land management and resources of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit – Indicator g) the forest producer allows indigenous and other members of the local community to access the lands of the management unit, when they had traditionally had access to them, for their traditional and survival activities. The terms: custom and traditional activities include recreational and leisure activities as well as the public access of any individual who wish it e.g. to gain access to other lands, lakes, public facilities etc.”</p>
5.6.6 Sites with recognised specific historical, cultural or spiritual significance and areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities (e.g. health, subsistence) shall be protected or managed in a way that takes due regard of the significance of the site.	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 3. Definitions: 3.29 a priority place for conservation. 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.3 Criterion 4.3. 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. 4.6.2 Criterion 6.2.”</p> <p>“3.29 a priority place for conservation. An area which has ecological, biological or sociocultural values, considered of big or critical importance at a local, regional or global scale.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>NOTE. When identifying the areas, the presence of some of the following attributes is considered: areas with concentrations of values of biological diversity (endemisms, critical endangered species, endangered species, vulnerable species, fauna refuges. resting places for migratory birds, nesting places, unique species assemblies, among others): wooded areas which constitute rare ecosystems, rare ecosystems or both threatened or endangered: areas where special processes appear: volcanism, natural floods; wooded areas which provide environmental services in critical situations (protection of basins, protection of recharge zones, protection of hillsides, among others) areas with critical cultural, religious and economic value for local communities.”</p> <p>“4.4.3 Criterion 4.3. The singular habitats and priority places for conservation have specific prescriptions, included in the management plan and based on the precautionary approach, which assure the maintenance or increase of their values. Indicators: a) every singular habitat and priority place for conservation has specific management objectives which assure the maintenance or increase of their values; b) buffer zones adjacent to singular habitats and priority places for conservation in the management unit. c) in conservation zones the presence of invading wooded species and bushes is minimized; d) a monitoring program to evaluate the maintenance of the values of every singular habitat and priority place for conservation.”</p> <p>“4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. The forest producer knows and respects the uses, customs and rights of the local community where the management unit is placed. Indicators: a) the forest producer is aware of the social situation of local communities and respects their uses, customs and rights; b) the forest producer establishes and maintains effective channels of communication and of information exchange with local communities; c) the forest producer identifies, respects and protects the places which have a special meaning for local communities; d) the forest producer identifies and evaluates the social impacts and aspects associated to the activities in the management unit; e) procedures agreed with the local community to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts identified, associated to the activities in the management unit; f) a compensation procedure for direct damages to the people or local communities caused by the activities of the management unit; g) a dissemination procedure towards the local community on the performance and risks associated to forest operations; h) implemented procedures of conflict resolution in a participative way, where every interest involved is considered.”</p> <p>“4.6.2 Criterion 6.2. The forest producer knows and respects the possession rights and land management and resources of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		Indicators: a) the forest producer knows and respects the rights of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit. b) the forest producer recognizes the lands and territories reached by the rights of indigenous and these are clearly demarcated in the cartography of the management plan and in the field; c) identification and protection measures, agreed between the parties, of the places with a special cultural, religious and economic meaning of indigenous and that these are clearly delimited in the field: d) the forest producer identifies and respects the exclusive traditional knowledge of indigenous; e) indigenous have been informed of the use of the knowledge identified in 4.6.2.d) and of its potential benefits: f) the forest producer adequately compensates indigenous for any use of this knowledge in accordance with what was established in previous agreements; g) the forest producer allows indigenous and other members of the local community to access the lands of the management unit, when they had traditionally had access to them, for their traditional and survival activities: h) procedures to avoid and resolve conflicts with indigenous where the particular characteristics of negotiation of the parties involved are respected.”
5.6.7 Forest management operations shall take into account all socio-economic functions, especially the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests by maintaining for example varied forest structures, and by encouraging attractive trees, groves and other features such as colours, flowers and fruits. This shall be done, however, in a way and to an extent that does not lead to serious negative effects on forest resources, and forest land.	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. 4.4.3 Criterion 4.3.” “4.2.5 Criterion 2.5. In the management plan, actions to optimize the generation and exploitation of goods and services and to stimulate their diversification in the long term are foreseen. Indicators: a) the management plan considers and foresees mechanisms for the diversification and use of other forest, timber and non-timber, commercial and non-commercial products; b) planning and implementation of actions which tend to maintain or increase the future value of the forest resources of the management unit; c) adoption of techniques to minimize the waste of forest products associated to the in situ transformation and exploitation operations; d) implementation of techniques, actions or both to minimize forest operations damages to the remaining forest;” “4.4.1 Criterion 4.1. Forest management is planned and executed so as to maintain biological diversity values and ecosystem

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>functions present in the management unit and so as not to reduce the native forest surface of value for conservation or of another kind of vegetation of value for conservation.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) the planning and implementation of plantations and the works of infrastructure and services identify the areas suitable for each use or areas subject to transformation envisaged by the legislation, or both kinds of areas;</p> <p>b) the planning and management for areas not affected for plantations (native forest) identify the key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem and assure their maintenance;</p> <p>NOTE. Those forest species or those forest structures, or both, whose disappearance causes a cascade effect in the ecosystem, determining the disappearance of other components so that the changes in the bio-mass of the ecosystem widely exceed those produced by their only removal are considered key elements for the functioning of the ecosystem. The key species help to structure the ecosystem they are part of.</p> <p>c) the planning and management of the plantations and works of infrastructure and services assure the connectivity of the natural systems of the management unit or the areas adjacent to it;</p> <p>NOTE. The connectivity of natural systems or design of an interconnected landscape is achieved through corridors of an appropriate size (functional) which connect remaining patches of the original native system and protected areas, between each other.</p> <p>d) the planning and management promote the species and ecosystems diversity;</p> <p>e) the planning considers actions to prevent the reduction of genetic diversity;</p> <p>f) planned activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed and assure the maintenance of biological diversity values and the functions of present ecosystems.”</p> <p>“4.4.3 Criterion 4.3. The singular habitats and priority places for conservation have specific prescriptions, included in the management plan and based on the precautionary approach, which assure the maintenance or increase of their values.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) every singular habitat and priority place for conservation has specific management objectives which assure the maintenance or increase of their values;</p> <p>b) buffer zones adjacent to singular habitats and priority places for conservation in the management unit.</p> <p>c) in conservation zones the presence of invading wooded species and bushes is minimized;</p> <p>d) a monitoring program to evaluate the maintenance of the values of every singular habitat and priority place for conservation.”</p> <p>“4.4.2 Criterion 4.2. In the planning of forest management, singular habitats and priority places for conservation present in the management unit are identified.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a) procedures for the identification of singular habitats and priority places for conservation present in the management unit.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>NOTE: When the identification of singular habitats and priority places for conservation takes place, protected areas already established, of any land or jurisdiction, adjacent or which include the management unit in part or in its entirety are considered in the same way.</p> <p>b) identification in the cartography of the management plan and the land of singular habitats and the defined priority places for conservation.”</p> <p>“3.29 a priority place for conservation. An area which has ecological, biological or sociocultural values, considered of big or critical importance at a local, regional or global scale.</p> <p>NOTE. When identifying the areas, the presence of some of the following attributes is considered: areas with concentrations of values of biological diversity (endemisms, critical endangered species, endangered species, vulnerable species, fauna refuges. resting places for migratory birds, nesting places, unique species assemblies, among others): wooded areas which constitute rare ecosystems, rare ecosystems or both threatened or endangered: areas where special processes appear: volcanism, natural floods; wooded areas which provide environmental services in critical situations (protection of basins, protection of recharge zones, protection of hillsides, among others) areas with critical cultural, religious and economic value for local communities.”</p>
<p>5.6.8 Forest managers, contractors, employees and forest owners shall be provided with sufficient information and encouraged to keep up-to-date through continuous training in relation to sustainable forest management as a precondition for all management planning and practices described in this standard.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.1 Principle 1 – Compliance with the law. 4.1.3 Criterion 1.3. 4.1.5 Criterion 1.5. 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.1 Criterion 3. 1. 4.3.3 Criterion 3. 3. 4.3.4 Criterion 3. 4. 4.3.5 Criterion 3. 5. 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance. 4.4.6 Criterion 4.6. 4.5 Principle 5 – Water, soil and air care. 4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. 4.5.3 Criterion 5.3. 4.5.5 Criterion 5.5. 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.4 Criterion 6.4. 4.6.5 Criterion 6.5.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“4.1.3 Criterion 1.3. The forest producer knows and respects the legally binding international treaties and conventions of which the country is signatory, applicable to the management unit. Indicators: a) updated record and knowledge of the international treaties and conventions which apply to the management unit; b) appropriate measures are implemented to assure the compliance of the convention articles and corrective actions are taken in case of breach; c) records of the fact that forest workers have been trained on conventions and treaties applicable to the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.1.5 Criterion 1.5. The forest producer assumes a long-term commitment to support the principles and criteria of this standard. Indicators: a) the forest producer makes public and documents their commitment to provide long-term support to the principles and criteria of this standard. b) long-term planning of sustainable forest management in the management unit; c) service provider companies know and respect the principles and criteria of this standard.”</p> <p>“4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified, which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties.”</p> <p>“4.3.1 Criterion 3.1. The forest producer implements forest practices appropriate to local peculiarities and justified throughout the project which assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) the definition of the used silvicultural system is based on results from studies and research carried out for conditions similar to</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>the ones of the management unit and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>b) documented, updated and implemented procedures for forest production processes which assure the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>c) the equipment, machines and consumables used are appropriate to the local conditions of topography, soil, weather and characteristics of the forest resources produced and they assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>d) implemented training programs and courses for forest workers on the tasks they perform and on how these contribute to the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources.”</p> <p>“4.3.3 Criterion 3.3. The forest producer plans and controls harmful pathogenic agents following the guidelines of integrated management so as to assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators:</p> <p>a) identification of the potential harmful and pathogenic agents which require control; NOTE. When identifying potential harmful and pathogenic agents, plagues, weeds, illnesses and livestock (overgrazing and browse) are considered, when this affects the health and vitality of forest resources.</p> <p>b) a procedure implemented for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents which considers the best practices available and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>c) forest workers responsible for the prevention and control of harmful and pathogenic agents are trained for the work they perform.”</p> <p>“4.3.4 Criterion 3.4. The forest producer adopts a responsible program of use of chemical products in general which assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators:</p> <p>a) use of chemical products which are not prohibited by international agreements or laws in force in the country;</p> <p>b) the use of chemical products is limited to situations where there is no other economic or technically feasible and effective alternative;</p> <p>c) updated record of chemical products purchased, stored and used in the management unit which includes the safety sheet of the product;</p> <p>d) a documented and implemented procedure for the appropriate transportation, handling, use and storage of chemical products and maintenance and cleaning of equipment used in accordance with the laws and regulations in force and with the manufacturer instructions, which assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>e) a documented and implemented procedure to prevent and mitigate negative impacts caused by the use of chemical products;</p> <p>f) implemented procedures of chemical products use consider weather, soil and topographic conditions;</p> <p>g) forest workers who work with chemical products are trained and use appropriate personal protective equipment.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“4.3.5 Criterion 3.5. The forest producer adopts effective measures to prevent, detect and control forest fires. Indicators: a) an implemented program, to prevent and control the occurrence of forest fires; b) training for forest workers on how to prevent and control forest fires.”</p> <p>“4.4.6 Criterion 4.6. Forest workers are aware of the importance of the protection of biological diversity and have been trained so that the activities they perform do not damage the protection areas and they know their location within the management unit. Indicators: a) implemented training program for forest workers on the different protection aspects of biological diversity; b) the cartography of protected areas is at the forest workers' disposal.”</p> <p>“4.5.2 Criterion 5.2. The forest producer adopts effective measures to maintain the quality of the management unit soils. Indicators: a) adoption of techniques which consider the maintenance of the soil quality; b) the use of fire is avoided for the authorization of lands assuring the maintenance of the soil quality of the management unit; c) forest operations are planned and the equipment and technologies appropriate to the characteristics of the slope, soil fragility and pluviometry are selected, so as to minimize the erosion and soil compression and maintain its quality; d) technical specifications which consider the soil conservation of the management unit, in the planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, engineering structures and possible works which imply significant movements of land; e) damages in the land caused by forest operations which can cause erosion are mitigated or repaired before the task end; f) procedures of emergency response for soil contamination, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts; g) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve the soil and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.3 Criterion 5.3. The forest producer plans and implements forest operations so as to maintain the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators: a) the producer knows and considers the uses of water of local communities of the area of influence of the management unit when planning forest operations; b) planning, building and maintenance of the road network, irrigation network, drainage network, works of art and possible works which imply significant movements of land and water, include actions to minimize the erosion and the dragging of sediments</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>towards water bodies and courses;</p> <p>c) protection strips on the banks of water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;</p> <p>d) procedures of emergency response for the contamination of water resources, product of forest operations, which foresee mitigation mechanisms of negative impacts;</p> <p>e) procedures to prevent or mitigate the fall of harvest waste into water bodies and courses which contribute to the maintenance of the quality of water resources;</p> <p>f) forest workers are trained and are aware of the necessity to preserve water resources and know the methods and technologies related to their work to avoid damages.”</p> <p>“4.5.5 Criterion 5.5. The forest producer adopts and implements a program for the reduction, the reuse or the appropriate treatment or the reuse and appropriate treatments of solid, liquid and gas waste. Indicators:</p> <p>a) documented and implemented procedure of waste management of any kind which includes the identification, classification, transportation and final disposal;</p> <p>b) dangerous waste is treated in accordance with the legislation in force;</p> <p>c) dangerous waste and liquid effluents are treated and are disposed of in accordance with the legislation in force;</p> <p>d) maintenance procedures of vehicles and machinery which minimize environmental contamination risks;</p> <p>e) the forest producer avoids the use of fire for waste treatment;</p> <p>f) forest workers are trained on the waste management policy.”</p> <p>“4.6.4 Criterion 6.4. The forest producer knows and guarantees the forest workers the rights inherent to their condition and compensates their work adequately and equitably. Indicators:</p> <p>a) the forest producer trains forest workers with regard to rights and obligations of their condition, established by the legislation and the fundamental conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and this information is available and accessible to every forest worker;</p> <p>b) the forest producer guarantees the rights of forest workers and recognizes the benefits of getting organized and negotiate collectively, in accordance with Conventions 87 and 98 of the ILO;</p> <p>c) forest workers have opportunities of being hired and promoted and they receive and adequate and equal compensation for their work without discrimination related to gender, race, creed or social condition;</p> <p>d) the forest producer, when necessary, provides forest workers with adequate conditions of transportation, accommodation, rest and food;</p> <p>e) the forest producer and service providers do not involve child labor;</p> <p>f) the forest producer fulfills the obligations of social rights of health, prevision and social security of forest workers;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		g) the working day does not exceed what is established in the law.” “4.6.5 Criterion 6.5. The forest producer safeguards the health and safety of forest workers and trains them in the correct performance of the labor they do. Indicators: a) the forest producer provides first aid and transfer in case of health emergencies and labor accidents; b) health file for each forest worker where there is a record of the pre-employment and periodical medical examinations, in accordance with the specific activity they perform; c) records of work illnesses, accidents and evidence of the implementation of corrective measures when necessary; d) documented and implemented procedures to safeguard the occupational health and safety of forest workers; e) the forest producer provides safety equipment appropriate for the task and in good condition and takes measures to assure their use; f) forest workers are trained for the work they perform and on occupational safety and health topics.”
5.6.9 Forest management practices shall make the best use of local forest-related experience and knowledge, such as those of local communities, forest owners, NGOs and local people.	YES	“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. 4.6.2 Criterion 6.2. 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control. 4.7.1 Criterion 7.1.” “4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. The forest producer knows and respects the uses, customs and rights of the local community where the management unit is placed. Indicators: a) the forest producer is aware of the social situation of local communities and respects their uses, customs and rights; b) the forest producer establishes and maintains effective channels of communication and of information exchange with local communities; c) the forest producer identifies, respects and protects the places which have a special meaning for local communities; d) the forest producer identifies and evaluates the social impacts and aspects associated to the activities in the management unit; e) procedures agreed with the local community to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts identified, associated to the activities in the management unit; f) a compensation procedure for direct damages to the people or local communities caused by the activities of the management unit; g) a dissemination procedure towards the local community on the performance and risks associated to forest operations; h) implemented procedures of conflict resolution in a participative way, where every interest involved is considered.”

