

**Conformity Assessment
PAFC Gabonese Forest Certification
Scheme**

Final Report

26.05.2014

Conformity Assessment

PAFC Gabonese Forest Certification

Scheme

Client

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- Mme Rose Ondo (President of the Executive Committee PAFC Gabon)

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAC	Annual Allowable Cut
AB	Accreditation Body
AOP	Annual Operating Plan
BoD	Board of Directors
CB	Certification Body
CoC	Chain of Custody
EGM	Extraordinary General Meeting
FM	Forest Management
FMU	Forest Management Unit
GA	General Assembly
SSP	Standard Setting process
SSRCL	Standard and System Requirement Checklist
TEREA	Terre Environnement Aménagement
NC	Non-conformity
PAFC	Pan African Forest Certification Scheme
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
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management

1. Introduction

1.1. Scope of the assessment

The scope of this assessment is to compare the PAFC Gabon Forest Certification Scheme with the standard and system 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 revised PAFC Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme should be re-endorsed or if changes are required before re-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.

1.2. Assessment process

The assessment has been conducted in the following stages:

- 1) Review of the scheme documentation provided by PAFC Gabon to the PEFCC and forwarded to the assessment team with the tender dossier on 12.08.2013 (for overview of documents see Chapter 1.5 of this report). The documents were reviewed by the 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 PEFCC 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 revision of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme, was conducted by Annie Adams and Ian Denty of Efeca from 26.11.2013 to 10.12.2013.
- 4) A public consultation has been carried out via the PEFCC's website for a period of 60 days from 13.08.2013 – 12.10.2013, to gather comments of other national and international stakeholders concerned.
- 5) A draft report and an overview of identified non-conformities and open questions ("NC overview PAFC Gabon") was elaborated by the assessment team and forwarded to PEFCC and PAFC Gabon for review on 16.12.2013.
- 6) The two weeks comment period was extended up to six weeks on request of PAFC Gabon. Additionally provided documents and comments by PAFC Gabon incorporated in the "NC overview PAFC Gabon" were received by email on 26.01.2014. Additional documents were received on 03.02.2014. The comments were assessed and considered.
- 7) The final draft report was elaborated and submitted on 10.02.2014 to PEFCC and PAFC Gabon together with the document "Overview NCs PAFC Gabon Final Draft Report" where the final identified non-conformities (NCs) are listed and proposals by PAFC Gabon concerning their correction are commented by the assessors.
- 8) PAFC Gabon reacted to the Final Draft Report and submitted adapted scheme documents on 28.04.2014 through PEFCC to the assessment team.
- 9) The newly submitted documents were assessed by the assessment team and a new version of the Final Draft Report (V2) was elaborated and submitted to PEFCC on 30.04.2014.
- 10) The comments made by the Panel of Experts were received on 22.05.2014 and incorporated in the Final Report.
- 11) The Final Report was submitted to PEFCC on 26.05.2014.

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 Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme, 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 French (e.g. minutes of Forum meetings) 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 the 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 re-endorsement process of the PEFCC. The results of the assessment of the documents against the SSRC were discussed between the Independent Senior Consultants in detail 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 PAFC Gabon for review. All comments by PEFCC and PAFC Gabon were evaluated and considered, if agreed upon by the assessment team.

1.3.2. Stakeholder survey and public consultation

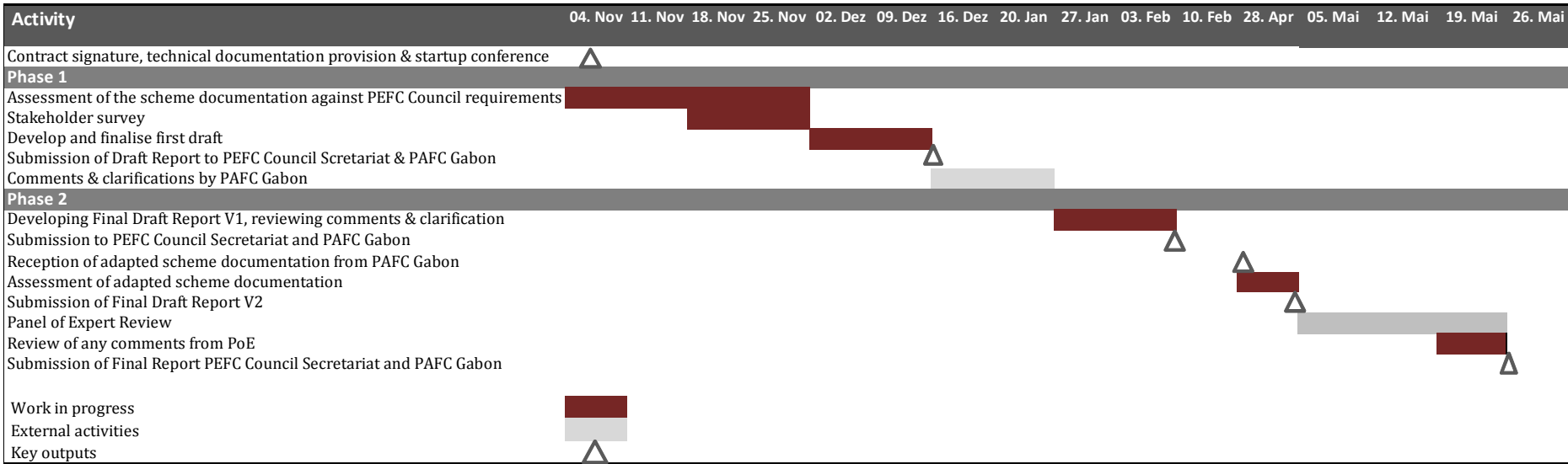
In addition to the assessment of the provided Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme documents, a stakeholder survey was conducted by Annie Adams and Ian Denty from Efeca to verify the content of the Development Report of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme and gather further comments by national and international stakeholders. For the stakeholder survey, the participating organisations of the Forum for the review of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme were identified and contacted by e-mail with an attached questionnaire. Furthermore, additional stakeholders listed in the Stakeholder Mapping Document from PAFC Gabon which did not participate in the revision process were contacted by email and asked if they were invited to participate. The stakeholders were asked to respond to the questionnaire within a period of 14 days. Furthermore, a public consultation was held via the PEFCC website for 60 days from 13.08.2013 till 12.10.2013, which was open to all parties who wished to submit comments.

1.3.3. Panel of experts review

The Final Draft Report V2 was reviewed by a Panel of Experts which submitted comments concerning content, format and terminology. The comments were assessed by the assessment team and considered during the elaboration of the Final Report.

1.4. Timetable of the assessment

Workplan - Assessment of PAFC Gabon



1.5. Reference documents and sources

The following table provides an overview of the documents which were provided by PAFC Gabon to the PEFC for conformity assessment to evaluate the potential re-endorsement of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme and submitted to the assessment team with the Tender Dossier for the Assessment of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme from 12.08.2013. Further documents were submitted after the two weeks comment period (extended to six weeks). After the reception of the Final Draft Report including several NCs, PAFC Gabon decided to put in additional effort to revise the scheme documentation before the submission of the Final Draft Report to the PoE and submitted adapted scheme documents on 28.04.2014. The scheme documentation listed in the following table already reflects the revised scheme documents.

Table 1: List of documents provided by the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme for assessment

No.	Document	Description
1	ANNEXE 1.docx	Announcement of Forum activities (French)
2	ANNEXE 2.docx	Stakeholder Mapping (French)
3	ANNEXE 3.docx	Example of invitation to Forum members and 13 applications (French)
4	ANNEXE 4.docx	Minutes of first Forum meeting and list of participants (French)
5	ANNEXE 5.docx	Minutes of further Forum meetings and list of participants (French)
6	ANNEXE 6.docx	Evidence for announcement public consultation (French)
7	ANNEXE 7.docx	Evidence for participants of EGA and for final adoption by consensus (French)
8	PAFC Gabon Checklist 2013 Scheme.docx	SSRC filled by PAFC Gabon
9	PAFC Gabon_CoC CB requirements_EN_V2.3_20140225.docx	Accreditation and certification requirements of CBs for COC
10	PAFC Gabon CoC Standard 2013 Scheme.docx	COC Standard
11	PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin_EN_V2.3_20140225.docx	Complaint procedures
12	PAFC Gabon Development report 2013 Scheme.docx	Development Report about the standard setting process
13	PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements 2013 Scheme.docx	Accreditation and certification requirements of CBs for FM
14	PAFC Gabon_SFM Standard_EN_V2.3_20140225.docx	FM Standard
15	PAFC Gabon_Notification Proc_EN_V2.3_20140225.docx	Notification procedures for CBs
16	PAFC Gabon_PEFC logo usage licence procedure_EN_V2.3_20140225.docx	Logo licensing procedures
17	PAFC Gabon_SSP_EN_V2.3_20140225.docx	Standard setting procedures
18	PAFC Gabon Stakeholder Mapping 2013	Stakeholder mapping by external

	Scheme.docx	consultant TEREA
19	PAFC Gabon System description 2013 Scheme.docx	General description of Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme
20	PAFC Gabon Written request for assessment 2013.docx	Application to assess the revised Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme from 20.07.2013
21	Doc1	List of distribution of invitations and scheme documents to stakeholders (provided on 26.01.2014)
22	Doc 1-1	List of distribution of invitations and scheme documents to stakeholders (provided on 03.02.2014)
23	Doc 2	Invitation emails to workshop on 20.06.2012 (provided on 03.02.2014)
24	Doc3	Invitation emails to workshop on 20.06.2012 (provided on 26.01.2014)
25	Doc4	Invitation emails to workshop on 20.06.2012 (provided on 26.01.2014)
26	Doc4-1	Declaration of consent by Forum members (provided on 03.02.2014)
27	Doc5	Invitation emails to workshop on 20.06.2012 (provided on 03.02.2014)
28	Copies from 7 emails	Acknowledgements of forum members to scheme documentation (provided on 26.01.2014)
29	Changements dans le schéma PAFC Gabon FR-EN.docx	Changes to scheme documentation to close NCs from Final Draft Report V1
30	Annexe 1-4.pdf	Evidence for consensus building by Forum and GA PAFC Gabon (submitted on 28.04.2014).

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 ST2001:2008 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 sources for information and documents/processes relevant for the assessment.

1.6. Personnel

The assessment team to conduct the conformity assessment comprised the Independent Senior Consultants Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell (document review) as well as Annie Adams, a Senior Consultant and Ian Denty, Consultant, both of Efeca.

Further information about the members of the assessment team are outlined in the proposal submitted to PEFCC for the tender of the conformity assessment of the revised Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme on 09.09.2013.

The assessment contract was signed by the President of PAFC Gabon, Mme Rose Ondo who also was involved as the contact person for the assessment for PAFC Gabon.

2. Recommendation

The PAFC Gabon Secretariat received the Final Draft Report V1 including 11 Minor NCs on 10.02.2014. The Minor NCs were mainly related to the standard setting procedures, used terms and the documentation of the final approval of the PAFC Gabon scheme documentation by the Forum members. The detailed documentation of the 11 Minor NCs can be found in the first Version of the Final Draft Report V1, which can be requested from PEFCC.

The PAFC Gabon BoD decided to correct the relevant scheme documentation in regard to the 11 Minor NCs and submitted adapted scheme documents and evidence for approval by the Forum members on 28.04.2014. These documents were assessed by the assessment team and all Minor NCs could be closed (see Final Draft Report V2). Thus, the final PAFC Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme complies with the PEFCCs requirements in all points.

It is recommended to the BoD of PEFCC to re-endorse the PAFC Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme according to the PEFCC scheme endorsement procedures.

3. Summary of the findings

3.1. Structure of the system

The **National Governing Body** recognised by the PEFC Council in Gabon is the not-for-profit association registered under Gabonese law - **PAFC Gabon** with its registered office at B.P. 17.064, Libreville, Gabon.

PAFC Gabon is a member based organization and made up of members who are divided into **four colleges**:

- the college of forest owners and rightful owners,
- the college of professionals,
- the social college and
- the environmental college.

PAFC Gabon has the following governing bodies:

- The **General Assembly** comprising of all members of the PAFC.
- The **Board of Directors** upon which three members of each college sit.
- The **Executive Committee** comprised of a President, a Vice-President, a General Secretary and a Treasurer elected by the Board.

The body charged with achieving consensus in standard setting and revision processes is the **PAFC Forum**. The stakeholder representation in the PAFC Forum has to be balanced between the four interest groups (see four colleges above) and the Forum has to be accessible to all stakeholders, including disadvantaged stakeholders. All decisions have to be taken by consensus.

The **General Assembly** of members of PAFC Gabon has to approve the revised standards which are the output of the work of the PAFC Forum. The approval has to be made by consensus. For more information see Chapter 4 below.

3.2. Standard setting procedures and processes

Both the standard setting procedures and standard setting process of the revision of the Gabonese Forest Certification scheme 2013 were assessed and analyzed by the assessors. A major focus of the revision process was the revision of the standard setting procedures and the sustainable forest management standard (group certification does not apply in Gabon so far).

The revision process was implemented by the PAFC Forum which consisted of a balanced representation of three or four members per college (see 3.1). The external consulting company TERA carried out stakeholder mapping on behalf of the Executive Committee of PAFC Gabon.

The revision process was announced by public national media and a launch workshop took place in June 2012 to start the process, amend and adopt the stakeholder mapping

and to set up the PAFC Forum. Interested stakeholders were asked to send applications to participate in the PAFC Forum and 15 members were accepted on the Forum.

The Forum was officially inaugurated in January 2013, where the revised standard setting procedures were introduced and adopted by the Forum members. The PAFC Forum met in several meetings (verbal sessions) in March 2013 to revise the principles and related criteria of the PAFC Gabon Sustainable Forest management Standard (see 3.3 below) and elaborate a draft standard, which was indicated as being adopted by the Forum members by email vote. All standards of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme were finally adopted by the Extraordinary General Meeting of PAFC Gabon on 12.07.2013.

After the reception of the Final Draft Report V1 from the assessment team including 11 NCs, PAFC Gabon decided to put in additional efforts to revise the scheme documentation again with support of the consulting company TERE A and held a Forum meeting on 20.03.2014 to adopt the revised scheme documentation. The revised documentation was adopted by consensus. The General Assembly of PAFC Gabon held a meeting on 26.03.2014 and adopted the revised scheme documentation by consensus.

After the revision process, the scheme documentation complies with the requirements of the PEFCC (see chapter 5 below).

3.3. Forest certification standard(s)

Generally the requirements from PEFCC regarding sustainable forest management are widely met by the documentation provided by PAFC Gabon. The SFM standard of the scheme is extensive and reflects sufficiently national circumstances. It is structured according to four principles which cover extensively relevant aspects of sustainable forest management in a tropical country in Africa. The four principles are broken down into 15 criteria, 53 indicators and 164 sub-indicators, which demonstrates a great level of detail and use of local technical capacity.

The assessment of the PAFC Gabon requirements for sustainable forest management showed that the requirements of the PEFCC were met (see Chapter 6 below).

3.4. Group certification model

PAFC Gabon does not provide for a group forest management certification mechanism (see Chapter 7 below).

3.5. Chain of Custody standard(s)

The Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme has adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 (translated into French by PEFC France) without any modification to be the Chain of Custody Standard (see Chapter 8 below).

Thus, the criteria required by the PEFCC for the Chain of Custody of a national scheme are fulfilled (see chapter 8 below).

3.6. Certification and accreditation procedures

The certification and accreditation procedures are comprehensively described by the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme documents. All relevant ISO procedures for Certification Bodies and auditors are required, and the national Accreditation Body has to be a member of the International Accreditation Forum.

The final scheme documentation complies with the requirements of the PEFCC (see chapter 9 below).

3.7. Logo usage rules

The PAFC Gabon is the licensing body of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme and enters into contractual agreements with the logo users. Even though the scheme documentation does not provide a standard for the logo usage requirements, the general logo licence issuance standards refers to the PEFC ST 2001:2008 (PEFC logo usage) as mandatory documents for the logo use. The certification bodies have to control the correct logo use by the licences logo users according to the requirements of the PEFC ST 2001:2008.

The final scheme documentation complies with the requirements of the PEFCC (see chapter 10 below).

3.8. Complaints and dispute resolution procedures

The complaints and resolution procedures are comprehensively described by the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme. An independent and impartial dispute settlement body has to be set up in cases of complaints going beyond the capabilities of the accredited certification bodies. The requirements of the PEFCC concerning this point are met in all points.

The final scheme documentation complies with the requirements of the PEFCC (see chapter 11 below).