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“4.6.2 Criterion 6.2. The forest producer knows and respects the possession rights and land management and resources of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit. Indicators: a) the forest producer knows and respects the rights of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit. b) the forest producer recognizes the lands and territories reached by the rights of indigenous and these are clearly demarcated in the cartography of the management plan and in the field; c) identification and protection measures, agreed between the parties, of the places with a special cultural, religious and economic meaning of indigenous and that these are clearly delimited in the field: d) the forest producer identifies and respects the exclusive traditional knowledge of indigenous; e) indigenous have been informed of the use of the knowledge identified in 4.6.2.d) and of its potential benefits: f) the forest producer adequately compensates indigenous for any use of this knowledge in accordance with what was established in previous agreements; g) the forest producer allows indigenous and other members of the local community to access the lands of the management unit, when they had traditionally had access to them, for their traditional and survival activities: h) procedures to avoid and resolve conflicts with indigenous where the particular characteristics of negotiation of the parties involved are respected.”</p> <p>“7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations, Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations; b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest health state; c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products; d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies; e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results; f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		"The IRAM 39801 standard considers and recognizes, in several of its requirements, the local forest-related knowledge and experience that can provide members of the local community and its organizations. It states that the forest manager must develop effective communication channels and take into consideration the views and local knowledge when planning and revising its forest management. See: - 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1, indicator: d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; "
5.6.10 Forest management shall provide for effective communication and consultation with local people and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management and shall provide appropriate mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management between forest operators and local people.	YES	"IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. 4.6.2 Criterion 6.2. 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control. 4.7.1 Criterion 7.1." "4.2.1 Criterion 2.1. There is a management plan which is documented, updated and implemented, consistent with its objectives and with the scale of the considered entrepreneurship which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. Indicators: a) a documented and updated management plan where the management objectives, the means and activities to achieve them and a description of the social and environmental characteristics of the management unit and adjacent areas are clearly specified which assures the compliance of the principles defined by this standard. b) the management is economically feasible in the long term; c) planned management activities reflect correspondence with those which are executed; d) traditional activities carried out in the management unit by indigenous and other members of the local community are agreed to and are contemplated in the management plan; e) an implemented procedure of the management plan update which contributes with the continuous improvement of forest management; f) a summary of the management plan available to the interested parties." "4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. The forest producer knows and respects the uses, customs and rights of the local community where the management unit is placed. Indicators: a) the forest producer is aware of the social situation of local communities and respects their uses, customs and rights;

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		<p>b) the forest producer establishes and maintains effective channels of communication and of information exchange with local communities;</p> <p>c) the forest producer identifies, respects and protects the places which have a special meaning for local communities;</p> <p>d) the forest producer identifies and evaluates the social impacts and aspects associated to the activities in the management unit;</p> <p>e) procedures agreed with the local community to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts identified, associated to the activities in the management unit;</p> <p>f) a compensation procedure for direct damages to the people or local communities caused by the activities of the management unit;</p> <p>g) a dissemination procedure towards the local community on the performance and risks associated to forest operations;</p> <p>h) implemented procedures of conflict resolution in a participative way, where every interest involved is considered.”</p> <p>“4.6.2 Criterion 6.2. The forest producer knows and respects the possession rights and land management and resources of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit. Indicators:</p> <p>a) the forest producer knows and respects the rights of indigenous who live in the area of influence of the management unit.</p> <p>b) the forest producer recognizes the lands and territories reached by the rights of indigenous and these are clearly demarcated in the cartography of the management plan and in the field;</p> <p>c) identification and protection measures, agreed between the parties, of the places with a special cultural, religious and economic meaning of indigenous and that these are clearly delimited in the field:</p> <p>d) the forest producer identifies and respects the exclusive traditional knowledge of indigenous;</p> <p>e) indigenous have been informed of the use of the knowledge identified in 4.6.2.d) and of its potential benefits:</p> <p>f) the forest producer adequately compensates indigenous for any use of this knowledge in accordance with what was established in previous agreements;</p> <p>g) the forest producer allows indigenous and other members of the local community to access the lands of the management unit, when they had traditionally had access to them, for their traditional and survival activities:</p> <p>h) procedures to avoid and resolve conflicts with indigenous where the particular characteristics of negotiation of the parties involved are respected.”</p> <p>“7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations, Indicators:</p> <p>a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations;</p> <p>b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>health state;</p> <p>c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products;</p> <p>d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies;</p> <p>e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results;</p> <p>f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”</p>
<p>5.6.11 Forestry work shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.5 Criterion 6.5. 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control. 4.7.1 Criterion 7.1. 4.7.2 Criterion 7.2.”</p> <p>“4.6.5 Criterion 6.5. The forest producer safeguards the health and safety of forest workers and trains them in the correct performance of the labor they do. Indicators: a) the forest producer provides first aid and transfer in case of health emergencies and labor accidents; b) health file for each forest worker where there is a record of the pre-employment and periodical medical examinations, in accordance with the specific activity they perform; c) records of work illnesses, accidents and evidence of the implementation of corrective measures when necessary; d) documented and implemented procedures to safeguard the occupational health and safety of forest workers; e) the forest producer provides safety equipment appropriate for the task and in good condition and takes measures to assure their use; f) forest workers are trained for the work they perform and on occupational safety and health topics.”</p> <p>“7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations, Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations; b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest health state;</p>

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		<p>c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products;</p> <p>d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies;</p> <p>e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results;</p> <p>f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.7.2 Criterion 7.2. The forest producer incorporates the results of the periodical evaluations so as to improve forest operations in a continuous way. Effectivity and efficiency of forest management is regularly evaluated and improved, Indicators:</p> <p>a) the results of the periodical evaluations are recorded, compared and analyzed so as to determine changes in the performance of the forest management of the management unit;</p> <p>b) the management plan and all their procedures are revised periodically so as to incorporate the monitoring and evaluation conclusions;</p> <p>c) a documented and implemented procedure to evaluate and record emergency situations occurred during forest operations and the conclusions are properly incorporated in the management plan.”</p> <p>“4.1.1 Criterion 1.1. The forest producer performs the activities corresponding to the management unit in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable and in force. Indicators:</p> <p>a) proceedings of identification and update of laws and regulations applicable to the management unit, including among others, forest, environmental, work, on transportation and on use and rights of land ownership.</p> <p>b) compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to the activities of the management unit;</p> <p>c) the implemented management plan approved by the competent authority; NOTE. The cases in which the application authority requests so.</p> <p>d) the forest producer complies with the policies, procedures, reference manual and codes of practice which are signed or defined for the management unit.</p> <p>e) the service providers comply with the laws and regulations applicable to their activity.”</p>
5.6.12 Working conditions shall be safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices shall be provided to all those assigned to a	YES	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.5 Criterion 6.5.”</p>

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task in forest operations.		<p>“4.6.5 Criterion 6.5. The forest producer safeguards the health and safety of forest workers and trains them in the correct performance of the labor they do. Indicators: a) the forest producer provides first aid and transfer in case of health emergencies and labor accidents; b) health file for each forest worker where there is a record of the pre-employment and periodical medical examinations, in accordance with the specific activity they perform; c) records of work illnesses, accidents and evidence of the implementation of corrective measures when necessary; d) documented and implemented procedures to safeguard the occupational health and safety of forest workers; e) the forest producer provides safety equipment appropriate for the task and in good condition and takes measures to assure their use; f) forest workers are trained for the work they perform and on occupational safety and health topics.”</p> <p>“4.1.1 Criterion 1.1. The forest producer performs the activities corresponding to the management unit in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable and in force. Indicators: a) proceedings of identification and update of laws and regulations applicable to the management unit, including among others, forest, environmental, work, on transportation and on use and rights of land ownership. b) compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to the activities of the management unit; c) the implemented management plan approved by the competent authority; NOTE. The cases in which the application authority requests so. d) the forest producer complies with the policies, procedures, reference manual and codes of practice which are signed or defined for the management unit. e) the service providers comply with the laws and regulations applicable to their activity.”</p>
5.6.13 Forest management shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.	YES	<p>“Cerfoar – Technical Document: 2. Argentine Forest Certification System - Cerfoar 2.3 Cerfoar’s documentary basis” IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.4 Criterion 6.4. NOTE: Argentina Republican has ratified all Core ILO Conventions and has implemented through the legislative framework;”</p> <p>“2.3 Cerfoar’s documentary basis Cerfoar is based on the PEFC Scheme’s normative documentation approved by the PEFC Council and its corresponding guidelines. Cerfoar establishes the requirements for forest management certification of native and implanted forest and also, the</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>requirements to track the related industries located in the Argentine Republic. The documentary basis of the system is composed of Cerfoar's Technical Document (this document), IRAM standards of sustainable forest management, normative documentation of the PEFC Council and Cerfoar's General Procedures.</p> <p>The technical standards of voluntary application which constitute the normative base of the Argentine Forest Certification System are the following IRAM Standards Series 39800 of Sustainable Forest Management,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> IRAM 39801: in force, Sustainable Forest Management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management units. <input type="checkbox"/> IRAM 39803: in force, Sustainable forest management. Audit. <input type="checkbox"/> IRAM 39805: in force, Sustainable Forest Management. Group certification <p>Cerfoar Association adopts as Cerfoar standards the internationally established PEFC standards for chain of custody certification and logo usage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> PEFC ST 2002: in force, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products - Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> PEFC ST 2001: in force, PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements <p>At the same time, through its general and internal procedures approved by the Board of Directors, Cerfoar Association details the rules for different areas of Cerfoar, such as requirements and procederes for the authorization of certification bodies, the arrangement to apply for the PEFC logo and trademark, tariff schedules, sampling ratio structure, etc.</p> <p>Cerfoar's General Procedures are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> PG01: in force. Cerfoar notification of certification bodies operating forest management and/or chain of custody certification in argentina. <input type="checkbox"/> PG02: in force. Procedure to be implemented by certification bodies to carry out forest management audits and certifications. <input type="checkbox"/> PG03: in force. Consultation procedure to the interested parties that shall implement certification bodies during forest management audits. <input type="checkbox"/> PG04: in force. Peers review procedure of the forest management certification report that shall implement the certification bodies. <input type="checkbox"/> PG05: in force. Procedures to elaborate forest management audits reports that shall be implemented by the certification bodies. <input type="checkbox"/> PG06 in force. Procedure for the resolution of disputes that the Association Cerfoar shall implement <input type="checkbox"/> PG07 in force. Procedure of issuance of PEFC logo use licenses by Cerfoar Association <p>In addition to the requirements explicitly established by Cerfoar, applicant certification entities must meet national and local regulations and laws apply to them including those relating to fundamental ILO conventions, and other international conventions ratified by the country and that have a relationship and direct impact on sustainable forest management principles, or the traceability of forest-based products. Any apparent violation to the legislation must be considered in the certification and audit processes.</p> <p>With regards to the conversion of timberlands to other land uses, including the conversion of native forests to plantations, such conversion should not take place except in justified circumstances in which conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> complies with national or provincial policies and relevant legislation on land use and forest management and is the result of state or regional territorial organization undertaken by the competent authority or another authority that includes consultation of people

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>and organizations with a material and direct stake, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> involves a small proportion of the type of forest, and <input type="checkbox"/> has no negative effects on endangered forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare or endangered ecosystems), in culturally and socially significant areas, in the main habitats of endangered species or in other protected nature reserves, and <input type="checkbox"/> represents a long-term contribution to conservation, the economy or social benefit.” <p>“4.6.4 Criterion 6.4. The forest producer knows and guarantees the forest workers the rights inherent to their condition and compensates their work adequately and equitably. Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the forest producer trains forest workers with regard to rights and obligations of their condition, established by the legislation and the fundamental conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and this information is available and accessible to every forest worker; b) the forest producer guarantees the rights of forest workers and recognizes the benefits of getting organized and negotiate collectively, in accordance with Conventions 87 and 98 of the ILO; c) forest workers have opportunities of being hired and promoted and they receive and adequate and equal compensation for their work without discrimination related to gender, race, creed or social condition; d) the forest producer, when necessary, provides forest workers with adequate conditions of transportation, accommodation, rest and food; e) the forest producer and service providers do not involve child labor; f) the forest producer fulfills the obligations of social rights of health, prevision and social security of forest workers; g) the working day does not exceed what is established in the law.” <p>“4.1 Principle 1 – Compliance with the law The forest producer shall respect the Argentine laws and regulations of national, provincial and municipal order which are in force, legally binding international treaties and conventions of which the country is signatory, as well as the signed commitments for the management unit. In the same way, they shall demonstrate a long term commitment to the principles, criteria and indicators of this standard.”</p>
<p>5.6.14 Forest management shall be based inter-alia on the results of scientific research. Forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.2 Principle 2 – Search for forest resources sustainability. 4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. 4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity. 4.3.1 Criterion 3. 1. 4.5 Principle 5 – Water, soil and air care. 4.5.1 Criterion 5.1.</p>

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<p>relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.</p>		<p>4.6 Principle 6 - Economic and social growth of the local community in which the forest activity exists. 4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control. 4.7.1 Criterion 7.1.”</p> <p>“4.2.3 Criterion 2.3. The applied silvicultural treatments are clearly specified and justified in the management plan and they assure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term. Indicators: a) the silvicultural processes applied are based on the ecology, on the dynamics or on both, of each place and on information obtained through forest inventories of the management unit and they make sure that forest resources are sustainable in the long term. b) an implemented procedure for the performance of forest inventories; c) in case there is not enough technical information on the ecology and dynamics of the place, the silvicultural treatments are defined on the base of the precautionary principle and these make sure that the forest resources are sustainable in the long term.”</p> <p>“4.2.4 Criterion 2.4. The harvest rate of forest, timber and non-timber products used is technically justified in the management plan and assures the maintenance or the increase of the production of goods and services. Indicators: a) the defined and used harvest rate is based on valid technical information and records of periodic inventories; b) the defined and used harvest rate maintains or increases the production of goods and services; NOTE. The extraction or harvest rate does not exceed the forest possibility, so as to maintain or improve its quality and productivity. c) in all the harvested forest surface in the management unit, an adequate regeneration or an adequate reforestation or an adequate regeneration and reforestation is assured; NOTE. It is considered adequate when it is verified that the regeneration of the native forests and the establishment of plantations are effective and appropriate. d) the composition of species and the density of the native forests regeneration and the degree of establishment of the plantations are evaluated and corrective measures are adopted, when it is necessary, to assure an effective regeneration, or an effective establishment or effective regeneration and establishment.”</p> <p>“4.3.1 Criterion 3.1. The forest producer implements forest practices appropriate to local peculiarities and justified throughout the project which assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources. Indicators: a) the definition of the used silvicultural system is based on results from studies and research carried out for conditions similar to the ones of the management unit and assures the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p>

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		<p>b) documented, updated and implemented procedures for forest production processes which assure the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>c) the equipment, machines and consumables used are appropriate to the local conditions of topography, soil, weather and characteristics of the forest resources produced and they assure the vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources;</p> <p>d) implemented training programs and courses for forest workers on the tasks they perform and on how these contribute to the Vitality, health and productivity maintenance of forest resources.”</p> <p>“4.5.1 Criterion 5.1. Sustainable forest management planning is based on environmental information of the area and it favors the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources. Indicators:</p> <p>a) the description and record of base environmental information, considered in forest management planning;</p> <p>b) the cartography which represents soil characteristics indicating their degree of erosion and fragility;</p> <p>c) the cartography which identifies the characteristics of the hydrologic basin, water bodies and courses, where the management unit is inserted;</p> <p>d) the documented, updated and implemented management plan clearly specifies the environmental objectives and the means and activities to achieve them, related to the maintenance of the soil quality and the quality and availability of water resources;</p> <p>e) planned management activities are based on the environmental characterization of the area and reflect correspondence with those which are executed.”</p> <p>“4.6.1 Criterion 6.1. The forest producer knows and respects the uses, customs and rights of the local community where the management unit is placed. Indicators:</p> <p>a) the forest producer is aware of the social situation of local communities and respects their uses, customs and rights;</p> <p>b) the forest producer establishes and maintains effective channels of communication and of information exchange with local communities;</p> <p>c) the forest producer identifies, respects and protects the places which have a special meaning for local communities;</p> <p>d) the forest producer identifies and evaluates the social impacts and aspects associated to the activities in the management unit;</p> <p>e) procedures agreed with the local community to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts identified, associated to the activities in the management unit;</p> <p>f) a compensation procedure for direct damages to the people or local communities caused by the activities of the management unit;</p> <p>g) a dissemination procedure towards the local community on the performance and risks associated to forest operations;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>h) implemented procedures of conflict resolution in a participative way, where every interest involved is considered.”</p> <p>“4.7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations, Indicators:</p> <p>a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations;</p> <p>b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest health state;</p> <p>c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products;</p> <p>d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies;</p> <p>e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results;</p> <p>f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”</p>
<p>Criterion 7: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)</p>		
<p>5.7.1 Forest management shall comply with legislation applicable to forest management issues including forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous people; health, labour and safety issues; and the payment of royalties and taxes.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“Cerfoar – Technical Document: 2. Argentine Forest Certification System - Cerfoar 2.3 Cerfoar’s documentary basis - IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.1 Principle 1 – Compliance with the law.”</p> <p>“2.3 Cerfoar’s documentary basis Cerfoar is based on the PEFC Scheme’s normative documentation approved by the PEFC Council and its corresponding guidelines. Cerfoar establishes the requirements for forest management certification of native and implanted forest and also, the requirements to track the related industries located in the Argentine Republic. The documentary basis of the system is composed of Cerfoar’s Technical Document (this document), IRAM standards of sustainable forest management, normative documentation of the PEFC Council and Cerfoar’s General Procedures. The technical standards of voluntary application which constitute the normative base of the Argentine Forest Certification System are the following IRAM Standards Series 39800 of Sustainable Forest Management, <input type="checkbox"/> IRAM 39801: in force, Sustainable Forest Management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management units.</p>

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		<p><input type="checkbox"/> IRAM 39803: in force, Sustainable forest management. Audit.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> IRAM 39805: in force, Sustainable Forest Management. Group certification</p> <p>Cerfoar Association adopts as Cerfoar standards the internationally established PEFC standards for chain of custody certification and logo usage:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PEFC ST 2002: in force, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products - Requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PEFC ST 2001: in force, PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements</p> <p>At the same time, through its general and internal procedures approved by the Board of Directors, Cerfoar Association details the rules for different areas of Cerfoar, such as requirements and procederes for the authorization of certification bodies, the arrangement to apply for the PEFC logo and trademark, tariff schedules, sampling ratio structure, etc.</p> <p>Cerfoar's General Procedures are the following:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PG01: in force. Cerfoar notification of certification bodies operating forest management and/or chain of custody certification in argentina.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PG02: in force. Procedure to be implemented by certification bodies to carry out forest management audits and certifications.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PG03: in force. Consultation procedure to the interested parties that shall implement certification bodies during forest management audits.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PG04: in force. Peers review procedure of the forest management certification report that shall implement the certification bodies.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PG05: in force. Procedures to elaborate forest management audits reports that shall be implemented by the certification bodies.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PG06 in force. Procedure for the resolution of disputes that the Association Cerfoar shall implement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PG07 in force. Procedure of issuance of PEFC logo use licenses by Cerfoar Association</p> <p>In addition to the requirements explicitly established by Cerfoar, applicant certification entities must meet national and local regulations and laws apply to them including those relating to fundamental ILO conventions, and other international conventions ratified by the country and that have a relationship and direct impact on sustainable forest management principles, or the traceability of forest-based products. Any apparent violation to the legislation must be considered in the certification and audit processes.</p> <p>With regards to the conversion of timberlands to other land uses, including the conversion of native forests to plantations, such conversion should not take place except in justified circumstances in which conversion:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> complies with national or provincial policies and relevant legislation on land use and forest management and is the result of state or regional territorial organization undertaken by the competent authority or another authority that includes consultation of people and organizations with a material and direct stake, and</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> involves a small proportion of the type of forest, and</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> has no negative effects on endangered forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare or endangered ecosystems), in culturally and socially significant areas, in the main habitats of endangered species or in other protected nature reserves, and</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> represents a long-term contribution to conservation, the economy or social benefit."</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>4.1 Principle 1 - Compliance with the law The forest producer shall respect the Argentine laws and regulations of national, provincial and municipal order which are in force, legally binding international treaties and conventions of which the country is signatory, as well as the signed commitments for the management unit. In the same way, they shall demonstrate a long term commitment to the principles, criteria and indicators of this standard."</p>
<p>5.7.2 Forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>"Cerfoar – Technical Document: 2. Argentine Forest Certification System - Cerfoar 2.3 Cerfoar's documentary basis - IRAM 39801. Sustainable forest management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management unit: 4.1 Principle 1 – Compliance with the law 4.3 Principle 3 – Maintenance of forest resources vitality, health and productivity 4.3.5 Criterion 3. 5 4.4 Principle 4 – Biological diversity maintenance 4.4.4 Criterion 4.4 4.7 Principle 7 – Monitoring and control 4.7.1 Criterion 7.1"</p> <p>"2.3 Cerfoar's documentary basis Cerfoar is based on the PEFC Scheme's normative documentation approved by the PEFC Council and its corresponding guidelines. Cerfoar establishes the requirements for forest management certification of native and implanted forest and also, the requirements to track the related industries located in the Argentine Republic. The documentary basis of the system is composed of Cerfoar's Technical Document (this document), IRAM standards of sustainable forest management, normative documentation of the PEFC Council and Cerfoar's General Procedures. The technical standards of voluntary application which constitute the normative base of the Argentine Forest Certification System are the following IRAM Standards Series 39800 of Sustainable Forest Management, <input type="checkbox"/> IRAM 39801: in force, Sustainable Forest Management. Principles, criteria and indicators for the management units. <input type="checkbox"/> IRAM 39803: in force, Sustainable forest management. Audit. <input type="checkbox"/> IRAM 39805: in force, Sustainable Forest Management. Group certification Cerfoar Association adopts as Cerfoar standards the internationally established PEFC standards for chain of custody certification and logo usage: <input type="checkbox"/> PEFC ST 2002: in force, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products - Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> PEFC ST 2001: in force, PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>At the same time, through its general and internal procedures approved by the Board of Directors, Cerfoar Association details the rules for different areas of Cerfoar, such as requirements and procederes for the authorization of certification bodies, the arrangement to apply for the PEFC logo and trademark, tariff schedules, sampling ratio structure, etc.</p> <p>Cerfoar's General Procedures are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> PG01: in force. Cerfoar notification of certification bodies operating forest management and/or chain of custody certification in argentina. <input type="checkbox"/> PG02: in force. Procedure to be implemented by certification bodies to carry out forest management audits and certifications. <input type="checkbox"/> PG03: in force. Consultation procedure to the interested parties that shall implement certification bodies during forest management audits. <input type="checkbox"/> PG04: in force. Peers review procedure of the forest management certification report that shall implement the certification bodies. <input type="checkbox"/> PG05: in force. Procedures to elaborate forest management audits reports that shall be implemented by the certification bodies. <input type="checkbox"/> PG06 in force. Procedure for the resolution of disputes that the Association Cerfoar shall implement <input type="checkbox"/> PG07 in force. Procedure of issuance of PEFC logo use licenses by Cerfoar Association <p>In addition to the requirements explicitly established by Cerfoar, applicant certification entities must meet national and local regulations and laws apply to them including those relating to fundamental ILO conventions, and other international conventions ratified by the country and that have a relationship and direct impact on sustainable forest management principles, or the traceability of forest-based products. Any apparent violation to the legislation must be considered in the certification and audit processes.</p> <p>With regards to the conversion of timberlands to other land uses, including the conversion of native forests to plantations, such conversion should not take place except in justified circumstances in which conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> complies with national or provincial policies and relevant legislation on land use and forest management and is the result of state or regional territorial organization undertaken by the competent authority or another authority that includes consultation of people and organizations with a material and direct stake, and <input type="checkbox"/> involves a small proportion of the type of forest, and <input type="checkbox"/> has no negative effects on endangered forest ecosystems (including vulnerable, rare or endangered ecosystems), in culturally and socially significant areas, in the main habitats of endangered species or in other protected nature reserves, and <input type="checkbox"/> represents a long-term contribution to conservation, the economy or social benefit." <p>"4.1 Principle 1 - Compliance with the law</p> <p>The forest producer shall respect the Argentine laws and regulations of national, provincial and municipal order which are in force, legally binding international treaties and conventions of which the country is signatory, as well as the signed commitments for the management unit. In the same way, they shall demonstrate a long term commitment to the principles, criteria and indicators of this standard."</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>“4.3.5 Criterion 3.5. The forest producer adopts effective measures to prevent, detect and control forest fires. Indicators: a) an implemented program, to prevent and control the occurrence of forest fires; b) training for forest workers on how to prevent and control forest fires.”</p> <p>“4.4.4 Criterion 4.4. Rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, as well as their habitats have specific prescriptions of protection, included in the management plan, which assure their conservation. Indicators: a) implemented procedures for the identification and record of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, and their habitat, present in the management unit; NOTE. In the identification of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species, it is considered what is important in the red books or what is stated by the competent authority, among others. b) identification in the cartography of the management plan of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species and their habitats; c) adoption of practices for the protection of rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species and their habitats during forest operations; d) the extraction, cutting, hunting of any rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species is controlled; e) implemented procedure of record and report to the competent authority, of the presence of non-authorized hunters, fishers or harvesters within the management unit.”</p> <p>“4.7.1 Criterion 7.1. The forest producer establishes, documents and implements procedures to evaluate periodically the condition of forest resources and the most significant environmental, social and economic impacts of forest operations, Indicators: a) documented and implemented procedure which includes the query to the relevant interested parties, to identify, monitor, evaluate and register the most significant environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations; b) documented and implemented procedure to measure and record periodically the productivity of the place, the growth and forest health state; c) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of every harvested or produced forest products; d) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the performance of service provider companies; e) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record periodically financial and economic results;</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “The IRAM 39801 standard states, in several of its requirements, that the forest manager shall implement actions to provide of adequate protection of the forest from unauthorized activities such as: illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally Initiated fires, and other illegal activities See - 4.1.2 Criterion 1.2 indicators: d) the forest producer acts in an effective way for the resolution of possible legal conflicts and conflicts of any kind related to the possession of land and damages caused to third parties; (land intrusion, illegal land use) - 4.3.5 Criterion 3.5. Indicator: a) an implemented program, to prevent and control the occurrence of forest fires; - 4.4.4 Criterion 4.4. indicators: d) the extraction, cutting, hunting of any rare, vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered for conservation species is controlled; e) implemented procedure of record and report to the competent authority, of the presence of non-authorized hunters, fishers or harvesters within the management unit. 4.7.1 Criterion 7.1. indicator: f) documented and implemented procedure to monitor, evaluate and record the compliance of the management plan and forest operations with the legislation and policies, procedures, instruction manuals and good practices codes signed for the management unit. And the IRAM 39801 standard sets as requirement on: 4.1.5 Criterion 1.5. The forest producer assumes a log-term commitment to support the principles and criteria of this standard. Indicators: a) the forest producer makes public and documents their commitment to provide long-term support to the principles and criteria of this standard. b) long-term planning of sustainable forest management in the management unit; c) service provider companies know and respect the principles and criteria of this standard.”</p>

* If the answer to any question is no, the application documentation shall indicate for each element why and what alternative measures have been taken to address the element in question.

1.4 PART IV: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for certification and accreditation procedures (Annex 6)

1.4.1 Scope

This document covers requirements for certification and accreditation procedures given in Annex 6 to the PEFC Council Technical Document (*Certification and accreditation procedures*).

Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

1.4.2 Checklist

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
Certification Bodies				
1.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification shall be carried out by impartial, independent third parties that cannot be involved in the standard setting process as governing or decision making body, or in the forest management and are independent of the certified entity?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	Cerfoar - Technical Document Chapter 4.5 "Certification bodies operating under the Cerfoar, shall be impartial third parties independent both of the forest management and of the certified entity, and shall not be an organ of decision in the standards drafting process;"
2.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification or chain of custody certification against a scheme specific chain of	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<u>FM:</u> Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 3 "The Certification Body shall meet the requirements of the International Standard ISO/IEC 17021 in force, and Cerfoar General Procedure PG 02 in force, to carry out Sustainable Forest Management audits and Cerfoar certifications."