3.9. Any other aspects

The Annexes of the Development Report, minutes of meetings and other documents/records were provided in French and the assessors partly considered these as supporting evidence to verify claims made in the Development Report about the standard setting process. However, these documents were not seen as major documents, since all scheme specific documents have to be provided in English according to the PEFC GD 1007:2012.

3.10. Stakeholder survey

A stakeholder survey was conducted from Tuesday 26.11.2013 to Tuesday 10.12.2013. 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 18 stakeholders (see Appendix 5). The survey was completed by six stakeholders (33%). The questionnaire was sent translated in both French and English.

In addition an email was sent on Wednesday 27.11.13 to 33 stakeholders who were listed as a part of the stakeholder mapping exercise and their email addresses were available. The purpose of this email was to assess whether the mapped stakeholders had been given a meaningful opportunity to engage in the standard setting process and participate in the Forum. There were no responses to this email.

The responses received from the stakeholder survey have almost been overwhelmingly positive, where 100% of responses indicated that participating stakeholders:

- represented the range of interests in forest management in Gabon;
- all standard revision documents were made available;
- given meaningful opportunities to contribute to revising the standard;
- comments were handled in a fair and transparent manner;
- the enquiry draft was accessible and publicly available;
- satisfaction with the decision making process and reaching consensus; and
- received a final draft and had a meaningful opportunity to comment on it.

There was however one negative response to Question 3 which asked whether stakeholders were satisfied with the way of determining and approaching disadvantaged stakeholders, due to a financial perspective (all other stakeholder responses were satisfied with this process).

The results of the stakeholder survey are incorporated into the SSRs. The complete survey and the comments provided by the stakeholders are documented in Annex 2 of this report.

4. Structure of the system

The **National Governing Body** recognised by the PEFC Council in Gabon is the not-for-profit association registered under Gabonese law - **PAFC Gabon** with its registered office at B.P. 17.064, Libreville, Gabon. The current President of the Executive Committee is Mme Rose Ondo.

The aim of PAFC Gabon forest certification is to promote the sustainable management of Gabonese forests and offer guarantees to timber industry professionals (operators, manufacturers and traders), citizens and consumers that PEFC certified wood comes from a forest managed in accordance with the PAFC Gabon requirements.

PAFC Gabon is a member based organization and made up of members who are divided into **four colleges**:

- the college of forest owners and rightful owners,
- the college of professionals,
- the social college and
- the environmental college.

No interest to become a member of PAFC Gabon could be identified at the level of scientific organizations.

PAFC Gabon has the following governing bodies:

- The **General Assembly** comprising of all members of the PAFC.
- The **Board of Directors** upon which three members of each college sit.
- The **Executive Committee** comprised of a President, a Vice-President, a General Secretary and a Treasurer elected by the Board.

The body charged with achieving consensus in standard setting and revision processes is the **PAFC Forum**. The Forum is temporarily created from the moment it is appointed by the PAFC Executive Committee until the PEFC approves the standard. From among the stakeholders who have expressed an interest in devising or revising the PAFC standard, the PAFC Executive Committee must take account of the following criteria when selecting the PAFC Forum participants:

- Stakeholders who are practically or directly concerned by the implementation of the standard or the facilitation of the implementation of the standard are prioritised and account for at least 35% of the Forum.
- There must be a balance between the different categories of participants which are representing the four interest groups (see colleges above). The number of participants from any one of the interest groups must not exceed by any more than 25% the number of participants from another interest group (i.e. number of participants from interest group Z = $\pm 25\%$ number of participants from interest group Y) in order to achieve this balance.
- Include stakeholders with relevant standard development and revision expertise.

- Participants must honestly and efficiently represent the stakeholders concerned.

The **PAFC Gabon Secretariat** has to send the finalised list of Forum participants to the stakeholders, explaining to stakeholders who expressed an interest the reasons why they have/have not been selected to take part in the Forum. All inclusions/rejections of stakeholders in the PAFC Forum have to be explained by the Executive Committee, which may base its reasoning on the need for a balanced representation of the different categories of participants (as above). All decisions made by the Forum have to be based on consensus.

The **PAFC Forum** has to elect an Executive Committee comprising a President, Secretary and Facilitator, with the following roles:

- **President:** The president is responsible for the smooth running of the process and will also be the focal point for all requests and complaints relating to the standard setting/revision work.
- **Secretary:** The secretary is responsible for drafting the minutes of the Forum sessions.
- **Facilitator:** The facilitator helps to develop a structured and constructive debate, enables all the stakeholders to take part and puts forward solutions for discussion in order to resolve issues of conflict.

The **General Assembly** of members of PAFC Gabon finally has to approve the revised standards which are the output of the work of the PAFC Forum. The approval has to be made by consensus.

5. Standard setting process

The general procedures to be applied are documented in the document PAFC Gabon SSP 2013 Scheme. The standard setting process as implemented during this revision is described in the document PAFC Gabon Development report 2013 Scheme, which was provided for assessment by PAFC Gabon together with the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme documentation. Furthermore, minutes of meetings, examples of invitations to stakeholders, lists of participants and other documents were provided for assessment as supporting documentation to prove the implementation of the standard-setting process as claimed in the Development Report. However, these documents were provided in French language.

The standard-setting process is assessed at two levels:

- 1) Conformity assessment of **standard-setting procedures** as documented in the document PAFC Gabon SSP 2013 Scheme 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 Development Report and supporting documentation 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 PAFC Gabon are already described in Chapter 4 of this report (see above).

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

Table 3 below shows an overview of the different steps taken, responsibilities defined for the different bodies of PAFC Gabon and related documentation in the standard setting process as described in the Development Report for the Revision Process of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme.

Table 3: Overview of the standard-setting process

Phase	Description	Responsibilities	Associated documents
Stakeholder mapping	Identify the stakeholders	Executive Committee PAFC Gabon	List of stakeholders
Start of the process	Invitation sent to the stakeholders	Executive Committee PAFC Gabon	Invitations / Standard revision / setting procedure / Registration form / Website
Forum is created	Analysis of the comments received	Executive Committee PAFC Gabon	Communication via email / list of the participants / comments made by the stakeholders and the GA
	Appoint and approve participants	Executive Committee PAFC Gabon	
	Publication of Forum participants	Secretariat	
Develop the preliminary documents	Election of the Forum president, secretary and facilitator. Approval of the SSP and the stakeholder mapping.	PAFC Forum	Meeting minutes / results of votes
	Revision of the standards		
Public consultation	60 day deadline for receiving comments	Executive Committee PAFC Gabon	Circulation list / website
Pilot testing	Not applicable in the event of a revision.	Executive Committee PAFC Gabon	Pilot run report
Approval	Summary report	Executive Committee PAFC Gabon	Report
	Approval	The General Assembly of PAFC Gabon.	Decision
	Mutual recognition	PEFCC	Decision

The standard setting process started with stakeholder mapping carried out by the external consultant company TERE A on behalf of the PAFC Gabon Executive Committee to identify the stakeholders involved in forestry related issues in Gabon. A stakeholder mapping report (PAFC Gabon Stakeholder Mapping 2013 Scheme) was produced and included lists of relevant organizations representing the administrative, economic, social, environmental and scientific interests in Gabonese forestry (60 stakeholders identified in total) were amended and approved on a launch workshop on 23.07.2012. Furthermore, the standard setting procedures were explained to the participants. Representatives of various organizations representing following main groups of interest were present during the launch workshop:

- Administration - four organizations
- Social - five organizations
- Environmental - three organizations
- Economic - one organization

Furthermore, representatives of six different media organizations of Gabon were present during the workshop. The participants were provided with a form to apply for participation in the Forum. Other stakeholders were sent invitations and application forms **upon request**. A one month application period was extended for two additional months due to the lack of interest at the level of the timber industry before closing the applications to participate in the Forum.

Once applications had been received and recorded, the PAFC Executive Committee proceeded to select and appoint the Forum participants based on three criteria:

- The representative nature of the candidate.
- Their reasons for wanting to take part.
- A balance between the different groups of stakeholders.

This was carried out between 02.11.2012 - 02.12.2012 and resulted in the following makeup:

- Administration college: three applications registered.
- Economic stakeholders' college: four applications registered.
- Social college: six applications registered.
- Environmental college: four applications registered.
- Teaching and research college: no applications registered.

The list of participants selected and the responses given to non-selected applicants were made known by email from 14.12.2012 - 31.12.2012.

The setting-up of the Forum took place on 04.01.2013 in the auditorium of the University Omar Bongo Scientific Council. The first step taken was to elect the Forum's committee, comprising:

- A president
- A secretary
- A facilitator

The Forum members then approved the standard setting procedure provided by the PAFC Executive Committee (PAFC Gabon SSP 2013 Scheme), adopting ‘achieving a consensus’ as the decision-making mechanism. They also approved the stakeholder mapping, abolishing the teaching and research grouping as none of the members of this grouping took part in the preparatory work for setting up the Forum.

The Forum conducted its work during five meetings on 07.03.2013, 08.03.2013, 13.03.2013, 14.03.2013 and 15.03.2013. The agenda of these meetings focused on examining the four principles and all the indicators and sub-indicators connected to these principles that make up the PAFC Gabon sustainable forest management standard.

The public consultation took place from 25.03.2013 - 25.05.2013. It was extended a further week until 31.05.2013 upon the request of an international stakeholder. It was announced by a press release in the L’Union national daily newspaper, a radio broadcast over a three-day period and forest management stakeholders in Gabon were sent the standard by email.

The following stakeholders commented on the revised Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme:

Table 4: Stakeholder comments during the public consultation period

Date received	Source	Response	Date of response
Friday 15 March	Esther Ntsame (Advisor to the Minister of the Forest Economy).	The comments were accepted and taken into account within the framework of the public consultation.	15 March
Friday 19 April	Régis Bibang Gabonese Small-Scale Forestry Permit Development Project	Amendments made to the form of the document were taken into account.	22 April
Friday 24 May	Clotilde Henriot (ClientEarth)	Agreed to extend the consultation period for a further week.	24 May
Friday 31 May	Clotilde Henriot (ClientEarth)	Comments accepted	31 May

The comments mainly focused on the following topics: misprints, unification of terminology, glossary of terms shortcomings and lacking requirements for standard conflict events. According to the Development Report, all comments were accepted, leading to amendments in the standard documents.

The adoption process of the finalized standard documents by the Forum members was carried out by an email vote from 18.06.2013 - 28.06.2013. If no responses were

received by a Forum member, acceptance of the final standard document was assumed. Only two responses were received.

The Extraordinary General Assembly convened for the first time on 05.07.2013 (not enough participants were in attendance to be able to provide a decision) and finally on 12.07.2013, when the revised Gabonese Forest Certification System standards were approved. The president of the PAFC Executive Committee presented the final versions of the relevant standards (see Table 1) and a question and answer session was held to discuss details. According to the Development Report the result of the debate was an adoption of the revised standards reached by consensus and all participants signed a declaration to document that the decision was taken by consensus.

After the reception of the Final Draft Report V1 from the assessment team including several NCs, PAFC Gabon decided to put in additional efforts to revise the scheme documentation again with support of TERE and held a Forum meeting on 20.03.2014 to adopt the revised scheme documentation. The revised documentation was adopted by consensus. The General Assembly of PAFC Gabon held a meeting on 26.03.2014 and adopted the revised scheme documentation by consensus.

After the revision process, the scheme documentation complies with the requirements of the PEFCC.

The detailed analysis is shown in the SSRC I in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFCC's technical documents are stated directly in the SSRCs.

6. Forest Management Standard

PAFC Gabon defines in the document “Sustainable forest management - PAFC Gabon standards requirements” the rules and requirements that must be met by regional entities in order to become PEFC certified and to ensure that forest managers and operators comply with PEFC’s sustainable forest management system for Gabon and thus to the PEFC Council requirements laid down in “PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements”.

In the absence of the provision of requirements for a group certification approach within PAFC Gabon this document serves as the only set of requirements pertaining to forest management. It is supported by the relevant content of the document “PAFC Gabon system description 2013” in so far, that applicable legislation in the context of forest management in Gabon is listed there. This helped the assessment team to support assessment findings in a few specific cases, since legal requirements can serve as verifiable evidence that PEFC requirements are met by a national SFM standard.

Generally the requirements from PEFC regarding sustainable forest management are widely met by the documentation provided by PAFC Gabon. The SFM standard of the scheme is exhaustive and reflects sufficiently national circumstances. It is structured according to four principles which cover extensively relevant aspects of sustainable forest management in a tropical country in Africa. The four principles are broken down into 15 criteria, 53 indicators and 164 sub-indicators, which demonstrates a great level of detail and use of local technical capacity. Principle 1 covers the legal and regulatory framework of forest management and exercise of the occupation. Principle 2 involves management methods and responsibilities to ensure that long-term stability and continuity of production of the desired goods and services in the forest are achieved. Principle 3 focuses on the requirements that enable the forest’s main ecological functions to be maintained. Principle 4 covers the contribution made by sustainable forest management to the socio-economic development of local communities and indigenous populations and aspects such as workers’ rights, healthcare, safety at work and improving the living conditions of forest workers and their families.

In a few areas where PAFC Gabon as part of the self-assessment stated that a specific PEFC requirement would not be seen as applicable in the context of Gabon, additional information was provided by the scheme to enable the assessment team to assess the degree of compliance. Those aspects included a clear identification of responsibilities for certain forest management activities, the role of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), the meaning of reforestation activities or the circumstances under which conversion might occur.

The detailed analysis is shown in the SSRC II in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFC’s technical documents are stated directly in the SSRCs.

7. Group Certification Model

PAFC Gabon does not provide for a group forest management certification mechanism.

8. Chain of Custody standard

The Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme has adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without any modification to be the Chain of Custody Standard.

The PAFC Gabon CoC Standard 2013 Scheme was adopted by the PAFC Extraordinary General Assembly on 12.07.2013 and states in the foreword that "PAFC Gabon decided to adopt PEFC Council CoC standard PEFC ST 2002:2013. Thus this document is a translation of this standard. PAFC Gabon thanks PEFC France which translated the document from English to French and has the copyrights on it."

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

The detailed analysis is shown in the SSRC V in the Annex of this report.

9. Certification and accreditation arrangements

The certification and accreditation arrangements of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme are described in the documents PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements 2013 Scheme for forest management and PAFC Gabon_CoC CB requirements_EN_V2.3 for chain of custody certification and in the PAFC Gabon_Notification Proc_EN_V2.3 for general issues.

Generally, Certification Bodies have to be legal entities and accredited by a national accreditation body which is a member or a part of IAF (International Accreditation Forum). The accreditation has to be issued against ISO Guide 65 (now ISO 17065) for COC certification and ISO/CEI 17021 for forest management certification. The scope of the accreditation has to include the PEFC ST 2002:2013 for Chain of Custody certification, the PEFC ST 2001:2008 for logo use and the PAFC Gabon scheme documents concerning SFM in Gabon. Each Certification Body has to hold a notification contract with PAFC Gabon. The notification of a Certification Body can be suspended or terminated by PAFC Gabon in case of violation of the notification contract. The certification bodies have to provide information to PAFC Gabon 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 certification bodies have to pay a fee to PAFC Gabon depending on the annual turnover of the certified organizations. The rates are fixed and documented by PAFC Gabon in Appendix 4 of the notification procedures.

The PAFC scheme documentation also requires the necessary conditions for Certification Bodies and auditors according to the PEFCC's requirements. The Certification Bodies 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. Certification bodies carrying out forest certification have to fulfil the requirements laid down in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 or ISO Guide 65 (now ISO 17065). The certification body carrying out forest certification needs technical competence in the field of forest management including all relevant aspects and has to be familiar with the PAFC Gabon 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 19011. The certification body must have established internal procedures to conduct the forest management certification in respect of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme and must meet or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 or ISO Guide 65 (now ISO 17065) and with the requirements of ISO 19011.

The final scheme documentation complies with the requirements of the PEFCC.

The detailed analysis is shown in the SSRC IV and SSRC VI in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFCC's technical documents are stated directly in the SSRs.

10. Implementation of PEFC Logo usage

The procedures for the logo usage licenses are documented in the PAFC Gabon_PEFC logo usage licence procedure_EN_V2.3. According to the SSRC Gabon the PAFC Gabon used the PEFC GD 1005:2012 "Issuance of PEFC Logo use licenses by the PEFC Council" for schemes without a licensing body as guidance for the elaboration of the PAFC Gabon PEFC logo licence issuance 2013 Scheme. However, the PAFC Gabon clearly is the licensing body in Gabon whose responsibilities concerning the logo usage licenses are described in the PAFC Gabon_PEFC logo usage licence procedure_EN_V2.3. Therefore, the assessment was based on requirements spelled out in the SSRC Part VI point 2 for schemes with own licensing bodies.

Even though the PAFC Gabon scheme documents did not provide a document showing the requirements for the rules for the use of the PEFC logos by organizations, the PAFC Gabon_PEFC logo usage licence procedure and the PAFC Gabon notification procedures clearly require the use of the PEFC ST 2001:2008 as standard to implement and control the PEFC logo use. Thus, the requirements of the PEFCC are automatically met by the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme in this context.

PAFC Gabon will enter into a legal contract with each logo user which clarifies duties and rights of the parties concerned. The Certification Bodies are in charge to control the logo use of the certified companies and to inform the PEFCC about any unauthorized use. PAFC Gabon has the right to imply legal measures for missuse of the PEFC Logos.

The final scheme documentation complies with the requirements of the PEFCC.

The detailed analysis is shown in the SSRC VI in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFCC's technical documents are stated directly in the SSRCS.

11. Complaints and dispute resolution procedures

The complaints and dispute resolution procedures of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme are described in the document PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin. This procedure specifies the creation and operating principles of a dispute settlement body to deal with complaints arising from the implementation of the standard or certification procedures that cannot be addressed by the dispute settlement procedures of the relevant accredited certification body.

PAFC Gabon has to designate an independent committee to deal with complaints and appeals arising from implementation or certification procedures that cannot be addressed by the relevant accredited certifying bodies. This committee is composed of a member of the administration, a member of PAFC Gabon Board of Directors, a representative of the certified companies, either appointed by them or elected by vote, and an independent external expert. The body responsible for resolving requests for arbitration from the Forum is the PAFC Gabon Board of Directors.

Any request to launch a dispute settlement procedure must be sent to the PAFC Gabon secretariat. It must be accompanied by documentation providing background to the specific case, declarations by all interested parties and, if necessary, the result of the internal inquiry carried out by the certification body. The PAFC Gabon Secretariat shall confirm that the request has been duly received.

If within three months of the request being received, no regular PAFC Gabon meeting takes place, appointment of the dispute settlement body and its members must be arranged by written correspondence. During this period, the dispute settlement body shall meet for the first time. In more complex cases, an independent expert must be called in. Decisions are made by a simple majority vote. The PAFC Gabon secretariat is responsible for providing minutes of the dispute settlement body's meetings and informing the parties concerned of the outcome of the dispute settlement process. The decision of the dispute settlement body is binding and ensures closure of the dispute. Until the dispute settlement body makes its decision, all certificates and confirmations of participation remain valid.

If complaints, disputes or conflicts cannot be resolved out of court, following an agreement between the two parties or by the certification body, the accreditation body, or the dispute settlement body designated by PAFC Gabon, then as a last resort, the civil court where the appellant has their registered office shall be competent.

The final scheme documentation complies with the requirements of the PEFCC.

The detailed analysis is shown in the SSRC VI in the Annex of this report.

Observations made by the assessors which could improve the system but are not specifically required by the PEFCC's technical documents are stated directly in the SSRCs.

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 revised PAFC Gabon scheme documents with the requirements of 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 PAFC Gabon 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 red **YES**. 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 PAFC GABON standard documents are given at the beginning of the relevant section (e.g. "PAFC Gabon FM Standard 2013 Scheme"). In cases where requirements were met by the PAFC GABON 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.

The results of the stakeholder survey are included in the MCL in *cursive letters*, where relevant.

3. Legend

Column YES/NO:

YES = Assessment showed compliance with the PEFC international standards

YES = Minor non-compliance (NC) with the PEFC international standards

No = Major non-compliance (NC) with the PEFC international standards

Column "Reference to application documents":

Black = Evaluations mad by the assessors

"Black" = Quotations from PAFC GABON Standard Documents

Black cursive = Results of stakeholder survey

RED = Minor NCs, Major NCs and Observations

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

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.

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>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 3</p> <p>"The standardising body recognised by the PEFC Council in Gabon is the following non-profit association registered under Gabonese law - PAFC Gabon. PAFC Gabon is made up of members who are divided into four colleges: the college of forest owners and rightful owners, the college of professionals, the social college and the environmental college. PAFC has the following governing bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The General Assembly comprising all the members of the PAFC. • The Board upon which three members of each college sit. • The Executive Committee comprised of a President, a Vice-President, a General Secretary and a Treasurer elected by the Board. <p>A working group will be set up and will be responsible for devising or revising the PAFC standard. The working group shall be known as the PAFC Forum. The decision-making method used by this working group is consensus, in accordance with chapter 5. As a first step, the Forum shall elect an Executive Committee comprising a President, Secretary and Facilitator, with the following roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President: The president is responsible for the smooth running of the process and will also be the focal point for all requests and complaints relating to the standard setting / revision work (see paragraph 4.10 for the complaints and appeals management procedure). • Secretary: The secretary is responsible for drafting the minutes of the Forum sessions. • Facilitator: The facilitator helps to develop a structured and constructive debate, enables all the stakeholders to take part and

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>puts forward solutions for discussion in order to resolve conflictual issues."</p> <p>The final approval of the standards is made by the General Assembly of PEFC Gabon (see chapter 3.4).</p>
b) the record-keeping procedures,	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 7</p> <p>"PAFC Gabon, via its Executive Committee, will be responsible for recording and conserving the documents linked to the standard setting and revision process. These documents will constitute evidence of compliance with the PEFC requirements. The following documents will be conserved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board, General Assembly and PAFC Forum meeting attendance lists. • Meeting minutes signed by the participants. • All the contributions made by the stakeholders taking part in the Forum or during the public consultation process. • Complaints and appeals lodged. • The various versions of documents. • Any other document that proves the compliance of the standard setting and revision procedure. <p>These documents will be conserved by the PAFC Gabon Secretariat for five years. They will be made available to the stakeholders on request."</p>
c) the procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 3.3.3</p> <p>"From among the stakeholders who have expressed an interest in devising or revising the PAFC standard, the PAFC Executive Committee must take account of the following criteria when selecting the PAFC Forum participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders who are practically or directly concerned by the implementation of the standard or the facilitation of the implementation of the standard are prioritised and account for at least 35% of the Forum. • There must be a balance between the different categories of participants (representatives of the four interest groups). The number of participants from any one of the interest groups must not exceed by any more than 25% the number of participants from another interest group (i.e. number of participants from interest group Z = ± 25% number of participants from interest group Y) in order to achieve this balance. • Include stakeholders with relevant standard development and revision expertise. • Participants must honestly and efficiently represent the stakeholders concerned."

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4 (table)</p> <p>The chapter describes the general standard setting process in an overview table as follows:</p> <p>Stakeholder mapping > Start of the process > Forum is created > Develop the preliminary documents > Public consultation > Pilot testing > Approval.</p> <p>All activities are described, responsibilities are named and associated documents are listed in the table.</p>
e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 5</p> <p>"The decision-making mechanism selected for the setting and revision of the Gabonese certification standard is consensus.</p> <p>It shall be deemed that quorum has been reached if, as a minimum requirement, each interest group is represented by a simple majority of its members.</p> <p>No consensus can be reached if this requirement is not met.</p> <p>Members will express their approval or disapproval by means of a 'vote' in order to find out if a consensus has been reached.</p> <p>Each and every represented member is entitled to one vote (one member = one vote) within the framework of the PAFC Forum. Observers may be accepted in an advisory capacity but under no circumstances may vote, as this is solely reserved for the members of the PAFC Forum.</p> <p>If a member is unable to attend a meeting, s/he may give a proxy vote to another member of the working group who will vote on his/her behalf. The president must be informed before the meeting and during the meeting itself will detail the proxy votes that s/he has received.</p> <p>In order to establish whether there is disagreement, the Forum shall organise one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting with a yes/no vote (either by a show of hands or a ballot). • A teleconference with a verbal vote (yes/no). • An email meeting (by proxy). • A combination of the three previous options. <p>The first option should be favoured given the technological constraints.</p> <p>The Forum must provide evidence that a consensus was reached when setting or revising the standards in accordance with the procedure described in paragraph 7.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>If opposition is expressed, the process shall comprise the following stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The facilitator will organise a second round of discussions so that all the participants can clarify their positions. If necessary, the facilitator may call upon external experts to provide expertise that may help to move forward the debate. 2. A second vote is taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If no opposition is registered, it will be deemed that a consensus has been reached. b. If there is still opposition at the second round, a third vote will be organised. <p>The third round of voting will use the interest group system. If an absolute majority is reached in an interest group, the group will be deemed to have voted "yes", otherwise it will be regarded as having voted "no". A consensus will be reached if none of the interest groups express their disagreement.</p> <p>In the event of a consensus not being reached, an alternative proposal will be sought and the stakeholders must rule on this new proposal using one of the methods listed above and in accordance with the decision-making mechanism listed above."</p>
f) revision of standards/normative documents.	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.11</p> <p>"The standard shall be revised either within the context of the systematic five-year revision or within a specific context, for example if the PEFC International requirements are changed.</p> <p>Revision of the PAFC Gabon standard will follow all the phases listed above and will be submitted to the PEFC Council for evaluation and approval within the set deadlines."</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>The use of the term "within the set deadlines" could be described more specific, for example 'the application date shall not exceed a period of one year from the publication of the standard'.</p>
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	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 8</p> <p>"This procedure is available and can be downloaded from the website and obtained via the PAFC Gabon Executive Committee.</p> <p>The following documents that were used to develop the Gabonese forest certification scheme in force are available either on the PEFC website or the PAFC website or from the PAFC Gabon Secretariat if requested in writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme recognised by the PEFC. • Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme procedures.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEFCC audit and recognition reports. • Any other document deemed to be relevant." <p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 1</p> <p>"This procedure will be revised just like the standards (see paragraph 4.11) either regularly (every five years) or on an ad-hoc basis." The reference to chapter 4.11 implies that also stakeholder comments have to be considered when revising the SSP Standard.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>The PAFC Gabon standard setting procedures which were endorsed by the PEFCC on 24/04/2009 are currently published on the PEFCC website under http://www.pefcc.org/about-pefcc/membership/national-members/34-Gabon as ANNEX V and ANNEX VI of the document PAFC Gabon Scheme. Procedures, supporting minutes, evaluation report and other documents are available.</p> <p>The document PAFC Gabon SSP which was submitted for the current assessment is clearly revised and differs from the documents endorsed in 2009. The revised standard setting procedures are publicly available under http://www.pefcc.org/standards/endorsement-mutual-recognition/assessments. The new procedures shall be published on the PAFC Gabon website and be requestable from the PAFC secretariat (see SSRCL Gabon).</p> <p>The working draft for the revised standard setting procedures which was endorsed on the first meeting of the Forum on 04.01.2013 is shown in Annex 4 of the PAFC Gabon Development Report. The Development Report states that the working draft was adopted by the Forum.</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 and shall be available to interested parties upon request.	Procedures	YES	See 4.1.b) above.
	Process	YES	<p>The records of the elaboration of the Gabon standards for the first endorsement on 24.04.2009 are available under http://www.pefcc.org/about-pefcc/membership/national-members/34-Gabon and from the PAFC Gabon Secretariat.</p> <p>The records concerning the revision process 2013 are kept by the PAFC Gabon Secretariat and are published under http://www.pefcc.org/standards/endorsement-mutual-recognition/assessments as ANNEXES 1 - 7.</p>
4.4 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group/committee responsible for standard-	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 3.3</p> <p>"A working group will be set up and will be responsible for devising or revising the PAFC standard. The working group shall be known as the PAFC Forum.</p> <p>The Forum shall be temporarily created from the moment it is appointed by the PAFC Executive Committee until the PEFCC approves</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
setting activities.			the standard."
	Process	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon Development report Scheme Chapter 2</p> <p>A Forum was formed from 23.07.2012 to 31.12.2012 which was responsible for the standard setting process until the consensus about the final standard versions on 28.06.2013.</p> <p>The description in the Development Report are proved by the submission of lists of signatures of Forum members (ANNEX 4) and minutes of Forum meetings (ANNEX 5).</p>
4.4 The working group/committee shall:			
a) be accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders,	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 3.3.3</p> <p>"From among the stakeholders who have expressed an interest in devising or revising the PAFC standard, the PAFC Executive Committee must take account of the following criteria when selecting the PAFC Forum participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders who are practically or directly concerned by the implementation of the standard or the facilitation of the implementation of the standard are prioritised and account for at least 35% of the Forum."
	Process	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon Development report 2013 Scheme Chapter 1</p> <p>A stakeholder mapping for forestry related organizations was prepared by the consultant company TERE A and approved by the participants of a launch workshop on 23.07.2012, which was announced by public media and open to all stakeholders concerned. The stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping are representing various organizations active in the fields of forest and timber economy, social issues, environmental issues, administrative bodies and scientific organizations (see also ANNEX 1 and PAFC Gabon Stakeholder Mapping 2013 Scheme).</p> <p>PAFC Gabon Development report 2013 ANNEX 4.2</p> <p>Representatives of the following major interest groups were present at the launch workshop to approve the stakeholder selection prepared by the consultant TERE A: Administration > 4; Economic > 1; Environment > 3 and Social > 5.</p> <p>PAFC Gabon Development report Scheme Chapter 2</p> <p>"Using the form handed out at the launch workshop and sent out by email upon request, the stakeholders identified by the mapping were invited to express their interest in joining the Forum over the 3 August to 2 September 2012 period."</p> <p>"Once applications had been received and recorded, the Executive Committee proceeded to select and appoint the Forum participants based on three criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The representative nature of the candidate.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their reasons for wanting to take part. • A balance between the different groups of stakeholders." <p>This information implies that materially and directly affected stakeholders had access to the Forum.</p>
<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 interests shall not dominate nor be dominated in the process, and</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 3.3.3</p> <p>"From among the stakeholders who have expressed an interest in devising or revising the PAFC standard, the PAFC Executive Committee must take account of the following criteria when selecting the PAFC Forum participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be a balance between the different categories of participants (representatives of the four interest groups). The number of participants from any one of the interest groups must not exceed by any more than 25% the number of participants from another interest group (i.e. number of participants from interest group Z = ± 25% number of participants from interest group Y) in order to achieve this balance."
	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PAFC Gabon Development report Scheme Annex 4.3</p> <p>The Forum finally represented the following major interest sectors in the shown quantity:</p> <p>Administration: 3 organizations</p> <p>Economique: 4 organizations</p> <p>Social: 4 organizations</p> <p>Environment: 4 organizations</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey showed, that 100% of the respondents agreed that the participating stakeholders represented the range of interests in forestry in Gabon.</i></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</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 3.3.3</p> <p>"From among the stakeholders who have expressed an interest in devising or revising the PAFC standard, the PAFC Executive Committee must take account of the following criteria when selecting the PAFC Forum participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include stakeholders with relevant standard development and revision expertise. • Participants must honestly and efficiently represent the stakeholders concerned." <p>See also 4.4a) above.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
represent a meaningful segment of the participants.	Process	YES	PAFC Gabon Development report Scheme Annex 4.3 The stakeholders which constituted the Forum represented the national forest administration, timber and forest enterprises, environmental NGOs, Organizations for indigenous people's rights and workers unions. All stakeholders show expertise and are materially affected and can influence the implementation of the standard.
4.5 The standardising body shall establish procedures for dealing with any substantive and procedural complaints relating to the standardising activities which are accessible to stakeholders.	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 6 "Complaints and appeals made within the context of the setting and revision of the standard will be managed in accordance with the PAFC Gabon scheme procedure." (see PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin)
	Process	YES	SSRCL Gabon 4.5 No complaints have been received during the standard setting process.
4.5 Upon receipt of the complaint, the standard-setting body shall:			
a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint to the complainant,	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Chapter 3 "Any request to launch a dispute settlement procedure must be sent to the PAFC Gabon secretariat. It must be accompanied by documentation providing background to the specific case, declarations by all interested parties and, if necessary, the result of the internal inquiry carried out by the certification body. The PAFC Gabon Secretariat shall confirm that the request has been duly received." Observation No timeframe concerning the confirmation about the reception of a complaint is indicated. The definition of timeframes is not specifically required in the PEFC ST 1001:2010 Chapter 4.5. However, to ensure an efficient treatment of complaints, timeframes should be indicated (e.g. confirmation within 14 days after reception of the complaint).
	Process	YES	SSRCL Gabon 4.5 No complaints have been received during the standard setting process.
b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint,	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Chapter 3 "Any request to launch a dispute settlement procedure must be sent to the PAFC Gabon secretariat. It must be accompanied by documentation providing background to the specific case, declarations by all interested parties and, if necessary, the result of the