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	custody standard shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65?			<p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) and the PEFC ST 2002:2013 COC Requirements are adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
3.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body chain of custody certification against Annex 4 shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO Guide 65?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) is adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
4.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest certification shall have the technical competence in forest management on its economic, social and environmental impacts, and on the forest certification criteria?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 3</p> <p>"The Certification Body shall ensure that auditors demonstrate ability to apply knowledge and skills in the following areas:</p> <p>a) Principles and requirements in IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805 in force;</p> <p>b) Knowledge of the socio-cultural issues in the region of application of the forest management standard;</p> <p>c) Audit principles, procedures and techniques: To enable the auditor to apply them correctly in the different audits and ensure that audits are conducted in a consistent and systematic manner.</p> <p>d) Organization situations including organizational size, structure, functions and relationships with other organizations and the community, general forest business aspects, terminology, socio-cultural customs, working language: To enable the auditor to comprehend the organization;</p> <p>e) Legislation, regulations or other relevant requirements – enabling the auditor to operate in the right legal framework and to be aware of the legislative requirements applicable to the entity which is the subject of the audit,</p> <p>f) The principles of forest management based on techniques involving planning of forest management,</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
				inventories, forest cropping, protection and management of forest ecosystems: To enable the auditor to evaluate the forest management system and to decide whether it is being adequately applied; g) Environment science and techniques and the economic principles applicable to forest management: To enable the auditor to understand the fundamental relations between human activities and sustainable forest management; h) Technical aspects of forestry operations: To enable the auditor to understand the activities of the audited entities and their effects in the management of its forestry resources and the territory. At the same time, the Certification Body shall ensure that responsible forest auditors or leaders have additional knowledge and skills in audit leadership to ease their effective and efficient performance."
5.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out C-o-C certifications shall have technical competence in forest based products procurement and processing and material flows in different stages of processing and trading?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<u>COC:</u> Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1 The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) is adopted in full by Cerfoar.
6.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have a good understanding of the national PEFC system against which they carry out forest management or C-o-C certifications?	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	Cerfoar - Technical Document " Certification bodies operating under the Cerfoar..... shall have appropriate technical competence in certification procedures, adequate know-how in forest management and forest products procurement and processing in general, respectively, and shall have a good understanding of the certification criteria of PEFC Council and Cerfoar."

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
7.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies have the responsibility to use competent auditors and who have adequate technical know-how on the certification process and issues related to forest management or chain of custody certification?	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 6</p> <p>"The Certification Body shall ensure that all the personnel performing key activities in its organization such as contract revision, certification issuance, auditors surveillance, among others, have the adequate competence for these activities. The Certification Body shall ensure that forest auditors have a tertiary or higher degree in the specific forest area. The Certification Body shall ensure that leader forest auditors have a grade or post graduate degree related to forest issues. The Certification Body shall ensure that forest auditors, in the last two years, have participated in a training programme in forest management recognized by Cerfoar. The Certification Body shall ensure that the forest auditor has a minimum of 3 (three) years experience full time in the forestry sector. The number of years of experience can be reduced to (1) one if the auditor has a grade or post graduate degree related to forest issues. The Certification Body shall ensure that the leader forest auditor has a minimum of 2 (two) years experience full time in the forestry sector."</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) is adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
8.	Does the scheme documentation require that the auditors must fulfil the general criteria of ISO 19011 for Quality Management Systems auditors or for Environmental Management Systems	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 8.1.3</p> <p>"The Certification Body shall evaluate the composition of the audit team in relation to: The characteristic of the forest management to be assessed, competence required define for auditors in ISO/IEC 19011 standard in force; and the other criteria for Cerfoar accreditation."</p> <p>In addition, Annex 1 requires training in ISO 19011 for auditors.</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	auditors?			<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) is adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
9.	Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management or chain of custody audits? [*1]	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 6.2</p> <p>A high number of additional qualification requirements for auditors is listed in this chapter.</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) is adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
Certification procedures				
10.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management and/or chain of custody certification?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0202 Chapter 4</p> <p>"The Certification Body shall develop, document and implement its procedures to carry out forest management audits and certification, in conformity with the established requirements by this general procedure."</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) is adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
11.	Does the scheme	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	documentation require that applied certification procedures for forest management certification or chain of custody certification against a scheme specific chain of custody standard shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65?			<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 3</p> <p>"The Certification Body shall meet the requirements of the International Standard ISO/IEC 17021 in force, and Cerfoar General Procedure PG 02 in force, to carry out Sustainable Forest Management audits and Cerfoar certifications."</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) and the PEFC ST 2002:2013 COC Requirements are adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
12.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification procedures for chain of custody certification against Annex 4 shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO Guide 65?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) and the PEFC ST 2002:2013 COC Requirements are adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
13.	Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 3</p> <p>"The Certification Body shall implement audit procedures in conformity with the guidelines established in the standard ISO / IEC 19011: in force"</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
				The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) and the PEFC ST 2002:2013 COC Requirements are adopted in full by Cerfoar.
14.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest management and chain of custody certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM and COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 6</p> <p>"4. Provide Cerfoar Association immediately and truthfully with a completed reporting form for each PEFC chain of custody and Cerfoar sustainable forest management granted in Argentina as established in the certificate report forms"</p> <p>The requirements are spelled out in Annex 1 (notification contracts for FM and COC certification bodies).</p>
15.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall carry out controls of PEFC logo usage if the certified entity is a PEFC logo user?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 8.3</p> <p>"During each surveillance audit the Certification Body shall at least check the following documents and records:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>- the procedures and records of PEFC brand/logo usage and the declarations including sub-licenses in the case of group certification."</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) and the PEFC ST 2002:2013 COC Requirements</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
				are adopted in full by Cerfoar.
16.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 8.3 "The Certification Body shall perform within a maximum time of one year, surveillance audits to verify continued compliance of the certificate holder's with the specified certification requirements."</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) and the PEFC ST 2002:2013 COC Requirements are adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
17	Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for both forest management and chain of custody certifications?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 8.1.1 "The audit programme shall include an initial certification audit in two stages, followup annual audits and a certificate renewal audit within the last year of the certification cycle, before the certificate expires. The certification cycle of three years starts with the decision of certification or renewal of the certification."</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) and the PEFC ST 2002:2013 COC Requirements are adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
18	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 12_PG 0502 Chapter 3</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	report summaries?			<p>"The report of the initial certification audit and the re-certification audit shall consist of a public part available to all the interested parties which content is specified in sections 4.1 and 4.2 and a confidential documentation attached of features and contents specified in section 4.3 (confidential documents attached to the initial certification report and the re-certification audit report). Likewise, the results of all surveillance audits shall be documented by the Certification Body in surveillance audit reports.</p> <p>The reports of the surveillance audit shall consist of a public part available to all interested parties, which content is specified in sections 5.1 and 5.2 and a confidential documentation attached of features and contents specified in section 5.3 (confidential documents attached to the surveillance audit report)."</p> <p><u>COC:</u> Not applicable, since COC reports do not have to be publicly available.</p>
19	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 8.2.2</p> <p>5. Interested parties and applicable authorities</p> <p>"The Certification Body shall identify and make a list of individuals and organizations who can be contacted as interested parties during the certification audit. If possible, the Certification Body shall obtain the contact details of these interested parties and define the best mechanisms to contact them. The Certification Body shall, in turn, identify all enforcement authorities, local and national, to be contacted during the certification audit. The Certification Body shall start the consultation process to the interested parties during the preparation of the certification audit in conformity to <i>PG 03</i>. In force. Consultation to parties interested in SFM assessment."</p> <p><u>COC:</u> Not applicable, since COC reports do not have to be publicly available.</p>
20.	Does the scheme documentation include	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	additional requirements for certification procedures? [1]			<p>Additional requirements are documented in the Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0202, Cerfoar_ANNEX 10_PG 0302, Cerfoar_ANNEX 11_PG 0402 and Cerfoar_ANNEX 12_PG 0502.</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 1</p> <p>The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) and the PEFC ST 2002:2013 COC Requirements are adopted in full by Cerfoar.</p>
Accreditation procedures				
21.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest management and/or chain of custody certification shall be accredited by a national accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103 Chapter 4</p> <p>"The Certification Body applying for Cerfoar notification from the Cerfoar Association shall:</p> <p>....</p> <p>have valid accreditation, for Cerfoar certification of the sustainable forest management issued by Argentinean Accreditation Body (OAA) that is signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for management system certification of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The accreditation shall be issued against ISO/IEC 17021 in force and against additional scheme specific requirements established by Cerfoar, and the scope of the accreditation shall explicitly include IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805"</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 4</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
				<p>"The Certification Body applying for Cerfoar notification from the Cerfoar Association shall:</p> <p>....</p> <p>have valid accreditation, issued by Argentinean Accreditation Body (OAA) that is signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for product certification of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The accreditation shall be issued against ISO/IEC 17065:inforce and against additional requirements specifically defined by the PEFC Council, and the scope of the accreditation shall explicitly include PEFC 2002:in force"</p>
22.	Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p>Cerfoar - Technical Document Chapter 5</p> <p>"Accredited forest management and chain of custody certificates shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body."</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 3.1</p> <p>3.1 Accredited certificate</p> <p>"A certificate issued by a certification body within the scope of its accreditation which bears the accreditation body's symbol."</p>
23.	Does the scheme documentation require that the accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body which is a part of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) umbrella or a member of IAF's special recognition regional groups and which implement procedures described in	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p>Cerfoar - Technical Document Chater 5.3</p> <p>"OAA is the body designated by the Presidential Decree 1474/94 to establish and maintain the accreditation system to a national level in accordance to international standards and following policies and recommendations established by the Argentine State.</p> <p>....</p> <p>OAA is member of the following International bodies: Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation -IAAC, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation - ILAC, and IAF.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>OAA applies the procedures described in standard ISO/IEC 17011: in force, Conformity assessment -</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?			General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting assessment of conformity and other documents provided by the IAF."
24.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management or/and chain of custody certification against a scheme specific chain of custody standard as "accredited certification" based on ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65 and the relevant forest management or chain of custody standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p><u>FM:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 4</p> <p>"The Certification Body applying for Cerfoar notification from the Cerfoar Association shall:</p> <p>....</p> <p>have valid accreditation, for Cerfoar certification of the sustainable forest management issued by Argentinean Accreditation Body (OAA) that is signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for management system certification of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The accreditation shall be issued against ISO/IEC 17021 in force and against additional scheme specific requirements established by Cerfoar, and the scope of the accreditation shall explicitly include IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805"</p> <p><u>COC:</u></p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 4</p> <p>"The Certification Body applying for Cerfoar notification from the Cerfoar Association shall:</p> <p>....</p> <p>have valid accreditation, issued by Argentinean Accreditation Body (OAA) that is signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for product certification of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The accreditation shall be issued against ISO/IEC 17065:inforce and against additional requirements specifically defined by the PEFC Council, and the scope of the accreditation shall</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
				explicitly include PEFC 2002:2010"
25.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake chain of custody certification against Annex 4 as "accredited certification" based on ISO Guide 65?	Annex 6, 5	YES	<u>COC:</u> Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 1 The PEFC ST 2003:2012 CB Requirements (COC) and the PEFC ST 2002:2013 COC Requirements are adopted in full by Cerfoar.
26.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6	YES	Cerfoar - Technical Document Chapter 5 "Only those certificates of forest management and chain of custody issued by accredited OAA and Cerfoar or PEFC notified certification bodies are recognized by Cerfoar: - the Cerfoar requirements for notifications are defined in the Cerfoar General Procedures PG01: in force. Cerfoar Notification for certification bodies to work in Argentine in sustainable forest management certification and/or chain of custody. - the Cerfoar requirements for accreditation are defined in the OAA CE-CP-02. Specific criteria for the evaluation and accreditation of bodies that certify sustainable forest management and chain of custody under the Argentine Forest Certification System."
27.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6	YES	Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0102 The requirements for notification of certification bodies do not show any signs of discriminatory procedures.

* If the answer to any question is no, the application documentation shall indicate for each element why and what alternative measures have been taken to address the element in question.

[*1] This is not an obligatory requirement

1.5 Part V: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for system specific Chain of custody standards – COMPLIANCE WITH PEFC ST PEFC 2002:2010

1.5.1 Scope

Part V is used for the assessment of scheme specific chain of custody standards against PEFC ST 2002:2010 (*Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products - Requirements*).

Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the technical document.

The standard PEFC ST 2002:2013, "Chain of Custody of Forest-Based Products – Requirements" has been adopted by the Board of Directors of the Cerfoar Association on 05.08.2013 (see Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 1 and 2) to be the COC standard for the Argentine PEFC Scheme.

1.6 Part VI: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for scheme administration requirements

1.6.1 Scope

Part VI is used for the assessment of requirements for the administration of PEFC schemes outlined in PEFC 1004:2009, *Administration of PEFC scheme*. Any inconsistencies between this text and the original referred to document will be overruled by the content and wording of the standard or the guide. The compliance with these requirements is only evaluated in the first PEFC assessment of a scheme or on specific request by the PEFC Secretariat.