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
impartially and objectively evaluate the subject matter of the complaint, and make a decision upon the complaint, and			<p>internal inquiry carried out by the certification body."</p> <p>This paragraph implies that all necessary information is gathered and validated to deal with a complaint.</p> <p>PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Chapter 2</p> <p>"The law governing procedures for dealing with complaints, appeals, and requests for arbitration relating to the implementation of the certification, ensures a fair and impartial system of implementation and certification.</p> <p>PAFC Gabon shall designate an independent committee to deal with complaints and appeals arising from implementation or certification procedures that cannot be addressed by the relevant accredited certifying bodies. This committee is composed of a member of the administration, a member of PAFC Gabon Board of Directors, a representative of the certified companies, either appointed by them or elected by vote, and an independent external expert."</p> <p>This paragraph implies, that the complaint will be dealt with impartially and objective by an independent committee.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>SSRCL Gabon 4.5</p> <p>No complaints have been received during the standard setting process.</p>
c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint and of the complaint handling process to the complainant.	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Chapter 3</p> <p>"The PAFC Gabon secretariat is responsible for providing minutes of the dispute settlement body's meetings and informing the parties concerned of the outcome of the dispute settlement process."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>SSRCL Gabon 4.5</p> <p>No complaints have been received during the standard setting process.</p>
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	<p>PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Chapter 3</p> <p>"The body responsible for resolving requests for arbitration from the Forum is the PAFC Gabon Board of Directors."</p> <p>Mailing Address: 17063 Libreville (Gabon) Email: rose.ondo @ PAFC-gabon.org The address rose.ondo @ PAFC-gabon.org is active and the site www.pafc-gabon.org is currently managed by PEFC.</p>
Standard-setting process			

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>5.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting work.</p>	<p>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.1</p> <p>"Stakeholders need to be identified by the PAFC Gabon Executive Committee before the process of setting and revising the standard gets underway.</p> <p>Stakeholder mapping identifies the individuals and organisations affected by the setting or revision of the Gabonese forest certification standard and / or who are affected by implementation of the standard."</p> <p>"This mapping will be submitted to the stakeholders for comment. The Executive Committee will then produce a final version that will be submitted to the PAFC forum for approval."</p>
	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PAFC Gabon Development report Scheme Chapter 1</p> <p>A stakeholder mapping for forestry related organizations was prepared by the consultant company TERE A and approved by the participants of a launch workshop on 23.07.2012, which was announced by public media and open to all stakeholders concerned. The stakeholders identified in the stakeholder mapping are representing various organizations active in the fields of forest and timber economy, social issues, environmental issues, administrative bodies and scientific organizations (see also ANNEX 1 and PAFC Gabon Stakeholder Mapping 2013 Scheme).</p> <p>PAFC Gabon Development report ANNEX 4.2</p> <p>Representatives of the following major interest groups were present at the launch workshop to approve the stakeholder selection prepared by the consultant TERE A: Administration > 4; Economic > 1; Environment > 3 and Social > 5.</p>
<p>5.2 The standardising body shall identify disadvantaged and key 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>Procedures</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.1</p> <p>" Stakeholders who wish to do so will participate in the standard setting and revision forum. The Executive Committee will pay particular attention to the most disadvantaged and key stakeholders, ensuring that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses suitable means of communication to contact and inform them about the process. • Finds effective ways of getting them involved so that they can contribute to the different phases of the standard-setting process."
	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PAFC Gabon Stakeholder Mapping Scheme Chapter 3</p> <p>The stakeholder mapping was implemented by the external consultant TERE A and approved during a launch workshop on 23.07.2012. Chapter 3 gives a definition of key stakeholders and lists various organizations representing the 5 major interest groups local administration, economy, environment, social issues and science.</p> <p>The PAFC Gabon Development Report 2013 Scheme and the PAFC Gabon Stakeholder Mapping 2013 do not give any comments about the identification of disadvantaged stakeholders in Gabon. However, the SSRCL of Gabon states, that "the disadvantaged</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>stakeholders could be considered as the autochthonous people of Gabon but they are well presented in Libreville through associations". The list of Forum participants in Annex 4.3 of the Development Report shows 1 Organization (AGAFI = Indigenous Population Protection) which officially represents the interests of the identified disadvantaged stakeholders.</p> <p>Within the two weeks comment period it was stated by PAFC Gabon that "there are three associations representing indigenous peoples, two were invited to the launch workshop, one responded and expressed interest to participate in the Forum. Associations Women were also invited but did not respond to our invitation".</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey showed that 83.3% (5 respondents) of the respondents were satisfied with the selection and way of approaching disadvantaged stakeholders. One Respondent (17.7%) claimed dissatisfaction due to financial issues.</i></p> <p>Taking into consideration the generally positive result of the stakeholder responses and the identification an invitation of the associations representing indigenous rights in Gabon, this point can be seen as complied with.</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>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.2.1</p> <p>"The start of the standard setting and revision process will be publicly announced via as many media as possible - a national radio broadcast and a press release in the national written press. A TV broadcast and a press release published by the national online media could also be envisaged."</p> <p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.2.2</p> <p>"Invitations to take part in the revision process shall be sent to all the identified stakeholders by post, email or personal delivery, with confirmation of receipt being required."</p>
	<p>Process</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>PAFC Gabon Development Report Scheme Annex 1</p> <p>The payment receipts for public announcements of the revision process in two national newspapers are provided as evidence for the public announcement of the start of the standard setting process and the invitation for all interested parties to participate in the launch workshop were provided.</p> <p>Furthermore, the assessor found an announcement of the revision process including Agenda of the launch workshop under http://pfbc-cbfp.org/events_en/events/PAFC-Gabon-EEE.html</p> <p>PAFC Gabon Development Report 2013 Scheme Annex 3</p> <p>An example of the invitation letter to participate in the Forum sent to identified stakeholders and 13 registration forms sent by applicants expressing the interest in participating in the standard revision process are shown in Annex 3.</p> <p>The invitation process is documented by PAFC Gabon by distribution lists of invitations and scheme documents (provided during the two weeks comment period - "doc1) and by copies of emails to the relevant organizations/individuals.</p>
<p>5.3 The announcement and invitation shall include:</p>			

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
a) information about the objectives, scope and the steps of the standard-setting process and its timetable,	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.2.2 "These invitations must include the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about the scope of the setting/revision process, its aims, the timetable and phases of the process."
	Process	YES	PAFC Gabon Development Report Scheme Annex 3 The invitation letter explains the objectives, scope and steps of the standard setting process and the timetable starting on 23.07.2012 and ending between September and December 2012. (only available in French)
b) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process,	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.2.2 "These invitations must include the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The option of taking part in the process by registering an interest and appointing a representative via the form that can be used to register an organisation and its representative."
	Process	YES	PAFC Gabon Development Report Scheme Annex 3 The invitation letter explains the possibilities to register with an attached form, name one representative and choose a group of interest to become active in. (only available in French) 13 filled forms of applicants are shown in Annex 3 as evidence.
(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	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.2.2 "These invitations must include the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The option of taking part in the process by registering an interest and appointing a representative via the form that can be used to register an organisation and its representative. Particular attention shall be paid to the invitations to disadvantaged and key stakeholders, ensuring that the invitation is in a format that is understandable and that it reaches the intended recipients."
	Process	YES	PAFC Gabon Development Report Scheme Annex 3 The invitation letter explains the possibilities to register with an attached form, name one representative and choose a group of interest to become active in. (only available in French) 13 filled forms of applicants are shown in Annex 3 as evidence.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>PAFC Gabon Stakeholder Mapping Scheme Chapter 3</p> <p>The stakeholder mapping claims that only key stakeholders were identified and included in the standard revision process. Neither the Development Report nor the Stakeholder Mapping refers to the identification of disadvantaged stakeholders. However, the SSRCL Gabon 45.2 claims that only the autochthonous people are disadvantaged but represented by associations in Libreville.</p> <p>During the two weeks comment period, PAFC Gabon explained that "representatives of disadvantaged stakeholders in this case the indigenous peoples were mandated to relay the information to their members."</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey showed that 83.3% (five respondents) of the respondents were satisfied with the selection and way of approaching disadvantaged stakeholders. One Respondent (17.7%) claimed dissatisfaction due to financial issues.</i></p> <p>The above given information and the result of the stakeholder survey concerning this issue imply that the process was implemented accordingly.</p>
d) an invitation to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process, and	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.2.2</p> <p>"These invitations must include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An invitation to comment on the standard setting and revision process and its scope."
	Process	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon Development Report 2013 Scheme Annex 3</p> <p>The invitation letter includes the explanation that the selected representatives will participate actively in the standard revision process. (only available in French)</p>
e) reference to publicly available standard-setting procedures.	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.2.2</p> <p>"These invitations must include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the public availability of certification standard setting and revision procedures."
	Process	YES	<p>In the Development Report and the invitation letter to participate in the Forum no reference to publicly available standard setting documents can be found. However, the SSRC Gabon 5.3.e) claims, that the standard setting procedures were distributed at the launch workshop on 23.07.2012. During the two weeks comment period additional evidence for the reception of the scheme documentation by the stakeholders concerned was provided ("doc1").</p> <p><i>During the stakeholder survey, no dissatisfaction concerning availability of scheme documentation during the process was expressed.</i></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>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.</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.3</p> <p>"Stakeholders should express their interest in taking part in the process by sending an email or letter to the PAFC Gabon Secretariat explaining their reasons and listing the name of the person chosen to represent them at the Forum.</p> <p>The Forum will be created in accordance with the procedure detailed in 3.3.3 of this procedure" (see 4.4 a) and b) above).</p> <p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.4</p> <p>"The procedure will be sent to the PAFC Forum participants and stakeholders. They will be able to comment on its scope and content, sending their comments to the PAFC Secretariat by email or letter.</p> <p>The PAFC Executive Committee will summarise any comments made by the stakeholders (even those not included in the Forum) about the procedure and the stakeholder mapping during the period of time stipulated at the start of the process (a month). This procedure and the stakeholder mapping will be approved at a meeting of the Forum in accordance with the decision-making mechanism defined in 5.</p> <p>Once the procedure has been approved by the Forum, it will be made publicly available on the PEFC website, once the standard has been recognised, and can be obtained by sending a written request to the PAFC Gabon Secretariat."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon Development Report Scheme Chapter 3</p> <p>"The setting-up of the Forum took place on 4 January 2013 in the auditorium of the University Omar Bongo Scientific Council.</p> <p>The first step taken was to elect the Forum's committee, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A president. • A secretary. • A facilitator. <p>The Forum members then approved the scheme validation procedure, adopting 'achieving a consensus' as the decision-making mechanism."</p>
<p>5.5 The work of the working group/committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where:</p>			
<p>a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.5.1</p> <p>"According to PEFC ST 1001/2010, a draft version is "a proposed document available for public consultation".</p> <p>According to the same requirements, a working document is a "proposed document that is available generally for comments or voting</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
group/committee,			within a working group/committee." PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.5.2 "The PAFC Forum will develop a draft version of the standard using the working documents submitted to it prior to the work meetings. The Forum must work in an open and transparent manner. This aim will be achieved by taking the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working documents are made available to all Forum participants."
	Process	YES	Neither the Development Report nor the Annexes of the Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme refer to the use of working documents and distribution of such documents to all forum members. There is no evidence submitted which proves the use of any working documents. However, the SSRC Gabon 5.5.a) claims that the working drafts for the stakeholder mapping and standard setting procedures were available at the first forum meeting on 04.01.2013 and working drafts of the FM and COC standards during the workshops of the forum in March 2013. <i>The stakeholder survey, however, showed that 100% of the responding stakeholders were satisfied with the availability of these documents during the process. This indicates compliance of the process concerning this matter.</i>
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	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.5.2 "The Forum must work in an open and transparent manner. This aim will be achieved by taking the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All possible efforts shall be made to ensure that the Forum participants are involved in developing the draft version (e.g. interviews, interpreters, travel expenses etc)."
	Process	YES	PAFC Gabon Development Report Scheme Chapter 4 "The Forum conducted its work over the course of March 2013 and held five meetings on 7 March, 8 March, 13 March, 14 March and 15 March. The agenda of these meetings focused on examining the four principles and all the indicators and sub-indicators connected to these principles that make up the PAFC Gabon sustainable forest management standard" PAFC Gabon Development Report Scheme Annex 5 (only in French) The minutes of the forum meetings show, that some parties have been absent from the individual meetings. The participating parties were actively involved in the standard revision of the FM Standard by debate and vote by hands. The forum decided to send the outcome of the forum meetings per email to the absentees and seek for their comments and consensus. Thus, all members had the opportunity to contribute and submit comments. <i>The stakeholder survey showed that 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the possibilities to contribute to the revision process.</i>
c) comments and views	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.5.2

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
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.			<p>"The Forum must work in an open and transparent manner. This aim will be achieved by taking the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants' comments and opinions will be recorded (see paragraph 7). They will be dealt with in a transparent and open manner and will be settled by reaching a consensus in accordance with the "Decision-Making Mechanism" procedure (see paragraph 5)."
	Process	YES	<p>The Annex 5 of the Development Report PAFC Gabon describes that the decisions at the Forum meetings were made on consensus. This implies that the comments made by Forum members were considered in an open and transparent manner, otherwise decisions on consensus would not have been able.</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey showed that 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the consideration of comments in an open and transparent way.</i></p>
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>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.6.1</p> <p>"The start and end dates of the public consultation will be announced in an appropriate fashion on the website and circulated to the Forum participants and affected stakeholders so that the dates can be publicised via as many media outlets as possible - a national radio broadcast, a press release in the national written press and a press release published by the national online media, as a minimum requirement. A TV broadcast could also be envisaged. Forum members shall be informed by post or email."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon Development Report Chapter 5</p> <p>"According to the standard revision procedure adopted by PAFC Gabon, the version of the standard resulting from the Forum's work must be submitted for public consultation before being adopted by the PAFC Gabon General Assembly. In order to meet this requirement, the public consultation took place on Monday 25 March to Saturday 25 May 2013. It was extended a further week until 31 May upon the request of an international stakeholder.</p> <p>Launch methods</p> <p>The methods used for launching the public consultation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A press release in the <i>L'Union</i> national daily newspaper. A radio broadcast over a three-day period. <p>Forest management stakeholders in Gabon were sent the standard by email."</p> <p>PAFC Gabon Development Report Annex 6</p> <p>The receipts for public announcements and examples of emails sent to a broad list of recipients are provided as evidence.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
b) the invitation of disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made by means that ensure that the information reaches its recipient and is understandable,	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.6.1 "Particular care will be taken to ensure that disadvantaged stakeholders can take part, with the document being sent to them in an understandable format." <u>Observation</u> The way of approaching disadvantaged stakeholders could be more specifically described.
	Process	YES	PAFC Gabon Development Report The Development Report does not give any reference about the way of approaching disadvantaged stakeholders in the public consultation process. The SSRCL Gabon 5.6c) claims, that all disadvantaged stakeholders have access to internet, newspaper or radio. During the two weeks comment period, PAFC Gabon explained that there are associations which represent the indigenous people in Libreville and the "representatives of disadvantaged stakeholders in this case the indigenous peoples were mandated to relay the information to their members." <i>The stakeholder survey showed that 83.3% (five respondents) of the respondents were satisfied with the selection and way of approaching disadvantaged stakeholders. One Respondent (17.7%) claimed dissatisfaction due to financial issues.</i> The above given information and the result of the stakeholder survey concerning this issue imply that the process was implemented accordingly.
c) the enquiry draft is publicly available and accessible,	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.6.1 "The draft version of the standards put forward by the PAFC Forum will be made public and accessible (on the website and via the PAFC Gabon Executive Committee) at the very latest one month after it has been approved by the PAFC Forum." <i>The stakeholder survey showed that 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the public availability of the enquiry draft.</i>
	Process	YES	PAFC Gabon Development Report Annex 6 The inquiry draft was attached to the emails sent to stakeholders. The FM Standard was published on http://consultations.pefc.org/consult.ti/PAFCGabon/ and announces the public consultation period from 23/03/13 - 25/05/13.
d) the public consultation is for at least 60 days,	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.6.1 "The public will be invited to comment on it during a 60-day consultation period starting from the date when the invitation was issued."

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
	Process	YES	The FM Standard was published on http://consultations.pefc.org/consult.ti/PAFCGabon/ and announces the public consultation period from 23/03/13 - 25/05/13.
e) all comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner,	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.6.2 "At the end of the 60-day consultation period, comments will be compiled and summarized by the body appointed by the Forum. The Forum's Executive Committee will produce a summary of the compiled comments and the objective way in which they have been handled."
	Process	YES	PAFC Gabon Development Report Chapter 5 The comments received (three comments) are demonstrated in a table, their content is described and their consideration is indicated (all comments considered). <i>The stakeholder survey showed that 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the consideration of their comments.</i>
(f) a synopsis of received comments compiled from material issues, including the results of their consideration, is publicly available, for example on a website.	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.6.2 "This summary will be made publicly available on the website and from the PAFC Gabon Executive Committee." <u>Observation</u> The website should be more specifically described, e.g. on the website www.pafc-gabon.org.
	Process	YES	The PAFC scheme documentation and, therefore, the PAFC Gabon Development Report 2013 are published on the PEFC webpage (http://www.pefc.org/standards/endorsement-mutual-recognition/assessments). The Development Report includes the compilation of the comments received and their consideration.
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	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.8 "The definitive version of the standard must be trialled on the ground in order to assess its implementation and evaluate its relevance. The results of this trial must be evaluated by the PAFC Forum so that they can be included in the definitive version of the standard. Pilot testing is not compulsory if the standard is being revised. In this scenario, the definitive version is the one produced following the inclusion of comments from the public consultation approved by the PAFC Forum."
	Process	YES	In the framework of a revision process a pilot testing is not compulsory.
5.8 The decision of the	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.9

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
<p>working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of a consensus.</p>			<p>"According to PEFC ST 1001/2010, a definitive version is "a proposed document that is available for formal approval".</p> <p>The pilot version of the standard will then be amended taking account of the results of the trial that are deemed to be relevant by the PAFC Forum, following the consensual decision-making procedure (paragraph 5). This will then become the definitive version."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon Development Report Chapter 5</p> <p>"Adoption by the members of the Forum of the post-public consultation version of the standard: 18 – 28 June 2013, deadline for responses. If no response was received, this was regarded as acceptance of the standard. On 28 June, two responses were received which confirmed their acceptance of the post-public consultation scheme".</p> <p><i>The stakeholder survey showed that 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the decision making process when a consensus was not reached.</i></p> <p><u>Newly submitted documents on 28.04.2014 after revision of the scheme documentation due to NCs in the Final Draft Report (V1):</u></p> <p>The newly submitted documents provide evidence that the final consensus by the Forum on the final scheme documentation was taken on 20.03.2014. No further email meeting was carried out.</p>
<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:</p>			
<p>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.,</p>	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 5.3</p> <p>"Members will express their approval or disapproval by means of a 'vote' in order to find out if a consensus has been reached.</p> <p>In order to establish whether there is disagreement, the Forum shall organise one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting with a yes/no vote (either by a show of hands or a ballot)."
	Process	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon Development Report Chapter 3</p> <p>"The Forum members then approved the scheme validation procedure, adopting 'achieving a consensus' as the decision-making mechanism."</p> <p>PAFC Gabon Development Report Appendix 5 (only in French)</p> <p>The process of verbal vote in face-to-face meetings was used during the forum meetings.</p> <p><u>Newly submitted documents on 28.04.2014 after revision of the scheme documentation due to NCs in the Final Draft Report (V1):</u></p> <p>The newly submitted documents provide evidence that the final consensus by the Forum on the final scheme documentation was taken on 20.03.2014.</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
b) a telephone conference meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote,	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 5.3 "In order to establish whether there is disagreement, the Forum shall organise one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A teleconference with a verbal vote (yes/no)."
	Process	YES	There was no use of telephone conference meetings.
c) an e-mail meeting where a request for agreement or objection is provided to members with the members providing a written response (a proxy for a vote), or	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 5.3 "In order to establish whether there is disagreement, the Forum shall organise one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An email meeting (by proxy)."
	Process	YES	PAFC Gabon Development Report Chapter 5 "Adoption by the members of the Forum of the post-public consultation version of the standard: 18 – 28 June 2013, deadline for responses. If no response was received, this was regarded as acceptance of the standard. On 28 June, two responses were received which confirmed their acceptance of the post-public consultation scheme". During the comment period after submission of the first Draft Report, seven additional emails of forum members were forwarded by PAFC Gabon to the assessment team to prove the consent of the Forum members with the scheme documentation (some mails were duplicates or written by the same person). Thus, still no final evidence on the consensus of all Forum members with the final scheme documentation could be provided. <i>All responding stakeholders showed their satisfaction of the applied process, however, one comment indicated that "no answer does not necessarily mean acceptance", which is interpreted as criticism to the applied process.</i> <u>Newly submitted documents on 28.04.2014 after revision of the scheme documentation due to NCs in the Final Draft Report (V1):</u> The newly submitted documents provide evidence that the final consensus by the Forum on the final scheme documentation was taken on 20.03.2014. No further email meeting was carried out.
d) combinations thereof.	Procedures	YES	PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 5.3 "In order to establish whether there is disagreement, the Forum shall organise one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A combination of the three previous options."
	Process	YES	There was no use of a combined system.

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
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	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 5.3</p> <p>"The Forum must provide evidence that a consensus was reached when setting or revising the standards in accordance with the procedure described in paragraph 7.</p> <p>If opposition is expressed, the process shall comprise the following stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The facilitator will organise a second round of discussions so that all the participants can clarify their positions. If necessary, the facilitator may call upon external experts to provide expertise that may help to move forward the debate. 2. A second vote is taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If no opposition is registered, it will be deemed that a consensus has been reached. b. If there is still opposition at the second round, a third vote will be organised."
	Process	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon Development Report Annex 5</p> <p>The open issues were discussed in face-to-face meetings and compromises were found for all points.</p>
b) direct negotiation between the stakeholder(s) submitting the objection and stakeholders with different views on the disputed issue in order to find a compromise,	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 5.3</p> <p>"If opposition is expressed, the process shall comprise the following stages:</p> <p>The facilitator will organise a second round of discussions so that all the participants can clarify their positions. If necessary, the facilitator may call upon external experts to provide expertise that may help to move forward the debate."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>SSRCL Gabon 5.9b)</p> <p>This procedure were not used.</p>
c) dispute resolution process.	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 5.3</p> <p>"The Forum must provide evidence that a consensus was reached when setting or revising the standards in accordance with the procedure described in paragraph 7.</p> <p>If opposition is expressed, the process shall comprise the following stages:</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>1. The facilitator will organise a second round of discussions so that all the participants can clarify their positions. If necessary, the facilitator may call upon external experts to provide expertise that may help to move forward the debate.</p> <p>2. A second vote is taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If no opposition is registered, it will be deemed that a consensus has been reached. b. If there is still opposition at the second round, a third vote will be organised. <p>The third round of voting will use the interest group system. If an absolute majority is reached in an interest group, the group will be deemed to have voted "yes", otherwise it will be regarded as having voted "no". A consensus will be reached if none of the interest groups express their disagreement.</p> <p>In the event of a consensus not being reached, an alternative proposal will be sought and the stakeholders must rule on this new proposal using one of the methods listed above and in accordance with the decision-making mechanism listed above."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>SSRCL Gabon 5.9c) This procedure was not used.</p>
5.10 Documentation on the implementation of the standard-setting process shall be made publicly available.	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 8</p> <p>"The following documents that were used to develop the Gabonese forest certification scheme in force are available either on the PEFC website or the PAFC website or from the PAFC Gabon Secretariat if requested in writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme recognised by the PEFC. • Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme procedures. • PEFC audit and recognition reports. • Any other document deemed to be relevant." <p>See also points 4.2) and 5.6) above about the publication of the standard setting procedures, 5.6.c) above about the publication of the draft standard and 5.6.f) above about the publication of comments made during the public consultation period. Furthermore, point 4.1.b) shows that all relevant documents (as minutes, interim documents, e.g.) are made available by the PEFC Gabon Secretariat to interested stakeholders upon request.</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>The list of documents specifies in detail the final documents which are the output of the standard setting process. The PEFC ST 1001:2010 requires in Chapter 5.10 the public availability of documents describing the implementation of the standard setting process. Even though the public availability of other documents as stakeholder comments, e.g. are described in other chapters of the PAFC Gabon SSP 2013 Scheme, the public availability of the development report as a key document and other documents showing the implemented process of the standard setting should be referenced here more clearly.</p>
	Process	YES	<p>The procedures are published on the webpage of the PEFC under http://www.pefc.org/standards/endorsement-mutual-recognition/assessments.</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>The webpage www.pafc-gabon.org which is referred to in the SSRCL Gabon 5.10 is not operational.</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>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.9</p> <p>"According to PEFC ST 1001/2010, a definitive version is "a proposed document that is available for formal approval".</p> <p>The pilot version of the standard will then be amended taking account of the results of the trial that are deemed to be relevant by the PAFC Forum, following the consensual decision-making procedure (paragraph 5). This will then become the definitive version."</p> <p>PAFC Gabon SSP 2013 Scheme, Chapter 4.10.1</p> <p>"The PAFC Executive Committee shall produce a report summarising the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard setting / revision procedure schedule. • Information about the consultation on the setting / revision process and the list of participants selected for the Forum. • Minutes of Forum meetings, meeting reports signed by the meeting participants. • Final summary of the public consultation process. • If the standard is being revised, a description of the amendments made to the standard and the reason for them. • Summary of the main concerns / opposition raised during the process and of complaints and appeals lodged. Evidence will be supplied that a consensus was reached on these points. • The finalised version of the standard approved by consensus by the Forum. <p>This report will be made publicly available."</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 4.10.2</p> <p>"The report is submitted to the General Assembly which decides whether or not to approve the new standard in accordance with the PAFC's procedure.</p> <p>In the event of the document being rejected by the General Assembly, the process must restart at the "Development of the draft version of the standards" (see figure 1)."</p>
	Process	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon Development Report Chapter 5</p> <p>"The Extraordinary General Assembly was convened for the first time at 9 am on 5 July 2013 in order to adopt the revised PAFC Gabon forest certification scheme and finally took place on 12 July 2013 in the CENAREST meeting room. The members listed in the appendix (Appendix 7) took part in this EGA.</p> <p>A single item was on the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examination and adoption of the revised forest certification scheme. - Other items. <p>Having verified that the various colleges were represented and the attendance list had been established, work got underway at 10 am.</p> <p>The president of PAFC Gabon took the floor to present the forest management revised standard development report and the documents that comprise the revised PAFC Gabon forest certification scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAFC Gabon Sustainable Forest Management Standard. - The PEFC Chain of Custody standard. - The PAFC Gabon forest management standard development and revision procedure. - PEFC logo usage rules. - Forest management certifying body and accrediting body requirements. - Chain of Custody certifying body requirements. - PEFC logo usage licence issuance procedure. - Conflict resolution procedure. <p>Following this presentation, a question and answer session – in order to clarify and go into greater depth on certain points – got</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
			<p>underway between the president and participants. Following this debate, a decision was reached by consensus and was drafted and signed by the participants (see Appendix 7) and then the president informed the assembly about the next phases of the process, specifically the translation of documentation into English and the submission to PEFC International of the revised PAFC forest certification scheme before the end of July 2013."</p> <p>PAFC Gabon Development Report 2013 Annex 7</p> <p>The list of participants shows that 10 members of PAFC Gabon signed the declaration that the decision was made upon consensus.</p> <p><u>Newly submitted documents on 28.04.2014 after revision of the scheme documentation due to NCs in the Final Draft Report (V1):</u></p> <p>The newly submitted documents provide evidence that the final consensus by the Forum on the final scheme documentation was taken on 20.03.2014 and the final consensus by the GA PAFC Gabon was taken on the 26.03.2014.</p>
5.12 The formally approved standards/normative documents shall be published in a timely manner and made publicly available.	Procedures	YES	<p>PAFC Gabon SSP, Chapter 8</p> <p>"The following documents that were used to develop the Gabonese forest certification scheme in force are available either on the PEFC website or the PAFC website or from the PAFC Gabon Secretariat if requested in writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme recognised by the PEFC. • Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme procedures. • PEFC audit and recognition reports. • Any other document deemed to be relevant."
	Process	YES	<p>The procedures are published on the webpage of the PEFC under http://www.pefc.org/standards/endorsement-mutual-recognition/assessments.</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>The webpage www.pafc-gabon.org which is referred to in the SSRCL Gabon 5.10 is not operational.</p>
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	Process	YES	<p>The first endorsement of the PAFC Gabon Scheme was in 2009. In 2013 it was applied for the re-endorsement process (=4 years).</p>

Question	Assess. basis*	YES /NO*	Reference to application documents
of the standards/normative documents shall follow those set out in chapter 5.			
6.2 The revision shall define the application date and transition date of the revised standards/normative documents.	Process	YES	The standard documents show the issue date (=application date) as date of the re-endorsement by PEFCC and the transition date no longer than one year after the endorsement date by the PEFCC 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	YES	The issue date (=application date) is set as date of the re-endorsement of the PAFC Scheme 2013 by PEFCC. The endorsed standards will be published at the date of the official re-endorsement by PEFCC.
6.4 The transition date shall not exceed a period of one year except in justified exceptional circumstances where the implementation of the revised standards/normative documents requires a longer period.	Process	YES	The standard documents show the issue date (=application date) as date of the re-endorsement by PEFCC and the transition date no longer than one year after the endorsement date by the PEFCC Council.

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 PEFCC 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.

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

PAFC Gabon does not provide for a group forest management certification mechanism.

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

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.