1.6.2 Checklist

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
PEFC Notification of certification bodies				
1.	Are procedures for the notification of certification bodies in place, which comply with chapter 5 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme</i> ?	Chapter 5	YES	<p>The notification body is the Cerfoar association. The requirements are laid down in the Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0102.</p> <p>Requirement 5.1.a)</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 4</p> <p>"The Certification Body applying for Cerfoar notification from the Cerfoar Association shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be a legal entity; - agree to be listed on the publicly available Cerfoar and PEFC Council Internet database including the certification body's identification data and / or other data as specified by Cerfoar and the PEFC Council; - have valid accreditation, for Cerfoar certification of the sustainable forest management issued by Argentinean Accreditation Body (OAA) that is signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for management system certification of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The accreditation shall be issued against ISO/IEC 17021 in force and against additional scheme specific requirements established by Cerfoar, and the scope of the accreditation shall explicitly include IRAM 39801 and IRAM 39805, and/or - have valid accreditation, issued by Argentinean Accreditation Body (OAA) that is signatory of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for product certification of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). The accreditation shall be issued against ISO/IEC 17065:inforce and against additional requirements specifically defined by the PEFC Council, and the scope of

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>the accreditation shall explicitly include PEFC 2002:2010;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note: The additional requirements specifically defined by the PEFC Council for the certification bodies operating a PEFC chain of custody are specified in PEFC ST 2003: in force. - - sign a Cerfoar notification contract with the Cerfoar Association (Appendix 1)." <p>Requirement 5.1.b)</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 6</p> <p>"2. Carry out Cerfoar’s sustainable forest management certification against IRAM 39801, Sustainable Forest Management. Principles, criteria and indicators of the management unit and IRAM 39805 Sustainable Forest Management. Group Certification, within the scope of the valid accreditation. 3. Carry out Cerfoar chain of custody certification against PEFC ST 2002:in force within the scope of the valid accreditation."</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 1</p> <p>The Cerfoar adopted the PEFC ST 2001:in force (logo usage), PEFC ST2002:in force (COC requirements) and PEFC ST 2003:in force (CB requirements - COC).</p> <p>The activities are related to certification processes in Argentina.</p> <p>Requirement 5.1.c)</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 7</p> <p>"Cerfoar Notification is valid for the period of the validity of the Certification Body’s accreditation. The Cerfoar Notification can be terminated or suspended immediately by the Cerfoar association if the notification contract is violated."</p> <p>Requirement 5.1.d)</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 4</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>"The Certification Body applying for Cerfoar notification from the Cerfoar Association shall: ... - sign a Cerfoar notification contract with the Cerfoar Association (Appendix 1)."</p> <p>Requirement 5.1.e)</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 08_PG 0103Chapter 6</p> <p>"The Cerfoar notified Certification Body shall: 4. Provide Cerfoar Association immediately and truthfully with a completed reporting form for each PEFC chain of custody and Cerfoar sustainable forest management granted in Argentina as established in the certificate report forms (see Annex 3) and provide information on changes concerning reported certificates. Data will be the necessary to fulfill Cerfoar association`s register of certified entities and it shall include, as specified, the identification of each management unit included in the scope of the SFM group certification and the identification of every site covered by a multi-site chain of custody certificate."</p> <p>Requirement 5.1.f)</p> <p>The assessment of the notification requirements does not indicate any discriminatory procedures.</p> <p>Requirement 5.2)</p> <p>The Cerfoar scheme documentation does not provide any procedures to request notification fees from notified CBs. However, the Cerfoar association established procedures to request a logo license fee instead of a notification fee.</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 Chapter 6</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>"6. LOGO USE FEE The following fees apply: a) Issuance fee The issuance fee covers expenses incurred by the administration of the application and the reproduction and distribution of the PEFC Logo Use Toolkit. The fee shall be paid in advance of the Logo Use Contract becoming effective. b) Periodic fee The periodic fee shall be paid annually by a PEFC logo license holder. No refund is given in case of the license termination. Fees are set out in appendix 4 of this document, and subject to change by the Cerfoar Association Board of Directors." A form to submit the logo license fees to PEFC Council when requested is attached in Annex 3 of the document.</p>
PEFC Logo usage licensing				
2.	Are procedures for the issuance of PEFC Logo usage licenses in place, which comply with chapter 6 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme</i> ?	Chapter 6	YES	<p>Cerfoar - Technical Document Chapter 6 "Based on the contract with PEFC Council, Cerfoar Association is a license holder entitled to use the PEFC trademark in Argentine Republic and, on behalf of PEFC Council, it is authorised to issue licenses to the holders of forest management or chain of custody certificates." Requirement 6.1.1) Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 Chapter 1 "This Cerfoar General Procedures sets out the rules for the issuance of PEFC logo use licenses, hereafter "licenses", by the Cerfoar Association to ensure legally compliant use of the PEFC Logo in accordance with the PEFC Logo usage rules – requirements, PEFC ST 2001:2008." Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 Chapter 4.1 "An entity applying for the license shall</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>a) be a legal entity" Requirement 6.1.2) Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 Chapter 4.2</p> <p>The holder of multisite chain of custody certification which central office is located in Argentina can apply for multi-license covering the whole or a part of the scope of the multi-site certification provided that:</p> <p>a) the central office and the sites are a part of a single legal entity, or b) the central office and the sites are a part of a single company with a single management and organisational structure.</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.1.a) Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 Chapter 4.2</p> <p>All logo user categories have to sign a logo licensing contract with the Cerfoar association. Requirement 6.2.1.b) Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 Chapter 1</p> <p>"This Cerfoar General Procedures sets out the rules for the issuance of PEFC logo use licenses, hereafter "licenses", by the Cerfoar Association to ensure legally compliant use of the PEFC Logo in accordance with the PEFC Logo usage rules – requirements, PEFC ST 2001:2008."</p> <p>The example for the Cerfoar PEFC logo use contract in the Annex 1 also requires the implementation of the PEFC ST 2001:2008.</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 8</p> <p>The CBs are responsible for the control of the logo usage by certified entities.</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.1.c)</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 Chapter 1</p> <p>"This Cerfoar General Procedure has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Cerfoar Association and it is applied for issuance of Logo License to the following logo users: User group B: Forest owner / manager, User group C: Forest related industries, User category D: Other users"</p> <p>More specific requirements for the user groups are listed in chapter 4.2.</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.1.d)</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 Annex 1 (example of logo licensing contract)</p> <p>Article 6 of the contract example shows that the Cerfoar association has the right to suspend or terminate the contract with immediate effect in case of missuse of the logo by certificate holders.</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.1.e)</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 Annex 1, Article 5 (example of logo licensing contract)</p> <p>"1. The Cerfoar Association may impose, in case of user group B and C, a contractual penalty of a AR\$ (Argentinean pesos) amount being one-fifth the market value of the products to which unauthorised on- or off-product logo use relates, unless the logo user proves that such unauthorised use was unintentional. In the latter case the penalty will be limited to XX AR\$."</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.2)</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 09_PG 0203 Chapter 8</p> <p>The CBs are responsible for the control of the logo usage by certified entities and report any missuse to the Cerfoar association.</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 14_PG 0701 Annex 1, Article 5 and 6 (example of logo licensing contract)</p> <p>Further measures as penalties or suspension / termination of the logo usage license by Cerfoar are specified in the logo user contract between the Cerfoar association and the logo users.</p>
Complaints and dispute procedures				
3.	<p>Are complaint and dispute procedures in place, which comply with chapter 6 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme</i>?</p>		YES	<p>Requirement 8.1) The complaint and dispute procedures of the Cerfoar association are documented in the Cerfoar_ANNEX 13_PG 0601. " This General Procedure has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Cerfoar Association and applies to the process of treating complaints and solving disputes related to the implementation of the Argentine Forest Certification System or to the sustainable forest management certification procedure and/or chain of custody, which cannot be solved through the disputes resolution procedures of the authorized Certification Body or the appropriate Accreditation Body."</p> <p>Requirement 8.2.a) Cerfoar_ANNEX 13_PG 0602 Chapter 4 "The process of treating complaints and solving disputes shall follow these stages: 2. Acknowledgement of receipt of the complaint: the Executive Secretariat notifies the complainant of the receipt of the complaint immediately and in a documented manner."</p> <p>Requirement 8.2.b) Cerfoar_ANNEX 13_PG 0602 Chapter 4 "The process of treating complaints and solving disputes shall follow these stages: 1. Receipt of the complaint: the Executive Secretariat registers the complaint with the supporting information (background and evidence provided by the complainant) and identifies it unmistakably. The registration of the complaint shall identify the solution sought by the complainant and any other information necessary for the effective treatment of the complaint."</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>.....</p> <p>3. Assessment of the complaint: the Executive Secretariat assesses the relevance of the complaint to verify that this is within the scope of the PG 06. in force. In case the complaint is rejected, this shall be reported to the complainant together with the justification for the decision adopted.</p> <p>4. Investigation of the complaint: the Executive Secretariat investigates the complaint and all the circumstances that led to it, analyses the supporting information and in case it is not sufficient it will request its extension on the part of the complainant or the other parties involved. The level of investigation shall be proportional to the seriousness, frequency and severity of the complaint. The Executive Secretariat shall prepare a report with the results of the investigation.</p> <p>5. Notification of the Disputes Resolution Committee: the Executive Secretariat shall, within no more than 60 days after receipt of the complaint, summon the members that compose the committee that will raise each complaint in particular. Each member of the committee receives a copy of the report of the investigation of the complaint elaborated by the executive secretariat.</p> <p>6. Resolution of the complaint: the Disputes Resolution Committee shall celebrate the first meeting in no more than 90 days from the reception of the complaint. The Committee has the power to summon an independent external expert for complex complaints that deserve so. The decision will be taken by simple majority within 60 days from the first meeting of the Disputes Resolution Committee. The Committee's decision is binding and terminates the process of treatment of a complaint and resolution of disputes in the Cerfoar Association."</p> <p>Requirement 8.2.c)</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 13_PG 0602 Chapter 4</p> <p>"7. Communication of the resolution of the complaint: the Executive Secretariat informs the complainant of the decision taken by the committee."</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>Requirement 8.2.d)</p> <p>Cerfoar_ANNEX 13_PG 0602 Chapter 4</p> <p>"8. Implementation of appropriate corrective and preventive actions: where appropriate, depending on the analysis and resolution of the complaint, the Executive Secretariat shall implement appropriate corrective and/or preventive actions.</p> <p>9. Follow-up and records of the process of the treatment of the complaint: the Executive Secretariat carries out the follow-up and keeps a record of the whole process of treatment of the complaint and dispute resolution, including the implementation of corrective and/or preventive actions and its effectiveness and the minutes of the meetings of the Disputes Resolution Committee."</p>

Annex 2: Results of stakeholder survey

1. Stakeholder survey response

A stakeholder survey was conducted from Wednesday 08.01.2014 to 22.01.2014. Invitations to complete the online stakeholder survey were sent to all participants in the standard setting forum via e-mail – this included a total of 93 stakeholders (see Table 8). The survey was completed by 15 stakeholders (6%). The questionnaire was sent translated in Spanish.

Table 3: Stakeholder categories responding to stakeholder survey

1. What stakeholder category do you represent?	Response Count	Response Percent
Administration	1	6%
Economic	9	50%
Social	1	6%
Environment	6	33%
Other	1	6%
Total	18	100%

Note that three out of the 15 stakeholders who responded counted themselves in both Economic and Environment.

2. Survey results

The following table shows the content of the questions 2 - 10 from the questionnaire sent to the stakeholders, including the response count and percentage calculation concerning the individual questions.

Table 4: Results of stakeholder survey - counts and percentages

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
2. Did the participating stakeholders represent the range of interests in forest management in your country (environmental organizations, social organizations and economical representatives)?		
Yes	13	87%
No	0	0%
Partially	2	13%
Please specify the type of interested party who was not represented (social, environmental organizations, or the private sector) or make comments.	3	
3. Were you satisfied with the way of determining and approaching disadvantaged stakeholders? A "disadvantaged stakeholder" may be disadvantaged from a financial standpoint or in some other way with respect to standards development work.)		
Yes	13	87%
No	0	0%

Partially	2	13%
Comments	3	
4. Were the standard revision documents, including working drafts, meeting minutes etc. made available to you during the work of the Forum?		
Yes	15	100%
No	0	0%
Partially	0	%
Comments	2	
5. Were you provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts?		
Yes	14	93%
No	0	0%
Partially	1	7%
Comments	1	
6. Have comments and views that you submitted been considered by the working group/committee in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes recorded		
Yes	15	100%
No	0	0%
Partially	0	0%
Comments	2	
7. Was the enquiry draft publicly available and accessible?		
Yes	13	87%
No	0	0%
Partially	2	13%
Comments	3	
8. Were you satisfied with the decision making process, where a consensus was not reached?		
Yes	12	80%
No	0	0%
Partially	2	13%
Comments	2	
9. Did you receive a final draft of the scheme documentation and did you have the opportunity to comment?		
Yes	13	87%
No	2	13%
Partially	0	0%
Comments	2	
10. Please provide any further comments on the standard revision process.		
Comments	7	

3. Breakdown of comments

The breakdown of comments of the individual stakeholders is shown in the following table. The comments are anonymous.

Table 5: Stakeholder survey - breakdown of comments

2. Please specify the type of interested party who was not represented (social, environmental organizations, or the private sector) or make comments.	
1	Participaron representantes del estado, particulares, ONG. Se armaron talleres de revisión de la norma con aportes de sectores sociales, ambientales y uno comerciales.
2	En el comité participaron organismos gubernamentales, ONGs, Universidades, Sector privado.
3	Principalmente los pequeños productores y en particular los dueños de bosque nativo
3. Were you satisfied with the way of determining and approaching disadvantaged stakeholders? Comments	
1	Como partes interesadas desfavorecidas se podría definir a las provincias del interior del país, dado que el lugar donde se encuentra IRAM y donde funcionaba la comisión de revisión es Buenos Aires, pero para suplir esta situación de hicieron talleres y jornadas de sensibilización y de discusión y análisis de la norma en diferentes provincias. Como empresa hemos participado tanto en reuniones en Buenos Aires como en talleres en Misiones.
2	En todo momento se tuvo en cuenta la opinión de todas las partes interesadas buscando el perfecto equilibrio y si existía alguna parte desfavorecida se analizó y discutió hasta llegar a un acuerdo o que la parte entendiera claramente porque se tomaba esa postura.
3	El proceso se realizó principalmente en Buenos Aires, lejos de las áreas productivas del país
4. Were the standard revision documents, including working drafts, meeting minutes etc. made available to you during the work of the Forum? Comments	
1	Durante la reuniones y talleres se contaba con toda la información necesaria.
2	En todo momento eran facilitados vía mail a lo largo del proceso
5. Were you provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts? Comments	
1	Tanto en la reuniones como en los talleres el espacio de discusión y aportes siempre fue abierto.
6. Have comments and views that you submitted been considered by the working group/committee in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes recorded Comments	
1	Como participante de grupo de trabajo hemos analizado comentarios y sugerencias recibidas de las partes interesadas. Todos los comentarios y opiniones relevantes para definiciones de la norma quedan plasmados en las actas de las reuniones.
2	Se discutieron con todo el grupo de trabajo cada opinión y comentario que se realizaba
7. Was the enquiry draft publicly available and accessible? Comments	
1	El borrador fue enviado a todas las partes interesadas que figuraban en la

	base, disponible para comités y grupos de trabajo, y a disposición para cualquier interesado fuera de las partes interesadas mencionadas.
2	Se que se pretendió comunicar, desconozco el universo ante el cual se hizo disponible.
3	A mi disposición
8. Were you satisfied with the decision making process, where a consensus was not reached? Comments	
1	En el acta de una reunión figura una situación en la cual hubieron varias opiniones diferentes frente a las definiciones de uso de Organismos Genéticamente Modificados, como para clarificar esta situación se solicitó el aporte de una especialista y en base a la información brindada por la misma se pudo llegar a una definición.
2	Se llevo a consenso en las reuniones en las que participe.
9. Did you receive a final draft of the scheme documentation and did you have the opportunity to comment?Comments	
1	Como participante del organismo de estudio de norma grupo 2 tuvimos acceso a la documentación y a los comentarios, así también sabemos de varias partes interesadas, que no se encontraban en ninguno de los grupos que recibieron el material.
2	Lo recibí, pero no opiné al respecto dado que consideré aceptable lo redactado.
10. Please provide any further comments on the standard revision process.	
1	La empresa fue organizadora y anfitriona de un taller de difusión de la norma dirigido a proveedores de materia prima forestal, industrias locales e instituciones varias donde se presentaron las norma de gestión forestal y la norma de grupo
2	Sin comentarios.
3	Solicitar a las empresas mayor participación, no solo en lo económico.
4	En mi opinión (aunque sea juez y parte por mi permanente participación desde la creación del grupo, habiendo sido designado secretario en algún período) el trabajo fue de una total honestidad profesional y los resultados fueron muy buenos. Aun habrá instancias futuras de mejora, seguramente. En general percibi la satisfacción de muchos miembros del grupo por la meta alcanzada.
5	El proceso fue participativo y transparente, dando a los distintos actores espacio y tiempo para satisfacer su necesidad de información.
6	El proceso fue abierto y participativo. Se realizaron muchos talleres, reuniones y rondas de documentos
7	Como en muchos comités interdisciplinarios, la falta de continuidad de la asistencia a las reuniones de comité de los participantes hace engorroso la tarea de normalización.