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>“Examples of management requirements: criteria 3.3.3, or indicators 2.3.5.1, 4.1.1.3. Examples of performance requirements : indicators 4.2.1.3, 3.2.1.1”</p> <p>“3.3.3 The manager develops a fauna and hunting management plan so as to minimize the impact of forest exploitation. 2.3.5.1 The manager has put in place a forest product traceability system. 4.1.1.3 A consultation mechanism for the stakeholders is created and operates in practice in the FMU. 4.2.1.3 Local development agreements are respected and documented. 3.2.1.1 Felling is controlled and spares young trees as far as possible.”</p> <p><u>Observation</u> Criteria 2.3.5 should be corrected to 2.2.5, consequently the indicator 2.3.5.1 changed to 2.2.5.1. and 2.3.5.2 changed to 2.2.5.2.</p>
b) be clear, objective-based and auditable.	YES	“With the definitions of PAFC Gabon, a special emphasis has been put in to make objective-based and auditable indicators/criteria.”
c) apply to activities of all operators in the defined forest area who have a measurable impact on achieving compliance	YES	<p>“In the framework of the eligible entity for PAFC Gabon certification which is the UFA, the indicators were thought to fit this case.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme: “... The term "Operator" is not defined in the glossary and is not used in the standard. In the Gabonese context, this is the</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
with the requirements.		Concessionaire is responsible for the actions of the Manager, if is not of itself Manager....
d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.	YES	<p>"Many indicators require to have documented procedures, assessments etc. PAFC Gabon FM standard : page 26, paragraph 3.2.3 »</p> <p>"3.2.3 The certified body must internally develop a set of administrative management measures and procedures that will guarantee compliance with the Principles, Criteria and Indicators listed above.</p> <p>From the beginning of its certification procedure, the applicant will prove that its internal organisation and its administrative management of the measures taken to guarantee sustainable forest management exist and are effective. These measures must guarantee management of the system in place and permanent control and assessment of it as part of an ethos of continuous forest performance improvement."</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators: "1.1.1.2 In compliance with the national technical standards, prior studies (management inventories, socio-economic study etc) have been conducted within the timescales stipulated in the Provisional Convention on Management of Exploitation and Processing and are correctly documented and available. 2.2.4.3 The number of felled trees forgotten or abandoned in the forest and decaying logs in the yards (forest, sawmills, railway sidings etc) is minimised. Otherwise, cases are substantiated and documented. 2.3.1.2 Compliance with exploitation procedures is regularly checked and documented. 2.3.1.3 Procedures are regularly updated. 2.4.2.3 The revisions are approved by the Forest Administration. 3.1.2.3 Analysis of monitoring results enables the impact of exploitation on the forest to be assessed. 3.2.2.3 Any reclassification of a part of the FMU is documented. 3.3.4.2 The use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled, in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. 4.2.13 Local development agreements are respected and documented. 4.3.1.5 Occupational safety sanctions are developed, applied and recorded by the manager in the event of a failure on the part of employees to comply with safety measures. 4.3.1.8 Occupational accidents are monitored and recorded."</p> <p><u>Observation</u> The PAFC Gabon document "Sustainable forest management – PAFC Gabon standards requirements" does not contain the wording "record-keeping". The description under 3.2.3 above does not specify that records must be kept. It is</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		recognised that the execution of some of the activities required in the PAFC Gabon FM standard may lead to record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements.
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>“Minimum legal requirements SI 1.1.1.3</p> <p>Indicators 2.1.3 and 2.1.4”</p> <p>“1.1.1.3 National management standards (specifically with regard to the Minimum Diameter for Exploitation under Management, minimum regeneration rate, target species, Forest Administration Unit volumes etc) are respected.</p> <p>2.1.3 A comprehensive management document exists and sets the various long-term objectives for the Forest Management Unit based on a sustainable development ethos.</p> <p>2.1.4 Contractual clauses are attached to the management plan and detail the intervention procedure and the rights and duties of the forest manager and the sub-contractors working in the FMU.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“1.1.1.2 In compliance with the national technical standards, prior studies (management inventories, socio-economic study etc) have been conducted within the timescales stipulated in the Provisional Convention on Management of Exploitation and Processing and are correctly documented and available.</p> <p>1.1.3.4 Environmental authorisations are issued by the government department for the environment in accordance with regulations.</p> <p>1.1.4.1 Exercise of customary usage rights is covered by agreements between the forest operator and FMU local communities.</p> <p>3.1 Sustainable management is based on dynamic acquisition of ecological knowledge.”</p>
<p>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</p>	YES	<p>“Inventories are a legal requirement : SI 1.1.1.2</p> <p>Planning is a legal requirement : SI Indicator 1.1.1</p> <p>Implementation : Indicator 2.1.1</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation : Criteria 2.4 and all indicators</p> <p>Impact assessment : Indicator 3.1.2”</p> <p>“1.1.1.2 In compliance with the national technical standards, prior studies (management inventories, socio-economic study etc) have been conducted within the timescales stipulated in the Provisional Convention on Management of Exploitation and Processing and are correctly documented and available.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
negative impacts.		<p>1.1.1 Forest management complies with all the national standards and laws and all the administrative requirements.</p> <p>2.1.1 The FMU is administered for a length of time compatible with the objectives detailed in the management documents and based on a sustainable management ethos.</p> <p>2.4 The forest management system is regularly revised or if a force majeure event occurs.</p> <p>2.4.1 The implementation of the management plan is continuously followed up and evaluated.</p> <p>2.4.1.1 While respecting the confidentiality of information, the managers in charge of forest management must be able to provide a summary of the monitoring results.</p> <p>2.4.1.2 A management parameters monitoring system exists and functions in practice.</p> <p>2.4.1.4 The actual harvest is regularly compared to what was initially projected in the management documents.</p> <p>2.4.2 The forest management document is revised periodically based on a timescale set at national level.</p> <p>2.4.2.1 Revisions are carried out if they prove necessary.</p> <p>2.4.2.2 Monitoring and research results, as well as new scientific findings and technical data, are incorporated during the management document review process.</p> <p>2.4.2.3 The revisions are approved by the Forest Administration.</p> <p>3.1.2 Impact studies are carried out in relation to the scale of exploitation, in accordance with the scarcity of the resources in question. These studies must be incorporated into the manager's practices.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators: “3.1.2.4 Monitoring results are incorporated into the management measures if necessary in order to reduce the impact, with the aim being to achieve continuous improvement.”</p> <p>Observation Indicator 2.4.1.3 is missing in the PAFC Gabon standard.</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.	YES	<p>“Indicator 3.1.1”</p> <p>“3.1.1 The available knowledge enables an initial ecological diagnosis of forest ecosystems.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators: “2.1.3.4 The maps showing the forest unit and its series plots, the distribution of resources and the village landholdings are available.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>2.2.1 The harvest inventory is efficiently carried out, in compliance with the standards in force, and at least two months before harvesting.</p> <p>2.2.1.1 Trees to be felled are first plotted on a map and marked out.</p> <p>2.2.1.2 Trees to be protected (seed-producing trees, young trees, or critical risk species according to the IUCN) are plotted on maps and visibly marked before harvesting gets underway.</p> <p>3.1.1.1 Vegetation, topographical, geological and water system maps are available.</p> <p>3.1.1.3 Fauna distribution maps within the FMU produced using the management inventories are available.</p> <p>3.1.1.4 Maps or data on the distribution of exploitable, endangered, rare and endemic species from the various inventories are available.”</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>“Planning is a legal requirement : SI Indicator 1.1.1</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation : Criteria 2.4 and all indicators”</p> <p>“1.1.1 Forest management complies with all the national standards and laws and all the administrative requirements.</p> <p>2.4 The forest management system is regularly revised or if a force majeure event occurs.</p> <p>2.4.1 The implementation of the management plan is continuously followed up and evaluated.</p> <p>2.4.1.1 While respecting the confidentiality of information, the managers in charge of forest management must be able to provide a summary of the monitoring results.</p> <p>2.4.1.2 A management parameters monitoring system exists and functions in practice.</p> <p>2.4.1.4 The actual harvest is regularly compared to what was initially projected in the management documents.</p> <p>2.4.2 The forest management document is revised periodically based on a timescale set at national level.</p> <p>2.4.2.1 Revisions are carried out if they prove necessary.</p> <p>2.4.2.2 Monitoring and research results, as well as new scientific findings and technical data, are incorporated during the management document review process.</p> <p>2.4.2.3 The revisions are approved by the Forest Administration.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“2.1.3 A comprehensive management document exists and sets the various long-term objectives for the Forest Management Unit based on a sustainable development ethos.</p> <p>2.1.3.1 The management plan explains the long-term objectives to be reached during rotation, integrating the production of commercial and non-commercial goods and services.</p> <p>2.1.3.3 The FMU is sub-divided into different series plots based on the constraints identified during the preliminary studies, forms of forest usage, functions and the selected objectives.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>2.1.3.5 The management plan – specifically using maps – defines the areas to be used (production series). The exploitable volume during the management period and the average annual volume are substantiated.</p> <p>2.1.3.6 The annual allowable cut, minimum diameter for exploitation and number of trees harvestable are listed in all the management documents.”</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>“Description : SI 1.1.1.2 and 3.1.1</p> <p>Long-term objectives : SI 2.1.3.1</p> <p>Average annual allowable cut: SI 2.1.3.6</p> <p>Justification : SI 2.1.3.5</p> <p>NTFPs : not relevant”</p> <p>“1.1.1.2 In compliance with the national technical standards, prior studies (management inventories, socio-economic study etc) have been conducted within the timescales stipulated in the Provisional Convention on Management of Exploitation and Processing and are correctly documented and available.</p> <p>3.1.1 The available knowledge enables an initial ecological diagnosis of forest ecosystems.</p> <p>2.1.3.1 The management plan explains the long-term objectives to be reached during rotation, integrating the production of commercial and non-commercial goods and services.</p> <p>2.1.3.6 The annual allowable cut, minimum diameter for exploitation and number of trees harvestable are listed in all the management documents</p> <p>2.1.3.5 The management plan – specifically using maps – defines the areas to be used (production series). The exploitable volume during the management period and the average annual volume are substantiated.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme:</p> <p>“This does not seem to be relevant to Gabon, in fact, management plans have no annual allowable holdings of NTFPs. No company operates or markets of NWFP. Obtaining a forest license does not confer a right to the use of forest products other than wood</p> <p>2.3.2.1 The SI refers to the use of NTFPs by local populations.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“2.3.2 The harvesting of multi-purpose tree species as timber does not negatively impact on other forms of use.</p> <p>2.3.2.1 Non-timber forest products used and their forms of usage are identified, particularly for species that produce both timber and</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		non-timber forest products. 2.3.2.2 Forest exploitation does not impair the production and harvesting of other forest products.”
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.	YES	“SI 2.1.5.1” “ 2.1.5.1 The management plan requirements are made available to all the stakeholders notably by means of a public summary, while respecting the confidential nature of some information.”
5.1.7 Monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.	YES	“Indicator 3.1.2 Feedback: SI 3.1.2.4” “3.1.2 Impact studies are carried out in relation to the scale of exploitation, in accordance with the scarcity of the resources in question. These studies must be incorporated into the manager’s practices. 3.1.2.4 Monitoring results are incorporated into the management measures if necessary in order to reduce the impact, with the aim being to achieve continuous improvement.” Additional supportive indicators: “2.3.1.2 Compliance with exploitation procedures is regularly checked and documented. 2.4 The forest management system is regularly revised or if a force majeure event occurs. 2.4.1 The implementation of the management plan is continuously followed up and evaluated. 2.4.1.1 While respecting the confidentiality of information, the managers in charge of forest management must be able to provide a summary of the monitoring results. 2.4.1.2 A management parameters monitoring system exists and functions in practice. 2.4.1.4 The actual harvest is regularly compared to what was initially projected in the management documents. 2.4.2 The forest management document is revised periodically based on a timescale set at national level.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>2.4.2.1 Revisions are carried out if they prove necessary.</p> <p>2.4.2.2 Monitoring and research results, as well as new scientific findings and technical data, are incorporated during the management document review process.</p> <p>3.1.2.1 Exploitation monitoring and new road infrastructure maps are available.</p> <p>3.1.2.2 Monitoring of the impact of forest operations is put in place.</p> <p>3.1.2.3 Analysis of monitoring results enables the impact of exploitation on the forest to be assessed.</p> <p>3.3.1.4 The implementation of a management plan for ecologically important forest areas is monitored.”</p>
<p>5.1.8 Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“SI 2.1.2.1, 2.1.2.2”</p> <p>“2.1.2.1 Exploitation monitoring and new road infrastructure maps are available.</p> <p>2.1.2.2 Monitoring of the impact of forest operations is put in place.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme:</p> <p>“Make the difference between the dealer (owner of one or more licenses) and the Manager (the one that carries the forest). The term "Operator" is not defined in the glossary and is not used in the standard. In the Gabonese context, this is the Concessionaire is responsible for the actions of the Manager, if is not of itself Manager. In order to remove the ambiguity on the responsibility for compliance with the requirements of PAFC Gabon, is added to the definition of dealer and compliance requirements PAFC Gabon”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“1.1.1.1 The responsible ministry has notified the operator in writing that their management plan has been approved.</p> <p>1.1.3.3 The operator complies with the set length of each AAC (three years in Gabon).</p> <p>2.1.1.3 The manager complies with the management document provisions.</p> <p>2.1.2.2 Management is done by staff with a clearly established remit to apply a management plan.</p> <p>2.1.4 Contractual clauses are attached to the management plan and detail the intervention procedure and the rights and duties of the forest manager and the sub-contractors working in the FMU.</p> <p>2.2.5.4 The manager demonstrates that they have a management implementation action plan.</p> <p>3.3.3 The manager develops a fauna and hunting management plan so as to minimize the impact of forest exploitation.</p> <p>3.4.1 The manager implements a strategy to regenerate species that are being regenerated because of a harvesting shortage.</p> <p>4.2.1 The forest manager works so that the local and pygmy indigenous populations in the management unit and those bordering it</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		receive part of the revenue generated by the exploitation of the management unit. 4.2.3 In accordance with the scale and impact of forest operations at local level, the operator contributes to the development of the local economy.” <u>Observation</u> Note: Numbering of indicator 2.2.5.4 should be corrected to 2.1.5.4.
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	“The method used in Gabonese forest to ensure the balance is the use of reconstitution rates. There are minima set by the law. SI 1.1.1.3” “1.1.1.3 National management standards (specifically with regard to the Minimum Diameter for Exploitation under Management, minimum regeneration rate, target species, Forest Administration Unit volumes etc) are respected.” Additional supportive indicators: “2.2 Sustainable production of timber is ensured both in terms of quantity and quality. 2.3 Exploitation techniques implemented in the FMU are compatible with the management objectives adapted to the FMU and to target production yields. 3.5 The impact of harvesting on water, soils and slopes is minimized. 3.5.2 The impact of harvesting activities on the biological, physical and chemical characteristics of soils and on the slopes is minimized and monitored.”
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.	YES	“Criteria 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 (and all their indicators) Indicator 3.2.1” “2.1 The forest management unit is managed based on well-defined and clearly established objectives with a sustainable development ethos. 2.2 Sustainable production of timber is ensured both in terms of quantity and quality. 2.3 Exploitation techniques implemented in the FMU are compatible with the management objectives adapted to the FMU and to target production yields. 3.2.1 Reduced impact forest exploitation techniques are implemented.” Additional supportive indicators: “2.2.1 The harvest inventory is efficiently carried out, in compliance with the standards in force, and at least two months before harvesting. 2.2.2 Rotation and yield are clearly established. 2.2.2.1 Yield and rotation calculations are verifiable from the management documents and inventory numerical data.”
5.1.11 Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including	YES	“SI 3.2.2.3”

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 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 b) entails a small proportion of forest type; and c) 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 d) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits. 		<p>"3.2.2.3 Any reclassification of a part of the FMU is documented."</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme:</p> <p>"SI 3.2.2.1 Allows the conversion of forest land to another type of land only in the case of "farmland", it is more restrictive than the metastandard PEFC. The only aspects of the indicator 5.1.1.1 included in the PAFC Gabon standard are the social aspects of national importances for all travel must be approved by the national authorities. Any type of land conversion to another interest is prohibited including conservation in the long term."</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>"3.2.2 Forest conversion and the usage of fire are supervised and limited in the FMU.</p> <p>3.2.1 In the FMU, forest conversion and the usage of fire for agricultural purposes are supervised and limited to zones earmarked for neighbouring community, employee and rightful claimant farming."</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>"The Forum has considered this not relevant in the Gabonese context.</p> <p>In fact, the only abandoned agricultural and treeless land into forest land are either local population agricultural land (for slash and burn practices) or savannahs or even special habitats such as "bai" which are important for wildlife."</p> <p>"The Forum deemed that this requirement is not relevant within the scope of forestry work in the country.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>In fact, the only farmland that is abandoned is generally reused for slash-and-burn. Land devoid of trees in the forest concessions is often savannah. Forestation rarely forms part of the practices of Gabonese operators.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme:</p> <p>“The explanation given to the conversion of agricultural land and abandoned forest without permits is rather negative trees because it is the opposite trend is present in the Gabonese context (that is to say, the conversion of forest land into agricultural), extension of oil palm plantations and rubber and it does not seem that this will change in the next 5 years, period of validity of the scheme. More generally, savannas re colonize only, no reforestation is performed.”</p>
Criterion 2: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality		
<p>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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“The Forum has considered this point included in the indicators aiming at identifying and protecting stems for the future, aiming at enhancing species with issues of regeneration and the requirements for the reconstitution rate.</p> <p>3.4 (all indicators)”</p> <p>“The Forum felt that this requirement is included in the indicators and sub-indicators designed to identify and protect future saplings, foster the regeneration of problematic species and in the requirements governing target species regeneration rates.”</p> <p>“3.4 Measures are taken so as to improve natural regeneration of the forest.</p> <p>3.4.1 The manager implements a strategy to regenerate species that are being regenerated because of a harvesting shortage.</p> <p>3.4.1.1 Harvested species seed-producing trees – with a diametric bell-shaped structure – are protected during harvesting.</p> <p>3.4.1.2 The minimum diameter of trees to be harvested is set above the ‘successful fruit-bearing’ diameter when known.</p> <p>3.4.1.3 For enrichment planting in harvested forests or in the agro forestry system, the use of indigenous species with unquestionable commercial value is preferable.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“3.3.1 A management plan for ecologically important forest areas is developed, implemented and monitored.</p> <p>3.3.4 Species diversity and density of flora are not significantly modified by the harvesting methods.</p> <p>3.3.4.1 Rare and endemic species of limited distribution are protected.”</p> <p><u>Observation</u></p> <p>Rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems or forestation activities in general (not enrichment planting) do not occur in the standard of PAFC Gabon.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<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>“The Forum has considered that some causes like pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations are not relevant at the moment in Gabon.</p> <p>The requirement regarding fire is covered by the indicator 3.2.2.”</p> <p>“The Forum felt that certain forms of damage to forest health such as pests, diseases, over-grazing and intensive stockbreeding, climatic factors and air pollutants are not relevant at the present time in the Gabonese context.</p> <p>Fire requirements are met by monitoring agricultural fronts and damage linked to forest exploitation is also covered in Principle 3.”</p> <p>“3 The forest’s main ecological functions are maintained.</p> <p>3.2.2 If reforestation is necessary, it is solely done with local species.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“3.1.2 Impact studies are carried out in relation to the scale of exploitation, in accordance with the scarcity of the resources in question. These studies must be incorporated into the manager’s practices.</p> <p>3.1.2.1 Exploitation monitoring and new road infrastructure maps are available.</p> <p>3.1.2.2 Monitoring of the impact of forest operations is put in place.</p> <p>3.1.2.3 Analysis of monitoring results enables the impact of exploitation on the forest to be assessed.</p> <p>3.1.2.4 Monitoring results are incorporated into the management measures if necessary in order to reduce the impact, with the aim being to achieve continuous improvement.</p> <p>3.1.3 New scientific and technical data is periodically summarised.</p> <p>3.1.3.1 Monitoring of scientific results demonstrating the impact of forest exploitation is put in place.</p> <p>3.1.3.2 Monitoring of sustainable forest management practices is put in place.</p> <p>2.1.5.2 Regular and frequent field monitoring visits demonstrate that the activities of the various stakeholders comply with the specifications of the management documents and the Contractual Clauses.</p> <p>2.4.1.2 A management parameters monitoring system exists and functions in practice.</p> <p>2.4.2.2 Monitoring and research results, as well as new scientific findings and technical data, are incorporated during the management document review process.</p> <p>3.5.1.3 Regular monitoring of signs of obvious contamination caused by the chemical products used by the manager is conducted.”</p>
<p>5.2.3 The monitoring and maintaining of health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall take into</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“The Forum has considered that some causes like pests, diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations are not relevant at the moment in Gabon.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>consideration the effects of naturally occurring fire, pests and other disturbances.</p>		<p>The requirement regarding fire is covered by the indicator 3.2.2.”</p> <p>“The Forum felt that certain forms of damage to forest health such as pests, diseases, over-grazing and intensive stockbreeding, climatic factors and air pollutants are not relevant at the present time in the Gabonese context. Fire requirements are met by monitoring agricultural fronts and damage linked to forest exploitation is also covered in Principle 3.”</p> <p>“3 The forest’s main ecological functions are maintained.</p> <p>3.2.2 If reforestation is necessary, it is solely done with local species.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme:</p> <p>“As specified in the standard section 4 "points not yet concern the practices of Gabonese forestry sector," 5.2.3 indicator has only a partial interest in effect in the monitoring of agricultural funds (fire cultures slash and burn) the monitoring of natural light and other factors did not appear for the relevant time in the context of the Gabonese forest where the health and vitality of ecosystems is not degraded except by human presence and operation already consideration.”</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“Criteria 3.2 and 3.3 (and all their indicators)”</p> <p>“3.2 The impact of exploitation on the forest’s structure is reduced.</p> <p>3.2.1 Reduced impact forest exploitation techniques are implemented.</p> <p>3.2.1.1 Felling is controlled and spares young trees as far as possible.</p> <p>3.2.1.2 Hauling routes comply with a harvesting plan based on the AOP and do not damage saplings that need protecting.</p> <p>3.2.1.3 Haulage/skidding machines should not create significant ruts on the roads and move around with the blade up in the forest undergrowth as much as possible.</p> <p>3.2.1.4 Infrastructure (primary and secondary routes, quarries, timber yards, hauling roads) are adapted and sized in accordance with the resource.</p> <p>3.2.2 Forest conversion and the usage of fire are supervised and limited in the FMU.</p> <p>3.2.2.1 In the FMU, forest conversion and the usage of fire for agricultural purposes are supervised and limited to zones earmarked for neighbouring community, employee and rightful claimant farming.</p> <p>3.2.2.2 If reforestation is necessary, it is solely done with local species.</p> <p>3.2.2.3 Any reclassification of a part of the FMU is documented.</p> <p>3.3 The impact of exploitation on biodiversity is minimized.</p> <p>3.3.1 A management plan for ecologically important forest areas is developed, implemented and monitored.</p> <p>3.3.1.1 Ecologically important forest areas are identified and mapped at an appropriate scale. They contain significant</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		<p>concentrations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems, such as riparian forests and wetlands. • Zones containing endemic species and endangered species' habitats, as defined by the IUCN. • In situ genetic resources that are endangered or protected and take into account the following: <p>Important major landscapes at global, regional or national level with a natural abundance and distribution of naturally present species.</p> <p>3.3.1.2 The most sensitive identified ecologically important forest zones are covered by protection measures.</p> <p>3.3.1.3 The limits of protected zones are clearly defined and marked in the field.</p> <p>3.3.1.4 The implementation of a management plan for ecologically important forest areas is monitored.</p> <p>3.3.3 The manager develops a fauna and hunting management plan so as to minimize the impact of forest exploitation.</p> <p>3.3.3.1 The manager's employees and rightful claimants are made aware about national hunting regulations (protected species, bag limits, hunting seasons etc).</p> <p>3.3.3.2 The transport and sale of game and the transport of weapons in the company's vehicles are subject to prior authorisation being obtained. If this happens, it must be in compliance with the legal requirements.</p> <p>3.3.3.3 Access routes to the forest concession are controlled. Only authorised vehicles are allowed to use non-public forest roads that do not serve villages.</p> <p>3.3.3.4 Secondary roads are closed after harvesting, except when required for forest monitoring or for local development.</p> <p>3.3.3.5 Hunting by employees is supervised and monitored in accordance with national regulations.</p> <p>3.3.4 Species diversity and density of flora are not significantly modified by the harvesting methods.</p> <p>3.3.4.1 Rare and endemic species of limited distribution are protected.</p> <p>3.3.4.2 The use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled, in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols.</p> <p>3.3.4.3 The use of genetically modified organisms is prohibited.</p> <p>3.3.4.4 The use of exotic species is carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts."</p>
<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 genetic, species and structural</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>"Selective logging with Reduced Impact Logging (indicator 3.2.1) are inherently having this effect."</p> <p>"3.2.1 Reduced impact forest exploitation techniques are implemented."</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>"3.2.1.4 Infrastructure (primary and secondary routes, quarries, timber yards, hauling roads) are adapted and sized in accordance with the resource.</p> <p>3.2.2.2 If reforestation is necessary, it is solely done with local species.</p> <p>3.3.4 Species diversity and density of flora are not significantly modified by the harvesting methods.</p> <p>3.3.4.4 The use of exotic species is carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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.		3.5.2.1 Insofar as is possible, road infrastructure avoids sensitive areas (low areas, river banks and steep slopes)."
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.	YES	"SI 3.2.2.1" "3.2.2.1 In the FMU, forest conversion and the usage of fire for agricultural purposes are supervised and limited to zones earmarked for neighbouring community, employee and rightful claimant farming."
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 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.	YES	« Harvesting techniques : 3.2.1.1, Transport techniques : SI 3.2.1.2, 3.2.1.3, 3.2.1.4 Tree provenances : SI 3.2.2.2 Waste/Oil : Indicator 3.5.3 (and all the SI)" "3.2.1.1 Felling is controlled and spares young trees as far as possible. 3.2.1.2 Hauling routes comply with a harvesting plan based on the AOP and do not damage saplings that need protecting. 3.2.1.3 Haulage/skidding machines should not create significant ruts on the roads and move around with the blade up in the forest undergrowth as much as possible. 3.2.1.4 Infrastructure (primary and secondary routes, quarries, timber yards, hauling roads) are adapted and sized in accordance with the resource. 3.2.2.2 If reforestation is necessary, it is solely done with local species. 3.5.3 The usage of pollutant products is rationalised" Additional supportive indicators: "3.5 The impact of harvesting on water, soils and slopes is minimized" and all indicators and sub-indicators.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<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>“SI 3.5.3.4”</p> <p>“3.5.3.4 The usage of pesticides is minimized. The usage of WHO type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides is prohibited, except if no other alternative is available. Silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures shall be preferred.”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme:</p> <p>“This aspect should have been treated in points that do not concern the practices of Gabonese forest sector. At present, foresters use pesticides on felled wood and eventually on processed wood, in the forest, on standing trees. Therefore, silvicultural and organic alternatives cannot be preferred.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“3.3.4.2 The use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled, in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols”.</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>“SI 3.5.3.4”</p> <p>“3.5.3.4 The usage of pesticides is minimized. The usage of WHO type 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides is prohibited, except if no other alternative is available.”</p>
<p>5.2.10 Pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives 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>“SI 3.5.3.5”</p> <p>“3.5.3.5 Pesticides, just like chlorinated hydrocarbons, whose by-products remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreements (Stockholm Convention), are prohibited.”</p>
<p>5.2.11 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment and training.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“SI 3.5.3.6”</p> <p>“3.5.3.6 Pesticide usage complies with the instructions given by the manufacturer, specifically with regard to equipment and training.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
5.2.12 Where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment.	YES	<p>“SI 3.5.3.7”</p> <p>“3.5.3.7 If fertilisers are used, they are applied in a controlled manner, taking great care of the environment.”</p>
Criterion 3: Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)		
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.	YES	<p>“It is done by the minimum reconstitution rates SI 1.1.1.3 and 3.4.1.2”</p> <p>“1.1.1.3 The manager complies with the management document provisions.</p> <p>3.4.1.2 The minimum diameter of trees to be harvested is set above the ‘successful fruit-bearing’ diameter when known.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“2 The forest management unit, whatever the form of land-use, is sustainably managed with a focus on supplying goods and services.</p> <p>2.2 Sustainable production of timber is ensured both in terms of quantity and quality.</p> <p>2.2.3.1 The AOP is based on results and analyses of the operating inventories and complies with the Management Plan, Administration Plan (limits, target species, Minimum Diameter under Exploitation for Management etc.) and the Contractual Clauses.</p> <p>2.1.3.1 The management plan explains the long-term objectives to be reached during rotation, integrating the production of commercial and non-commercial goods and services.”</p>
5.3.2 Forest management planning shall aim to achieve sound economic performance taking into account any available market studies and possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.	YES	<p>“2.3.5.2”</p> <p>“ 2.3.5.2 Effective mechanisms to produce, market and promote their forest products and services are developed in order to diversify them. They take account of the results of market research and potential new markets and economic activities linked to forest goods and services.”</p>
5.3.3 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall take into account the different uses or	YES	<p>“Principle 3 and 4 take into account the environmental and social functions of the managed area.”</p> <p>“3 The forest’s main ecological functions are maintained.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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>4 Depending upon the scale and intensity of forestry management operations, the manager and operator of the forest management unit (FMU) must contribute to the improvement of the economic and social well-being of workers present in the FMU and local and pygmy indigenous people.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“2.1.3 A comprehensive management document exists and sets the various long-term objectives for the Forest Management Unit based on a sustainable development ethos.</p> <p>2.1.3.1 The management plan explains the long-term objectives to be reached during rotation, integrating the production of commercial and non-commercial goods and services</p> <p>2.1.3.2 The different uses of the forest and forestry products are identified.”</p>
5.3.4 Forest management practices shall maintain and improve the forest resources and encourage a diversified output of goods and services over the long term.	YES	<p>“SI 1.1.1.3 (25 objective species in Gabon as a minimum)”</p> <p>“1.1.1.3 National management standards (specifically with regard to the Minimum Diameter for Exploitation under Management, minimum regeneration rate, target species, Forest Administration Unit volumes etc) are respected.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“2.1.3 A comprehensive management document exists and sets the various long-term objectives for the Forest Management Unit based on a sustainable development ethos.</p> <p>2.1.3.1 The management plan explains the long-term objectives to be reached during rotation, integrating the production of commercial and non-commercial goods and services</p> <p>3.3.4 Species diversity and density of flora are not significantly modified by the harvesting methods. ”</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>“Indicator 3.2.1, Criterion 3.4”</p> <p>“3.2.1 Reduced impact forest exploitation techniques are implemented.</p> <p>3.4 Measures are taken so as to improve natural regeneration of the forest.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>3.2.1.1 Felling is controlled and spares young trees as far as possible.</p> <p>3.2.1.2 Hauling routes comply with a harvesting plan based on the AOP and do not damage saplings that need protecting.</p> <p>3.5.2.1 Insofar as is possible, road infrastructure avoids sensitive areas (low areas, river banks and steep slopes).</p> <p>3.5.2.5 Exploitation in overly steep areas is banned.</p> <p>3.5.2.6 Measures are taken if major erosion is observed.</p>
5.3.6 Harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest	YES	<p>“It is done by the minimum reconstitution rates SI 1.1.1.3 and 3.4.1.2</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>products shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.</p>		<p>Indicator 2.2.4 (and all indicators)”</p> <p>“1.1.1.3 National management standards (specifically with regard to the Minimum Diameter for Exploitation under Management, minimum regeneration rate, target species, Forest Administration Unit volumes etc) are respected.</p> <p>3.4.1.2 The minimum diameter of trees to be harvested is set above the ‘successful fruit-bearing’ diameter when known.</p> <p>2.2.4 Wastage is minimized at all stages of production and processing.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“2.2.2 Rotation and yield are clearly established.</p> <p>2.2.4.1 Felling methods are applied to optimize the volume of usable timber.</p> <p>2.2.4.2 The greatest utilizable volume of the felled tree is recovered.</p> <p>2.2.4.3 The number of felled trees forgotten or abandoned in the forest and decaying logs in the yards (forest, sawmills, railway sidings etc) is minimised. Otherwise, cases are substantiated and documented.</p> <p>2.3.2.1 Non-timber forest products used and their forms of usage are identified, particularly for species that produce both timber and non-timber forest products.</p> <p>2.3.2.2 Forest exploitation does not impair the production and harvesting of other forest products.</p> <p>2.3.2.3 Harvesting methods for multi-use species in the village series plots are listed in the Contractual Clauses.”</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>“In Gabon, it is not the responsibility of the forest owner/manager”</p> <p>Additional information provided by the scheme:</p> <p>“Regarding Harvest of NTFPs and Fishing, BOTH aspects pose no particular problem. In general, it is recognized that these activities, their regulation, supervision and control are not the responsibility of the dealer. The only controversial topic in Central Africa is hunting. Generally speaking, best practices in forestry enterprises, it is commonly accepted that the Manager must supervise and monitor the activities of employees including hunting during work. Finally regarding the hunting of local populations, it is clear that it is not the responsibility of the logging company, it is part of customary use rights.”</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“SI 3.2.1.2, 3.2.1.3, 3.2.1.4, 2.2.3.5, 2.1.6.2”</p> <p>“3.2.1.2 Hauling routes comply with a harvesting plan based on the AOP and do not damage saplings that need protecting.</p> <p>3.2.1.3 Haulage/skidding machines should not create significant ruts on the roads and move around with the blade up in the forest undergrowth as much as possible.</p> <p>3.2.1.4 Infrastructure (primary and secondary routes, quarries, timber yards, hauling roads) are adapted and sized in accordance with the resource.</p> <p>2.2.3.5 The road and hauling network is planned and respected insofar as is possible.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		2.1.6.2 The road network needed for exploitation is maintained.” Additional supportive indicators: “3.1.2.1 Exploitation monitoring and new road infrastructure maps are available. 3.3.3.3 Access routes to the forest concession are controlled. Only authorised vehicles are allowed to use non-public forest roads that do not serve villages. 3.3.3.4 Secondary roads are closed after harvesting, except when required for forest monitoring or for local development.”
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	“Principle 3” “3 The forest’s main ecological functions are maintained.” Additional supportive indicators: 2.1.3 A comprehensive management document exists and sets the various long-term objectives for the Forest Management Unit based on a sustainable development ethos. 2.1.3.2 The different uses of the forest and forestry products are identified. 2.1.3.5 The management plan – specifically using maps – defines the areas to be used (production series). The exploitable volume during the management period and the average annual volume are substantiated. 2.2.1.2 Trees to be protected (seed-producing trees, young trees, or critical risk species according to the IUCN) are plotted on maps and visibly marked before harvesting gets underway.”
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: a) protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems such as riparian areas and wetland biotopes; b) areas containing endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised	YES	“SI 3.3.1.1” “3.3.1.1 Ecologically important forest areas are identified and mapped at an appropriate scale. They contain significant concentrations of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems, such as riparian forests and wetlands. • Zones containing endemic species and endangered species’ habitats, as defined by the IUCN. • In situ genetic resources that are endangered or protected and take into account the following: Important major landscapes at global, regional or national level with a natural abundance and distribution of naturally present species.” Additional supportive indicators: “3.3.1.2 The most sensitive identified ecologically important forest zones are covered by protection measures. 3.3.1.3 The limits of protected zones are clearly defined and marked in the field. 3.3.1.4 The implementation of a management plan for ecologically important forest areas is monitored.”