4. List of stakeholder respondents to the consultation

The stakeholders which responded to the survey are shown in the table below, including the organization they are representing.

Table 6: List of stakeholders respondents to the stakeholder survey

Organisation/Position	Name
CONICET	Juan Gowda
EDERRA S.A.	Fernando Mendizábal
FORESTADORA TAPEBICUÁ S. A.	Mirta N. Baez
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ASUNTOS INDÍGENAS	Beatriz Cachero
INTA - INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE TECNOLOGÍA AGROPECUARIA	Natalia Gabriela Fracassi
INTI - INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE TECNOLOGÍA INDUSTRIAL	Mirta De Los Ángeles Miño
IRAM - INSTITUTO ARGENTINO DE NORMALIZACIÓN Y CERTIFICACIÓN	María Aurora Agulló
OAA - ORGANISMO ARGENTINO DE ACREDITACIÓN	Sergio Deibe
PAPEL MISIONERO	Martin Chiluk
PAPEL PRENSA S. A.	Federico Svava
PAPEL PRENSA S. A.	Jorge Scarpa
SAyDS - SECRETARÍA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE	Norma Esper
UBA - FACULTAD DE AGRONOMÍA; DIRECCION DE PRODUCCIÓN FORESTAL - MAGyP	Esteban Borodowski
UNC - UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE CÓRDOBA	Mónica Dorado
Unknown	Jorge Nelson, Int. Esp. Pardías

Annex 3: Results of international consultation

PEFCC carried out a sixty day global public consultation during which period all interested stakeholders were invited to submit comments directly to PEFCC. This was held from 27.8.2013 to 26.10.2013. Seven responses were submitted. All respondents made positive comments and highlighted the importance of the Cerfoar Scheme for Argentina. No negative comments were received.

One

En la Provincia de Corrientes, el sector forestal se destaca en muchos aspectos sobre los demás sectores productivos locales. Es el de mayor superficie cultivada (más de 500.000 hectáreas), expansión territorial diversificada, 10 millones de toneladas de madera por año para industrializar, generador de innumerables puestos de trabajos directos e indirectos, gran impacto en el PBI provincial, oportunidades de inversiones en el sector (Secaderos, Planta Tableros MDF, Planta de Impregnación, Generación de Energía por Biomasa, Planta de Pellet y Briquetas, Industria Mueblera, Planta de Celulosa), creciente participación en las exportaciones de la provincia al mundo. Sobre esto último se puede expresar que los últimos años el valor de exportación del sector fue 25 millones de dólares por año, siendo los principales productos exportados las molduras de pino (NCM4409.10) y las maderas aserradas de pino (4407.10). Respecto a los países de destinos, ellos fueron Estados Unidos (71%), Italia (5%), China (4%), Vietnam (3%), resto del mundo (18%)

La certificación CERFOAR – PEFC favorecerá en todos los aspectos al sector forestal de la provincia, región y a nivel nacional. Independiente de los aspectos ambientales y sociales, que indiscutidamente la repercusión es positiva, en el aspecto económico también lo son.

Para el sector forest industrial el proceso de certificación en gestión ambiental contribuirá así al desarrollo sostenible del mismo y la inserción/ acceso de los productos forestales del país en los mercados externos. EL producto que cuente con el sello CERFOAR.

PEFC garantizará a cualquier consumidor del mundo que el mismo cumple con parámetros de calidad y asegura que el origen de la madera y su industrialización fueron gestionados de forma responsable, respetando el medio ambiente. La producción de Corrientes tendrá mas oportunidades de venta en los mercados internacionales, más precisamente en los países desarrollados donde la cultura de consumo sano está más arraigada y donde las leyes locales están requiriendo este tipo de certificación como requisitos a la importación.

Con productos maderables certificados con un sello reconocido a nivel internacional como es el PEFC, las ventas a los mercados tradiciones (EEUU) se incrementaran, y la conquista de nuevos mercados internacionales generará más exportaciones lo cual generará más y mejor.

Las grandes empresas ya entendieron el tema y encuentran necesario la certificación en este aspecto, en tanto las chicas y medianas empresas por cuestiones de recursos humanos y económicos, estructura, etc. aun notan distante la implementación de un plan de gestión ambiental. Es en estos casos donde el CERFOAR tiene una enorme importancia y contribuirá a los principios de una actividad económica en base al respeto por el medio ambiente, la sociedad y leyes locales mediante la implementación en conjunto de acuerdo la realidad de cada región y grupo de interesados.

Por lo expuesto, se considera trascendente y de importancia nacional la convalidación internacional de parte de la Secretaría técnica del PEFC al CERFOAR como sello de gestión ambiental para el sector foresto industrial de Argentina.

Two

En la Provincia de Corrientes, el sector forestal se destaca en muchos aspectos sobre los demás sectores productivos locales. Es el de mayor superficie cultivada (más de 500.000 hectáreas), expansión territorial diversificada, 10 millones de toneladas de madera por año para industrializar, generador de innumerables puestos de trabajos directos e indirectos, gran impacto en el PBI provincial, oportunidades de inversiones en el sector (Secaderos, Planta Tableros MDF, Planta de Impregnación, Generación de Energía por Biomasa, Planta de Pellet y Briquetas, Industria Mueblera, Planta de Celulosa), creciente participación en las exportaciones de la provincia al mundo. Sobre esto último se puede expresar que los últimos años el valor de exportación del sector fue 25 millones de dólares por año, siendo los principales productos exportados las molduras de pino (NCM4409.10) y las maderas aserradas de pino (4407.10).

Respecto a los países de destinos, ellos fueron Estados Unidos (71%), Italia (5%), China (4%), Vietnam (3%), resto del mundo (18%). La certificación CERFOAR – PEFC favorecerá en todos los aspectos al sector forestal de la provincia, región y a nivel nacional. Independiente de los aspectos ambientales y sociales, que indiscutidamente la repercusión es positiva, en el aspecto económico también lo son. Para el sector foresto industrial el proceso de certificación en gestión ambiental contribuirá así al desarrollo sostenible del mismo y la inserción/ acceso de los productos forestales del país en los mercados externos.

EL producto que cuente con el sello CERFOAR - PEFC garantizará a cualquier consumidor del mundo que el mismo cumple con parámetros de calidad y asegura que el origen de la madera y su industrialización fueron gestionados de forma responsable, respetando el medio ambiente. La producción de Corrientes tendrá más oportunidades de venta en los mercados internacionales, más precisamente en los países desarrollados donde la cultura de consumo sano está más arraigada y donde las leyes locales están requiriendo este tipo de certificación como requisitos a la importación. Con productos maderables certificados con un sello reconocido a nivel internacional como es el PEFC, las ventas a los mercados tradiciones (EEUU) se incrementaran, y la conquista de nuevos mercados internacionales generará más exportaciones lo cual generará más y mejor trabajo a nivel local. Las grandes empresas ya entendieron el tema y encuentran necesario la certificación en este aspecto, en tanto las chicas y medianas empresas por cuestiones de recursos humanos y económicos, estructura, etc. aun notan distante la implementación de un plan de gestión ambiental. Es en estos casos donde el CERFOAR tiene una enorme importancia y contribuirá a los principios de una actividad económica en base al respeto por el medio ambiente, la sociedad y leyes locales mediante la implementación en conjunto de acuerdo la realidad de cada región y grupo de interesados. Por lo expuesto, se considera trascendente y de importancia nacional la convalidación internacional de parte de la Secretaria técnica del PEFC al CERFOAR como sello de gestión ambiental para el sector foresto industrial de Argentina.

Three

el sistema Argentino de Certificación Forestal tiene bases sólidas para el cuidado del

<p>medio ambiente y las comunidades involucradas el el proyecto en cuestión, que además debe mostrarse económicamente viable.</p>
<p>Four muy bueno. felicitaciones!</p>
<p>Five muy bueno. felicitaciones!</p>
<p>Six Yo quería solamente aprovechar este espacio para comentar que he tenido la posibilidad en su momento de participar en la revisión de la norma, luego en talleres de difusión en jornadas técnicas, en reuniones en facultades, en capacitaciones para pequeños productores entre otro, e incluso este ultimo ano participe de un curso para auditores de la norma IRAM 39801. Me parece muy positiva toda esta actividad de consulta, promoción y capacitación, dado que genera una apertura a varios sectores. Otra cuestión positiva es el hecho de haber enmarcado la versión nacional del PEFC dentro de un organismo como lo es el IRAM, que desde los comienzo hasta aun hoy en día, es considerada por la mayoría de las personas como una institución renombrada, seria y responsable dentro del país. Creo que esta unión entre una entidad internacional reconocida como el PEFC y una entidad nacional también reconocida como el IRAM, para posibilitar una versión local del sistema de certificación, nos da la posibilidad a los Argentinos de contar con un sistema de certificación forestal con identidad local y con reconocimiento internacional, que sin lugar a dudas son 2 ejes fundamentales para que este sistema sea implementado con éxito en el manejo forestal de los bosques y plantaciones, y en toda la cadena productiva.</p>
<p>Seven Es meritorio y destacable que después de varios años de esfuerzos de diferentes sectores del ámbito forestal y de su entorno podamos contar con una versión nacional del Estándar Internacional tan prestigioso como lo es el PEFC. Esta posibilidad de contar con una norma Nacional que nos brinde identidad propia, pero a su vez reconocimiento internacional es un valor agregado innegable que creemos dará lugar a un gran crecimiento del sector forestal local y su entorno. Creemos además que el hecho de haber realizado diferentes jornadas y talleres en los procesos de redacción y revisión, y posterior divulgación de las normas nos permite contar hoy con una gran difusión de esta nueva herramienta de gestión forestal tanto para grandes empresas como para pequeños productores. Así mismo haber sido parte en el proceso de consulta de este norma, y haber sido participe de jornadas de capacitación nos da hoy la posibilidad de estar trabajando ya en la adecuación de la gestión forestal de nuestro bosques para ser certificados bajo el sistema de gestión sostenible que ofrece esta norma nacional, y a su vez ser reconocidos por la implementación de estas buenas prácticas en todo el mundo a través de la homologación de nuestro sistema.</p>

Annex 4: Panel of Experts comments

Table 7: Comments by PoE and their consideration

Report chapter / page	Consultant's report statement	PoE member comment	Consultant's response
p.6, 29:		delete "Spanish, provided during assessment" (duplication)	Considered and changed.
p.9, top chapter:		what about CoC for imported material?	Comment unclear. No references to COC on page 9.
p.11, top chapter:		instead of "hardly any NGOs" rather 2 NGOs	Considered and changed to "only 2 NGOs" Reference is p.12.
1.5/5 Table 1 No8	Accreditation requirements of CBs to be used by national accreditation body OAA.	It is normal that the accreditation bodies issue the accreditation documents. But, can also other national accreditation bodies, which also are members of IAF etc, use this document when they accredit CBs for Cerfoar? TD Annex 6 is open for the CBs to choose AB.	Considered and changed to "Accreditation requirements for CBs." Could also be used by other national accreditation bodies. However, currently there is only the OAA in Argentina.
1.5/5 Table 1 No 10	FM audit procedures for CBs.	It is normal that the CBs issue their procedures. If this document would be used as a guideline for the CBs when they issue their procedures or routines it would be acceptable to issue it. PEFCC do not require such a document.	PEFCC does not require such a document, but also does not prohibit such document to be used mandatorily by CBs.
2/8	2. The standard setting ..., but fees have to be paid to receive the documents.	It must be a hinder in the marketing of the system and acceptance on the market of the Cerfoar system if the essential documents are not public available. It is normal that national standardisation bodies sell their documents. It must be up to Cerfoar to pay an annual fee or a fixed sum to IRAM in order to have the documents public available..	Noted. Valid comment for discussion of PEFCC with Cerfoar.
3.6/11	... OAA which is the only accreditation body for Cerfoar ...	This is against the Multilateral Recognition Arrangements between members of IAF, see www.iaf.nu/articles/MRA_Documents/39 . To give the monopoly to one accreditation body will increase the costs for certification. But on page 207 it is mentioned that currently 3 CBs are active in Argentine concerning CoC certification which are accredited in their own countries. Will their accreditations be	The term cerfoar means the entire Argentinean Forest Certification Scheme, incl. the SFM Standard which can only be audited by CBs which are accredited by a national Accreditation

		accepted even in the future by Cerfoar without requiring accreditation by OAA?	Body (currently only OAA). COC Audits can be implementde by any CB with valid accreditation.
14 (8) and 18 (12) 3.9 last para.	"..some parts of the standard setting procedure were only available in Spanish."	As these were mainly minutes of meetings it does not seem to be a problem so long as the Argentinians were prepared to provide translations where requested. However, in the consultants' report responses to the questionnaires are given in Spanish which makes them inaccessible to the PoE and other interested readers, perhaps these should be translated into English (see comment below).	The questionnaires had to be sent in Spanish since many stakeholders do not undersand and speak English. The most important results for the stakeholder survey are translated into English and documented in Annex 2 of this report. Since the comments did not include important additional information a translation was not seen as necessary.
P28 (22) second para -	"- specifically <u>compromise</u> to fulfil"	There is a poor translation here, I suggest that the word "compromise" is replaced with "undertake"	This is a quote from the original documentation provided by Cerfoar.
P108 Section 5.1.6	There is a lot of repetition creeping in	Would it not be suffice here to state that IRAM 39801, section 4.2.1 Criterion 2.1 states under para f) that "a summary of the management plan be available to interested parties". Elsewhere IRAM states that "available to interested parties" means "publically available"	As a rule, the indicators, paragraphs and other documented information referred to by the scheme as part of its self-assessment are displayed by means of a complete quote in the assessment report. The assessors feel that shortening the original information includes the risk of losing information or opening the arena for misinterpretations – either of the information provided or the assessment results. It is understood that this procedure may seem excessive in some cases.

<p>P 61 5.6 f</p>	<p>“It should be considered if the availability of the minutes from IRAM upon request can be seen as sufficient in terms of public availability”</p>	<p>I would have thought that this is quite acceptable provided that there is an undertaking that no such request is ever refused.</p>	<p>Noted. Clarification by PEFCC needed.</p>
<p>P181 5.6.7</p>	<p>Section 5.6.7 refers to “recreational functions” and “aesthetic values”</p>	<p>The Consultants give quotes that talk about non-timber, non-commercial, conservation and biological diversity etc., which granted may subsume the ideas of recreation and aesthetic values but are there no more direct references to these services in the Scheme or in Argentinian forest codes and laws?</p>	<p>Reference is made to 5.6.7 on p. 147. The focus of the application of this standard will be on the management of planted forests, whereby features such as “aesthetic values” are not as prominent as in natural forests. Therefore the assessors concluded that by maintaining elements of particular biodiversity and cultural value the element of “recreational functions” will be served. Further supportive Cerfoar requirements in terms of sections 4.4.2 and 3.29 have been added.</p>
<p>14 (8) And p 68 5.10</p>	<p>Documents “are available from IRAM upon request, but fees have to be paid to receive documents. PEFC and Cerfoar should discuss if this complies with PEFCC requirements”</p>	<p>This presumably arises from the unusual situation that in Argentina the SFM Standard is produced by the country’s standard setting organisation IRAM. From the website it seems that IRAM is responsible for the national standards governing things such as electrical appliances, mechanical devices <i>etc.</i>, which can then carry their “S” mark. IRAM also sets standards for environmental management systems, now including sustainable forest management. In my country the equivalent is the British Standards Institute (BSI) with their “kite” mark. BSI has not been involved in standards for sustainable forest management (although there has been some suggestion that it might do so) but does have number of</p>	<p>Noted. Valid comment to PEFCC.</p>

		<p>environmental standards including BS 5837:2005 “Trees in relation to Construction”, which is widely referred to by <i>inter alia</i> town planners, architects and arborists. This document is readily available from BSI but they, like IRAM, charge for it. I suspect that it is the norm for national standard setting organisations to charge for their documents because this is how they fund themselves. Given this I think it would be unwise to object to charging because it is in our, and sustainable forest management, interests to have national standard organisations setting PEFC-compatible SFM standards. I would suggest that what PEFC has to ensure is that the relevant documents are freely, i.e. readily and openly, available and not be concerned that that these have to be paid for, i.e. are not free.</p>	
5/20	<p>The standards were published on the IRAM Webpage and were made available to the public for a fee.</p>	<p>See comment to 2/8</p>	<p>See answer 2/8.</p>
7/23	<p>... IRAM 39803 ... It is, however, only mandatory to be used by CBs auditing compliance with Cerfoars requirements.</p>	<p>See comment to 1.5/5, Table 1 No 10</p>	<p>See answer 1.5/5.</p>
9/25	<p>Generally, CBs have to be legal entities and accredited by ... OAA ...</p>	<p>See comment to 3.6/11</p>	<p>See answer 3.6/11.</p>
9/25	<p>... The scope of the accreditation has to include IRAM 39803 (Auditing) and ...</p>	<p>See comment to 1.5/5, Table 1 No 10.</p>	<p>See answer 1.5/5.</p>
9/26	<p>Minor NC-02 no clear requirement to implement FM auditing procedures according to the ISO 19011 can be found.</p>	<p>ISO/IEC 17021:2011 includes such requirements and has no reference to ISO 19011 as the earlier issue of ISO/IEC 17021 had. The problem is more that PEFC TD Annex 6 is not updated.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

1.4.2/ 176 13	Minor NC-02 no clear requirement to implement FM auditing procedures according to the ISO 19011 can be found.	See comment to 9/26	See answer 9/26.
1.4.2/ 182 23	“OAA is the body designated by the Presidential Decree 1474/1994 to establish and maintain the accreditation system ...	Does this Decree hinder CBs accredited by other national accreditation bodies to act in Argentine? Or has Cerfoar given the monopoly to OAA to accredit CBs? See also the comment to 3.6/11.	In terms of COC certification, CBs accredited by other accreditation bodies can be active. In terms of FM auditing, the CBs have to be accredited by national Accreditation Bodies (currently only OAA in Argentina).
1.6.2/ 186 1	- have valid accreditation, issued by ... (OAA) ...	See comment to 3.6/11.	See answer 3.6/11
Pp234-237	Responses to the questionnaires	It would be a great help if English translations were given of these.	The main results of the stakeholder survey were translated into English. The respondents were not able to answer in English, a translation of each comment was not deemed to be necessary.
General remark		Quite often the assessment refers to existing local, regional and national legislation, but it does not state whether or, not this legislation is sufficient in terms of content and especially in its implementation and control (capacity of relevant authorities etc.).	Noted. This is indeed a point for discussion in order to determine whether a document based assessment supported by short visits to relevant organizations in the applicant country could possibly satisfy this request. Clearly, an assessment of technical capacity of e.g. local enforcement agencies is outside the scope of the assessment. Elements such as

			implementation and control can usually not be witnessed during an assessment. Consequently it would be complicated to draw reliable conclusions.
General remark		Conventions and international treaties are also referred to (such as ILO core-conventions) but it does not state precise which ones (apart from ILO), e.g. WA, CBD etc. and when (if at all) they were ratified by Argentine.	Noted. Assessment report is amended in that aspect in 5.6.4 on p. 143. Argentina has ratified the ILO core conventions, as stated in 5.6.13.
General remark		The issue of GMO's and persistent chemicals is still pending (although-according to the assessment) not relevant in A. at present. It only refers to agriculture. PEFCC takes a clear view on that.	Noted. Cerfoar confirms in 5.4.7 on p. 125 that the standard will be amended in order to prohibit the use of GMOs in forest management once the legislation in Argentina would allow it.
General remark		"Planted forests" are by no means always identical with "plantations". The scheme and the assessment are not clear on that. It could be argued whether or not Argentina should develop a separate standard for plantations (in order to avoid confusion, see also Italy, Chile....).	Noted. Cerfoar applies the following definition: "3.4 cultivated forest: A forest obtained through the sowing or planting of native or exotic timber-yielding species, ecologically adapted to the place, mainly with industrial or commercial ends, in lands which can be afforested or reforested because of the natural conditions, location and aptitudes." Whether or not in time to come Cerfoar plans to develop a standard specifically for plantations, needs to be decided by Cerfoar.
General remark		I also suggest, to state and differentiate more clearly the management and sustained use of	Noted. However, there is currently no PEFCC

		natural forests vice versa those in strict reserves and national parks.	requirement to reflect in particular this aspect to such a level of detail that diverse protection levels would be reflected.
General remark		<u>All</u> relevant documents have to be available in English. Spanish tests are not necessarily accessible to everybody.	Noted. More clarification by PEFCC needed as indicated in chapter 2 of this report.
<u>Annex</u> 1, p.1, 2, first line:		---are shown---	Considered and changed.
p.3, 4.1:		---confirmed in <u>its</u> role....(not: his), example for citation	Citation.
p.9, 4.4, a.) Process:		<u>Major</u> or minor NC-O2? (see also p.12, process)	Considered and changed.
p.16, 5.2, 3rd line:		----good <u>practice</u>	Considered and changed.
p.17, 5.3, a.)		proces :---were sent--.	Considered and changed.
p.23, 5.6, b.) last line:		--- <u>invitations</u> ---	Considered and changed.
p.26, 5.3.7, process, last line:		--- <u>Act</u> ---	Considered and changed.
p. 63, observation:		to only <u>refer</u> to legal compliance is not fully addressing..	Considered and changed.
p.195, bottom right:		PEFC Argentina has nothing to do with Gabon!	Considered and changed.
p. 215, 9:		<u>Forestal</u>	Comment unclear.
p.216, last but one line:		---assessor <u>to</u> the participants---	Considered and changed.

Annex 5: Report on field assessments

A field trip was undertaken by lead assessor Joern Ackermann from 17.02.2014 - 21.02.2014 to verify the standard setting process and to collect more information about the different actors of the Cerfoar scheme and the participants in the working group for the development of the Cerfoar SFM and Group Certification Standards, and to clarify remaining open questions relevant for the assessment of the Cerfoar scheme. The selection of stakeholders was carried out by the assessment team with the goal to distribute the meetings over organizations representing a variety of different stakeholder groups which were involved in the standard setting process or are related to the implementation of the Cerfoar scheme after endorsement by PEFCC.

1. Instituto Argentino de Normalización and certificación (IRAM - Standardizing Body of Cerfoar scheme)

Participants:

Luis Trama – Director General IRAM

Mariano Senmorile – Representante de la Dirección, SGQ IRAM

Carolina Llavallol – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR

Florencia Chavat - Secretary General de Cerfoar

Topics discussed:

- a. Introduction of participants and explanation of assessment process and reason for meeting the organization.
- b. Presentation about IRAM (Structure, field of work, capacities, organization of standard development, e.g.) by Mr. Luis Trama (General Director of IRAM).
- c. Relevance and importance of standard development related to management of natural resources in IRAM (e.g. agriculture, soil, forestry).
- d. Products already certified according to the IRAM standards 39801 (SFM).
- e. History of standard setting process of IRAM standards 39801, 39803 and 39805.
- f. Pilot testing of SFM standard 39801.
- g. Demonstration of SIGN software (used for documentation of standard setting processes).
- h. Way of reaching consensus on the final draft standards in working groups.
- i. Use of GMOs and hazardous pesticides (e.g. WHO 1A and 1B), their prohibition / regulation by Argentine law and consequences for Cerfoar in case of changes to the Argentine laws.
- j. Clarification of open questions and discussion of remaining NCs.
- k. General challenges of the standard setting process (implemented over a long period of seven years, cooperation with IRAM, advantages of SIGN System and IRAM experience, support by INTA as multipliers for distribution of information and invitations to meetings in the Provinces of Argentina).

The meeting was held in an open and constructive atmosphere. The IRAM representatives explained very clearly the standard setting process, the technology used (SIGN software) and showed a high level of ownership and support concerning the

Cerfoar scheme. The SIGN software documents all activities of the standard setting process since 2003 and provides detailed records of all processes implemented (e.g. all Emails, letters or facsimiles sent and received during the process). The demonstration of the SIGN process of inviting all relevant stakeholders to the standard setting process and the distribution of the minutes of meetings of the WG2 to all members of the WG2 showed that all relevant interest groups were invited and informed during the process. The last open questions of the assessment could be clarified and the remaining NCs were explained, discussed and accepted by the IRAM and Cerfoar representatives. The need for discussion with PEFCC if parts of the Manual de Calidad (Internal Quality Management Handbook) need to be translated into English was explained and it was indicated by IRAM and the Secretary General of Cerfoar that this would not be a problem.

2. BoD Cerfoar Association (National Governing Body Cerfoar scheme)

Participants:

Oswaldo Vassallo – Presidente (AFCP)

Claudia Peirano – Secretaria (AFoA)

Ricardo Austin – Secretario 2do (AFoA)

Jorge Barros – Tesorero (AFoA)

Marcelo Campo – Órgano de Fiscalización (Papel Misionero)

Nestor Nisnik - Órgano de Fiscalización (AFCP)

Carlos Scarnichia - Órgano de Fiscalización (AFoA)

Florencia Reca - Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca

Carolina Llavallol – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR

Florencia Chavat – Secretaría Ejecutiva

Topics discussed:

- a. Introduction of participants and explanation of assessment process and reason for meeting the organization.
- b. Explanation of structure of the Cerfoar association.
- c. History and reasons for establishment of the Cerfoar association.
- d. Importance of PEFC certification for small, medium and large companies in Argentina.
- e. Relevance of group certification for small forest enterprises in Argentina.
- f. Legal regulations between Cerfoar association and IRAM and authorization of Cerfoar scheme to require IRAM to implement scheme revision processes.
- g. Vision of Cerfoar association where PEFC certification should lead to in Argentina.

The members of the BoD of the Cerfoar association showed a high level of ownership concerning the Cerfoar scheme and its future implementation. It was explained that the Cerfoar scheme intends to support and implement certification of all kind of company sizes and that there could be a high demand for group certification in Argentina due to

the existence of forest cooperatives of private forest owners. The management and certification of planted forests will be a key factor in the Argentinean context. The process should be initiated by the certification of some larger companies which will promote the PEFC certification in Argentina and should lead to certification of medium sized and small sized companies and forest holders.

3. ORGANISMO ARGENTINO DE ACREDITACIÓN (OAA - National Accreditation Body)

Participants:

María Paola Mársico – Responsable Área Organismos

Nicolás Ledezma – Técnico Área Organismos

Nicolás Fernández. – Técnico Área Organismos

Carolina Llavallol – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR

Florencia Chavat – Secretaría Ejecutiva Cerfoar

Topics discussed:

- a. Introduction of participants and explanation of assessment process and reason for meeting the organization.
- b. Overview about structure, activities and fields of expertise of OAA
- c. Explanation of process of evaluation of members of assessment teams (professional background, qualifications, e.g.)
- d. Discussion about participation of OAA in standard setting process of Cerfoar
- e. Active CBs in COC certification in Argentina and plans for accreditation of CBs for SFM in Argentina
- f. Explanation of procedures of first accreditation of certification bodies for SFM in Cerfoar scheme
- g. General comments of OAA concerning standard setting process and future implementation of Cerfoar scheme

The OAA is the only national accreditation body in Argentina, assigned by the Presidential Decree 1474/94. The OAA is active in accreditation of product certification and certification of management systems, is cooperating closely with the IRAM (national standardizing body) and was very active during the standard setting process of the Cerfoar system. The OAA has a permanent staff of 25 workers and uses a pool of approx. 400 external assessors which had been evaluated according to a strict procedure of OAA concerning professional experience in relevant sectors of work (e.g. forestry or wood processing) and knowledge of accreditation and certification issues. The OAA is already cooperating with a forestry expert who was also actively involved in the standard setting process of the Cerfoar system and who will be part of the assessment team for accreditation of CBs in Argentina. Currently there are 3 CBs (DNV, SGS South Africa, BM Trada) active in Argentina concerning COC certification, accredited in their own countries. There are already plans for the accreditation of SGS by OAA in Argentina for the field of forest management certification after the endorsement of the process. The OAA representatives showed a high level of ownership of the Cerfoar system and stated

that they will support the successful certification according to Cerfoar scheme in Argentina. There were no negative comments or concerns on behalf of OAA concerning the development process and the future implementation of the Cerfoar scheme.

4. Papel Prensa S.A. / EDERRA S.A. (Private companies involved in management of forest plantation management and wood processing)

Participants:

Jorge Scarpa - Papel Prensa S.A.

Frederico Svava - Papel Prensa S.A.

Fernando Mendizabal – EDERRA S.A.

Carolina Llavallol – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR

Florencia Chavat – Secretaría Ejecutiva Cerfoar

Background Papel Prensa S.A.: Pulp and paper producer manufacturing approx. 140,000 tons of paperboard/year by using approx. 360,000 tons of roundwood/year. The company manages approximately 8,000 ha of own forest plantations (mainly Populus and Salix) which provide 25% of raw material for the own production. 75% are purchased from external producers. The company employs approx. 700 people in the forest plantations and on the production sites and currently produces only for the internal market. The IRAM SFM standard 39801 is already used as voluntary guide in the management of the forest plantations. Papel Prensa plans to implement certification according to the Cerfoar scheme within the next 2 - 3 years.

Background EDERRA S.A.: A family owned company which is involved in the management of cultivated forests and operates a sawmill for the production of sawwood and further processed products. The company manages approx. 2,000 ha of own planted forests in the Delta of Paraná (Populus and Salix) which provide approx. 80% of the raw material needed and 20% are purchased from external suppliers. The company employs 125 people and currently only produces products for the internal market. The company was formerly certified according to ISO 14001. Currently there are no plans for certification according to the Cerfoar scheme, but the general importance of certification and responsible forest management is acknowledged and the company was actively involved in the standard setting process of Cerfoar.

Topics discussed:

- a. Introduction of participants and explanation of assessment process and reason for meeting the organization.
- b. Overview about structure, activities and fields of expertise of the companies
- c. Interests in Cerfoar certification.
- d. Active involvement of companies in standard setting process.
- e. Discussion about challenges of standard setting process over the long period of 7 years.
- f. Discussion about use of GMOs and hazardous pesticides during forest plantation management.
- g. Discussion about regulations concerning workers safety and health.
- h. General comments by the companies concerning the standard setting process.

The representatives of both companies showed a very high level of satisfaction concerning the standard setting process of the Cerfoar scheme and the final content of the scheme standards. It was stated that Cerfoar certification in Argentina will presumably focus on the certification of planted forests at the beginning, since the managers of native forests did not show a high level of interest so far. Both representatives stated that they support the implementation of the Cerfoar system because they consider forest certification as an important factor for the responsible management of the forests in Argentina, even though external markets are not relevant at the current state and the local market does not request for certified products. However, it was also stated that the procurement policies at federal level in Argentina start to support the use of certified materials in case they are available. It was explained that GMOs do not play a role in Argentinean forestry at current stage and that the introduction of Forestry GMOs to the Argentina (currently only practiced in the agricultural sector) would be a long process since the Argentinean law requires test trails for two lifecycles (in forest plantation with *Populus* or *Salix* in Argentina one rotation is 10 - 15 years) before they can be used. Generally the use of chemicals in forestry in the areas where these companies are active (mainly Delta de Paraná) is not seen as critical since only few chemicals are used for land preparation and sometimes for pest management and these chemicals are representing types of chemicals which are not prohibited by the Cerfoar system. The high quality of coordination by Florencia Chavat during the process of the development of the IRAM SFM and Group Certification standards was explicitly mentioned and it was made clear that both companies fully support the Cerfoar system.

5. Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA - Scientific research and extension service related to agriculture and forestry in Argentina)

Participants:

Tomas Schlichter – Coordinador Nacional del Programa Forestal INTA

Adria Gonzalez - Extension rural Delta Paraná (social aspects)

Natalia Fracassi - Research Silviculture and Biodiversity in planted forests in Delta Paraná

Florencia Chavat – Secretaría Ejecutiva Cerfoar

Topics discussed:

- a. Introduction of participants and explanation of assessment process and reason for meeting the organization.
- b. Overview about structure, activities and fields of expertise of INTA.
- c. Links to forestry and forest certification.
- d. General interest of INTA in forest certification and anticipation in standard setting process.
- e. Importance of group certification for small forest owners.
- f. Impacts of implementation of cerofar system to biodiversity aspects.
- g. Use of GMOs and hazardous chemicals in Argentina.
- h. General comments by INTA concerning the standard setting process and the impact of implementation.

The INTA was very active in the standard setting process of Cerfoar since it has the mandate as a national research institution to support national organizations like Cerfoar by transfer of knowledge. INTA is represented throughout the entire country by research and extension stations and served as important provider of information "from the ground" to the standard setting process and was also very active as multiplier for the distribution of invitations and relevant documents during the standard setting process. The importance of group certification as option for small forest holders to get access to certification was highlighted, since the risk of pushing them out of the market by big companies which are more able to implement certification is seen as evident. The small forest holders represent a significant part in Argentinean forestry (about 80% of the forest is private forest). The representatives showed general satisfaction with the standard setting process and with the final contents of the SFM and Group Certification standards of Cerfoar. However, a general concern was raised related to the lack of importance given to the sustainable management of planted forests by the PEFCC certification scheme as a whole. Especially the aspects of maintaining biodiversity in planted forests are not covered to a satisfying extent by the PEFCC requirements.

6. Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca (MAGyP - Dirección de Forestación)

Participants:

Esteban Borodowski – Dirección de Producción Forestal

Daniela Garcia - Dirección de Producción Forestal

Paola Righetti - GIS Department, Ambiental Issues

Carolina Llavallol – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR

Florencia Chavat – Secretaría Ejecutiva Cerfoar

Topics discussed:

- a. Introduction of participants and explanation of assessment process and reason for meeting the organization.
- b. Presentation of structure and field of work of the Dirección de Forestación.
- c. Overview about planted forests in Argentina.
- d. Explanation of rules for Governmental funding of small scale forest producers (subsidies).
- e. Discussion about participation in standard setting process of Cerfoar.
- f. Explanation of cooperation with INTA and Cerfoar.
- g. General comments concerning the standard setting process and the impact of implementation.

The MAGyP through representatives of the Dirección de Forestación was involved in the elaboration of the IRAM SFM Standard and Group Certification Standards from the beginning of the process in 2003. The organization is responsible for the sector of planted forests in Argentina with regard to their promotion in Argentina, technical improvement, and extension service to producers in the sector. This includes the promotion and support of forest certification for planted forests. Furthermore, the organization is responsible for a governmental program which financially supports approx. 90% of the planted forests in Argentina. Currently there are approx. 1.1 Mio. ha of planted forests in Argentina, the vast majority is in the provinces Misiones, Corrientes and Entre Ríos, the main species used are Pines (60%), Eucalyptus (30%) and Salix/Populus (10%). All planted forests are mapped by the GIS Department of the organization, which serves as base for the determination of subsidies by the government. The representatives were very satisfied with the process of elaboration of the IRAM SFM and Group Certification standards and the Cerfoar scheme and outlined the high quality of the work implemented by IRAM and by Florencia Chavat within this context. There were no negative comments concerning the standard setting process of the future implementation.

7. INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ASUNTOS INDÍGENAS – (INAI - Dirección de Desarrollo de Comunidades)

Participants:

Beatriz Cachero – Profesional Dirección de Desarrollo de Comunidades

Carolina Llavallol – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR

Florencia Chavat – Secretaría Ejecutiva Cerfoar

Topics discussed:

- a. Introduction of participants and explanation of assessment process and reason for meeting the organization.
- b. Presentation of structure and field of work of INAI.
- c. Interests / Importance of participation of INAI in development of Cerfoar scheme.
- d. Satisfaction with the acknowledgement of special concerns of INAI during standard setting process.
- e. Importance for potential participation of indigenous groups in forestry certification or group certification
- f. General comments concerning the standard setting process and the impact of implementation.

INAI was actively involved in the standard setting process of the IRAM SFM standard to defend the interests of the indigenous population in Argentina. The INAI is an institute under the Ministry of Social Development founded in 1985 and cooperates since 2004 with the Indigenous Participatory Council which comprises of two representatives per Indigenous group and per province in Argentina. Through the Indigenous Participatory Council the interests of all different groups in Argentina are well presented at INAI. The INAI participated in the standard setting process mainly to take care of two important aspects from the view of the indigenous groups in Argentina. The first aspect was the defense of the customary usage rights of forest materials (timber and non-timber forest products) of indigenous people in certified forests. The second aspect was to seek for attention in the working group that the land ownership aspects for indigenous people differ from the general documentation of ownership rights in Argentina and that besides documented contracts there are other types of evidence for landownership and that the land usage rights are not always documented (e.g. customary usage rights). The INAI representative expressed satisfaction with the way of seeking for attention in the working group and the way the concerns were considered and integrated in the SFM standard of IRAM. Currently indigenous people are mainly commercializing non-timber forest products to a small extend in Argentina and are not active as organized groups in forest management in terms of timber harvesting.

8. Fundación Vida Silvestre / Fundación Habitat y Desarrollo (Environmental NGOs involved in Forestry in Argentina)

Participants:

Manuel Jaramillo – Fundación Vida Silvestre

Gustavo Aparicio – Fundación Habitat y Desarrollo

Carolina Llavallol – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR

Florencia Chavat – Secretaría Ejecutiva Cerfoar

Topics discussed:

- a. Introduction of participants and explanation of assessment process and reason for meeting the organization.
- b. Presentation of fields of work, links to forestry and forest certification in Argentina.
- c. Discussion of current and past activities of organizations related to sustainable forest management and forest/COC certification.
- d. General importance and acknowledgement of forest certification in Argentina.
- e. Participation in standard setting process of Cerfoar and satisfaction with Cerfoar system.
- f. Discussion about FSC and PEFC certification and level of acknowledgment of Cerfoar system by organizations.
- g. General comments.

The **Fundación Vida Silvestre** (FVS) was founded in 1977 and is the representative of WWF in Argentina since 1988. FVS was active in nature conservation and creation of natural reserves and national parks since its foundation, and supports the implementation of sustainable forest management since 2002. FVS was the active national FSC contact point in the past and was very active in the elaboration of a nationally adapted FSC FM standard for Argentina. However, this involvement was finished before the final elaboration of the FSC FM standard due to a lack of capacities. Also, the FVS is of the opinion that the use of forest resources is not an important driver of deforestation in Argentina and works at other levels (e.g. impacts of land conversion to agricultural plantations) which are seen as more important at the moment. Nevertheless, FVS is currently active in supporting the fields of the Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) of WWF, the New Generation Plantation Platform of WWF and in the WWF Pulp and Paper Programme. FVS was invited to participate in the standard setting process of IRAM/Cerfoar and to become a member of Cerfoar, but due to missing capacities and the fact that WWF does not recognize the PEFC system there was not an active participation by FVS. However, FVS as an Argentinean NGO generally supports the idea of developing a national forest certification scheme which is elaborated by experts of the relevant Argentinean organizations linked to forestry. There were no negative comments against the development and implementation of Cerfoar by FVS.

The **Fundación Habitat y Desarrollo** (FHD) was founded in 1992 and works in the regions of Chaco and la Costa Uruguay and aims at the establishment and management

of natural reserves and national parks in these regions. The FHD established in cooperation with Argentinean forestry companies approx. 26,000 ha of forest reserves and national parks in Argentina with the aim of Conservation of biodiversity in these areas. Generally the establishment of forest plantations is seen as critical since exotic species are used which invade other areas and the fact that forestry plantations are not always managed in a way that contributes to the improvement of social and environmental conditions. However, it is acknowledged that there is a need for forest plantations to provide raw materials for the current market demand. FHD also gives consultancy to forestry companies in the field of biodiversity issues and sustainable management. The FHD was very active in the foundation of an NGO which constitute the national FSC office in Argentina and is represented in the environmental chamber of FSC Argentina. FHD was invited to participate in the standard setting process of IRAM/Cerfoar and to become a member of Cerfoar, but did not participate due to missing capacities. Internal capacities available to support the development of a national forest certification scheme were already dedicated to the FSC system. However, the FHD acknowledges the importance of a nationally developed SFM standard in Argentina, since the application of international standards lead to inadequate SFM requirements in some cases because they are not sufficiently adapted to the local conditions. There were no negative comments against the development and implementation of Cerfoar by FHD.

9. Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable (Dirección de Bosques)

Participants:

Norma Esper – Cordinadora Programa Nacional de Estadística Forestal
 Florencia Bongiorno – Técnico Programa Nacional de Estadística Fstal.
 Monica Gabay – Coordinadora Programa Nacional de Bosques Modelo
 Mercedes Sá – Profesional Programa Nacional de Bosques Modelo
 Carolina Llavallol – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR
 Florencia Chavat – Secretaría Ejecutiva Cerfoar

Topics discussed:

- a. Introduction of participants and explanation of assessment process and reason for meeting the organization.
- b. Presentation of fields of work, links to forestry and forest certification in Argentina.
- c. General importance of sustainable forest management and forest certification in Argentina.
- d. Involvement of the standard setting process of IRAM and Cerfoar.
- e. Importance of evaluation of statistical data in forestry and industries.
- f. Importance of group certification in rural areas.
- g. Plans of implementation of project to certify fuelwood.
- h. General vision of forest certification and its development in Argentina.
- i. General comments concerning Cerfoar system.

The Dirección de Bosques (DB) was involved in the standard setting process of the Cerfoar system since the beginning of the elaboration of the IRAM SFM and Group certification standards. The DB is responsible for natural forest management in Argentina and provides statistics about forestry and timber industries in annual reports to the public. Furthermore, the BD is active in the fields of forest land definition and enforcement of forest laws, monitoring and evaluation of native forests (GIS), NTFPs and the national program for forest protection. The BD was a very important participant in the working group for the IRAM SFM standard concerning the definition of terms and phrases and brought in important experience concerning the elaboration of criteria and indicators for SFM certification. The inclusion of group certification into the Cerfoar system is very much appreciated by BD, since the small and medium producers need to have realistic options to participate and to deal with the costs of certification. The BD supports the capacity building in rural areas by extension service in cooperation with INTA and the University in Misiones. The elaboration of the national forest certification system Cerfoar and its potential international recognition by PEFCC is very much appreciated by BD. There were no relevant negative comments concerning the standard setting process and the final output of standards of the Cerfoar system.

10. Closing meeting with Cerfoar BoD / IRAM

Participants:

Osvaldo Vassallo – Presidente Cerfoar association (AFCP)

Luis Trama - Presentente General IRAM

Dommarlo Dante - Representante FAIMA

Claudia Peirano – Secretaria (AFoA)

Jorge Barros – Tesorero (AFoA)

Nestor Nisnik - Órgano de Fiscalización (AFCP)

Carlos Scarnichia - Órgano de Fiscalización (AFoA)

Carolina Llavallol – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR

Florencia Chavat – Secretaría Ejecutiva

Topics discussed:

- a. Introduction of participants
- b. Overview about activities and results during meetings
- c. Overview about preliminary results and acceptance of remaining NCs by Cerfoar and IRAM
- d. Official closing

During the final meeting with representatives of cerfoar association and IRAM, an overview about the implementation and results of the stakeholder meetings was presented by the assessor to the participants of the meeting. The remaining open NCs were explained and accepted by Cerfoar and IRAM.

11. Visit to forest plantation in Delta Paraná (Papel Prensa S.A.)

Participants:

Jorge Scarpa - Papel Prensa S.A.

Frederico Svara - Papel Prensa S.A.

Claudia Hoffman - Papel Prensa S.A.

Carolina Llavallol – Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - UCAR

Florencia Chavat – Secretaría Ejecutiva Cerfoar

The forest plantation site of Papel Prensa S.A., where the first pilot test of the IRAM standard 39801 (SFM) and conditions for auditing was carried out, was visited on short notice. The forest plantation is managed with the main goal of pulp production, the better quality is sold as sawn timber to local sawmills. The area covers approx. 2,000 ha in the Delta Paraná close to Buenos Aires, main species are *Populus* spp. and *Salix* spp. (both exotic types). The rotation period is 10 - 15 years, the average area of harvest is 100 ha / year (approx. 25,000 m³). One major challenge in the area is the management of water by a system of water channels and pumping stations to regulate the water level in the channel system inside the forest plantation. During the visit, several topics like fire management by tower and cameras, application of silvicultural practices and social aspects were demonstrated and discussed.

Annex 6: Any other relevant information