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>reference lists;</p> <p>c) endangered or protected genetic <i>in situ</i> resources; and taking into account</p> <p>d) globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.</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>“SI 2.2.1.2”</p> <p>“2.2.1.2 Trees to be protected (seed-producing trees, young trees, or critical risk species according to the IUCN) are plotted on maps and visibly marked before harvesting gets underway.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“3.3.3 The manager develops a fauna and hunting management plan so as to minimize the impact of forest exploitation.</p> <p>3.3.3.1 The manager’s employees and rightful claimants are made aware about national hunting regulations (protected species, bag limits, hunting seasons etc).</p> <p>3.3.3.5 Hunting by employees is supervised and monitored in accordance with national regulations.</p> <p>3.3.4.1 Rare and endemic species of limited distribution are protected.”</p> <p>Note: 3.3.4.1 relates to flora only. Although a prohibition of the commercial exploitation of protected and endangered fauna species is not specifically mentioned in the PAFC Gabon standard, additional information, such as article 92 in part 2.2 Legislation on fauna in the document “PAFC Gabon system description 2013”, covers this requirement.</p>
<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</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“Criterion 3.4”</p> <p>“3.4 Measures are taken so as to improve natural regeneration of the forest.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“3.3.4.4 The use of exotic species is carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p> <p>3.4.1 The manager implements a strategy to regenerate species that are being regenerated because of a harvesting shortage.</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
resources.		3.4.1.1 Harvested species seed-producing trees – with a diametric bell-shaped structure – are protected during harvesting. 3.4.1.3 For enrichment planting in harvested forests or in the agro forestry system, the use of indigenous species with unquestionable commercial value is preferable.”
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	“SI 3.4.1.3” “3.4.1.3 For enrichment planting in harvested forests or in the agro forestry system, the use of indigenous species with unquestionable commercial value is preferable.” Additional supportive indicators: “3.3.4.4 The use of exotic species is carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts. 3.4.1 The manager implements a strategy to regenerate species that are being regenerated because of a harvesting shortage.”
5.4.6 Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.	YES	“The forum has considered this point not relevant in the Gabonese context as the plantations are undertaken in order to enrich tree gaps and as to promote ecological connectivity plantations are not used in Gabon.” “The Forum deemed that this requirement is not relevant within the scope of forestry work in the country because plantations are designed to enrich openings and reforestation to restore ecological connectivity is not carried out because it would require the reforestation of road infrastructure used in general during every other rotation cycle.” Additional information provided by the scheme: “Afforestation and reforestation in the Gabonese forest framework for improving ecological connectivity and activities are not carried out on forest roads. Indeed, the concessions are mainly composed of mostly forest and adjacent to other forests. If you planned to do reforestation roads, it would be a huge investment that would be destroyed in the next passage cut (at the end of a rotation) as the roads are reused from one rotation to another.”
5.4.7 Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.	YES	“SI 3.3.4.3” “3.3.4.3 The use of genetically modified organisms is prohibited.”
5.4.8 Forest management practices shall, where appropriate, promote a diversity of both	YES	“The Forum has considered this point inherent to Gabonese forests (uneven-aged and mixed stands). Harvesting operations are generally very selective and conserve observed landscapes in the concession.”

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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>“The Forum deemed that this requirement is inherent to Gabonese forests as the country's forests are made up of uneven-aged and mixed stands. As exploitation is highly selective, it maintains the various potential landscapes observed in a FMU.”</p> <p>The assessment team accepted the view of PAFC Gabon.</p>
5.4.9 Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, on appropriate sites shall be supported, when economically feasible.	YES	<p>“SI 3.2.2.1”</p> <p>“3.2.2.1 In the FMU, forest conversion and the usage of fire for agricultural purposes are supervised and limited to zones earmarked for neighbouring community, employee and rightful claimant farming.”</p>
5.4.10 Tending and harvesting 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.	YES	<p>“Indicator 3.2.1, 3.3.1”</p> <p>“3.2.1 Reduced impact forest exploitation techniques are implemented.</p> <p>3.3.1 A management plan for ecologically important forest areas is developed, implemented and monitored.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“3.3 The impact of exploitation on biodiversity is minimized.</p> <p>3.5 The impact of harvesting on water, soils and slopes is minimized”</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.	YES	<p>“SI 3.2.1.2, 3.2.1.4, 3.5.2.3”</p> <p>“3.2.1.2 Hauling routes comply with a harvesting plan based on the AOP and do not damage saplings that need protecting.</p> <p>3.2.1.4 Infrastructure (primary and secondary routes, quarries, timber yards, hauling roads) are adapted and sized in accordance with the resource.</p> <p>3.5.2.3 The construction and upkeep of the forest camp limits erosion and clearing.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“3.3 The impact of exploitation on biodiversity is minimized.</p> <p>3.3.1 A management plan for ecologically important forest areas is developed, implemented and monitored.</p> <p>3.5.1.2 Infrastructure built to bridge water bodies is designed to minimize the waterway silting up and filling up.</p> <p>3.5.2.1 Insofar as is possible, road infrastructure avoids sensitive areas (low areas, river banks and steep slopes).”</p>
5.4.12 With due regard to	YES	<p>“The Forum has considered the requirement inappropriate to the Gabonese where wildlife is not considered as a threat to forest regeneration but more like a means of forest regeneration through elephant and apes faeces.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
management objectives, measures shall be taken to balance the pressure of animal populations and grazing on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity.		<p>“The Forum deemed that pressure caused by animal populations and grazing simply does not exist in Gabon, with animal populations even being viewed as being necessary for forest regeneration.”</p> <p>The assessment team accepted the view of PAFC Gabon.</p>
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	<p>“About dead trees, the Forum has considered that Gabonese forests in their natural and/or selective logging state have already a large amount of dead trees.</p> <p>The special rare tree species are considered in the sub-indicator 3.3.4.1.”</p> <p>“The Forum felt that the requirement on rare and special species is covered by the PAFC Gabon standard. Gabonese forests are natural tropical forests and contain many dead standing or fallen trees.”</p> <p>“3.3.4.1 Rare and endemic species of limited distribution are protected.”</p> <p>The assessment team accepted the view of PAFC Gabon.</p>
Criterion 5: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
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.	YES	<p>“Criterion 3.5”</p> <p>“3.5 The impact of harvesting on water, soils and slopes is minimized”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“2.1.3 A comprehensive management document exists and sets the various long-term objectives for the Forest Management Unit based on a sustainable development ethos.</p> <p>2.1.3.2 The different uses of the forest and forestry products are identified.</p> <p>2.1.3.5 The management plan – specifically using maps – defines the areas to be used (production series). The exploitable volume during the management period and the average annual volume are substantiated.”</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>“Designing protection series is a legal requirement SI 1.1.1.3. They are normally excluded from the production series.”</p> <p>“1.1.1.3 National management standards (specifically with regard to the Minimum Diameter for Exploitation under Management, minimum regeneration rate, target species, Forest Administration Unit volumes etc) are respected.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		"3.1.1.1 Vegetation, topographical, geological and water system maps are available. 3.1.1.4 Maps or data on the distribution of exploitable, endangered, rare and endemic species from the various inventories are available. 3.3.1.2 The most sensitive identified ecologically important forest zones are covered by protection measures. 3.3.1.3 The limits of protected zones are clearly defined and marked in the field. 3.3.1.4 The implementation of a management plan for ecologically important forest areas is monitored. 4.1.3.1 The boundaries of one or more zones where harvesting is being carried out with the free, informed and prior consent of the local and pygmy indigenous populations are defined. 4.1.3.3 Special religious, cultural or economic sites (areas that are fundamental to the needs of the local and pygmy indigenous populations) must be clearly identified by means of participatory mapping with the local and pygmy indigenous populations and are covered by protection or management measures set in consultation with the local and pygmy indigenous populations."
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 minimise the pressure of animal populations.	YES	"Indicator 3.5.2 and all SI The pressure of animal populations is not relevant in Gabon." "3.5.2 The impact of harvesting activities on the biological, physical and chemical characteristics of soils and on the slopes is minimized and monitored." Additional supportive indicators: "3.3 The impact of exploitation on biodiversity is minimized. 3.3.1 A management plan for ecologically important forest areas is developed, implemented and monitored. 3.5.1.2 Infrastructure built to bridge water bodies is designed to minimize the waterway silting up and filling up. 3.5.2.1 Insofar as is possible, road infrastructure avoids sensitive areas (low areas, river banks and steep slopes)."
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	"Indicator 3.5.1" "3.5.1 Water flow rate and quality are maintained." Additional supportive indicators: "3.5.1.1 Forest access routes opened up by the manager do not lead to water accumulating or flooding. 3.5.1.2 Infrastructure built to bridge water bodies is designed to minimize the waterway silting up and filling up. 3.5.1.3 Regular monitoring of signs of obvious contamination caused by the chemical products used by the manager is conducted. 3.5.2.4 Special waterway bank harvesting measures are put in place."

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<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>“SI 3.5.2.1, 3.5.2.2, Indicator 3.5.1”</p> <p>“3.5.2.1 Insofar as is possible, road infrastructure avoids sensitive areas (low areas, river banks and steep slopes).</p> <p>3.5.2.2 Work is done and its effectiveness is monitored in order to limit erosion on abandoned permanent (access roads, bridges, pipes and forest camps) and secondary infrastructure (haulage machine paths, timber yards and quarries).</p> <p>3.5.1 Water flow rate and quality are maintained.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“3.5.1.2 Infrastructure built to bridge water bodies is designed to minimize the waterway silting up and filling up.</p> <p>3.5.2.3 Special waterway bank harvesting measures are put in place.”</p>
<p>Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions</p>		
<p>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 opportunities for employment in connection with the socio-economic functions of forests.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“Indicator 4.1.3”</p> <p>“4.1.3 Rules governing the sharing of jointly used areas, knowledge and know-how are clearly defined and respected by the manager and local and pygmy indigenous populations by means of Contractual Clauses.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“2.1 The forest management unit is managed based on well-defined and clearly established objectives with a sustainable development ethos.</p> <p>2.1.3 A comprehensive management document exists and sets the various long-term objectives for the Forest Management Unit based on a sustainable development ethos.</p> <p>4.2.1.2 Income-generating community projects will be encouraged when implementing the agreements made within the framework of the operator’s involvement in local development.</p> <p>4.2.2 Local and pygmy indigenous communities living in or near the harvested forest area benefit from preferential employment and training opportunities and other services provided by the manager.</p> <p>4.2.2.2 There is a recruitment and training policy put in place by the forest manager for young people from local villages.</p> <p>4.2.3.1 The forest manager opts for local firms as sub-contractors when they are equally qualified for the task in question.</p> <p>4.4.3.2 Pygmy indigenous populations are not discriminated against in terms of access to employment.”</p>
<p>5.6.2 Forest management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“Criteria 4.2”</p> <p>“4.2 The share of benefits derived from forests is considered to be satisfactory by all stakeholders.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
management area.		Additional supportive indicators: “4 Depending upon the scale and intensity of forestry management operations, the manager and operator of the forest management unit (FMU) must contribute to the improvement of the economic and social well-being of workers present in the FMU and local and pygmy indigenous people. 4.2.1 The forest manager works so that the local and pygmy indigenous populations in the management unit and those bordering it receive part of the revenue generated by the exploitation of the management unit. 4.2.5 The health of local and pygmy indigenous populations is improved as a result of the contribution made by forestry. 4.2.5.1 Local and pygmy indigenous populations have access where possible to the operator’s forest camp clinic. 4.3.2 A health and education system is provided for the families of workers in the FMU. 4.3.2.1 Hygiene and public health measures (drinking water, latrines, household refuse...) are taken by the forest manager. 4.4.2.2 One or more health centres, with qualified staff living on the spot, exist and are satisfactorily functional. <u>Observation</u> Sub-indicator 4.4.2.2: numbering to be changed to 4.3.2.2.
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	“Indicator 1.1.4, 4.1.3” “1.1.4 The legal and customary rights of local populations to own, use and administer their forest land and resources are clearly defined, acknowledged and respected. 4.1.3 Rules governing the sharing of jointly used areas, knowledge and know-how are clearly defined and respected by the manager and local and pygmy indigenous populations by means of Contractual Clauses.”
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	YES	“Indicator 1.1.4, 4.1.3, Indicator 4.1.5 Indicator 4.1.4” “1.1.4 The legal and customary rights of local populations to own, use and administer their forest land and resources are clearly defined, acknowledged and respected. 4.1.3 Rules governing the sharing of jointly used areas, knowledge and know-how are clearly defined and respected by the manager and local and pygmy indigenous populations by means of Contractual Clauses.

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>applicable. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved or is in dispute there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such 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>4.1.5 The conflict prevention and resolution procedure is established in a participatory fashion and implemented by the local and pygmy indigenous populations and the forest operator.</p> <p>4.1.4 The Contractual Clauses contain provisions on the sanctions applicable in the event of the set rules being breached.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“1.1.5 The provisions of convention 169 of the ILO and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are known and applied.</p> <p>4.1 Arrangements for accessing natural resources are clearly made with the free, informed and prior consent of the local and pygmy indigenous populations.</p> <p>4.1.1.3 A consultation mechanism for the stakeholders is created and operates in practice in the FMU.</p> <p>4.4.3.1 Contractual clauses adopted in a participatory manner by the operator and the pygmy indigenous populations are implemented.”</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 ecosystems, as well as compatibility with other functions of the forest.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“The Forum has considered that the notion of recreation in the concession is not adapted to the Gabonese context. The access to the concession involves the local population and their usage rights which are covered in the Principle 4.”</p> <p>“The Forum felt that recreation in the FMU is not a concept that fits with the Gabonese context. Access to FMU is often linked to employee access and access for neighbouring and indigenous populations. Access for neighbouring populations is governed by customary usage rights which are enshrined in the PAFC Gabon standard.”</p> <p>“4 Depending upon the scale and intensity of forestry management operations, the manager and operator of the forest management unit (FMU) must contribute to the improvement of the economic and social well-being of workers present in the FMU and local and pygmy indigenous people.”</p> <p>The assessment team accepted the view of PAFC Gabon.</p>
<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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“SI 4.1.3.3”</p> <p>“4.1.3.3 Special religious, cultural or economic sites (areas that are fundamental to the needs of the local and pygmy indigenous populations) must be clearly identified by means of participatory mapping with the local and pygmy indigenous populations and are covered by protection or management measures set in consultation with the local and pygmy indigenous populations.”</p>
<p>5.6.7 Forest management operations shall take into account all socio-economic functions,</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“The Forum has considered that the notion of recreation and aesthetic in the concession is not adapted to the Gabonese context. The access to the concession involves the local population and their usage rights which are covered in the Principle 4.”</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
<p>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.</p>		<p>“The Forum felt that recreation in the FMU is not a concept that fits with the Gabonese context. Access to FMU is often linked to employee access and access for neighbouring and indigenous populations. Access for neighbouring populations is governed by customary usage rights which are enshrined in the PAFC Gabon standard.”</p> <p>“4 Depending upon the scale and intensity of forestry management operations, the manager and operator of the forest management unit (FMU) must contribute to the improvement of the economic and social well-being of workers present in the FMU and local and pygmy indigenous people.”</p> <p>The assessment team accepted the view of PAFC Gabon.</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>„SI 1.1.7.4, Indicator 2.3.3“</p> <p>„1.1.7.4 The forest manager complies with legal requirements concerning training and professional development. 2.3.3 The operator develops an employee training policy.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“2.3.3.1 An employee training policy is implemented in the company. 2.3.3.2 A training and recycling plan is prepared and regularly implemented taking account of the previously identified needs.”</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>“SI 4.1.3.4 Indicator 3.1.3”</p> <p>“4.1.3.4 Local and indigenous populations must be compensated for the loan and application of their traditional forestry techniques and knowledge. This compensation must be freely and formally accepted prior to the start of forestry work. 3.1.3 New scientific and technical data is periodically summarised.”</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>“4.1.3 Rules governing the sharing of jointly used areas, knowledge and know-how are clearly defined and respected by the</p>

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
		manager and local and pygmy indigenous populations by means of Contractual Clauses.”
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	“Indicator 4.1.1 Indicator 4.1.5” “4.1.1 The forest manager creates a local and pygmy indigenous population consultation and joint working mechanism. 4.1.5 The conflict prevention and resolution procedure is established in a participatory fashion and implemented by the local and pygmy indigenous populations and the forest operator.” Additional supportive indicators: “4.1.1.1 A social relations coordinator is clearly identified from among the manager’s workforce and is known by the local and pygmy indigenous populations. 4.1.1.2 An individual or group of individuals is chosen and clearly identified in each village / town by the local and pygmy indigenous populations in order to legitimately represent them in their dealings with the forest manager. 4.1.1.3 A consultation mechanism for the stakeholders is created and operates in practice in the FMU. 4.1.2 Local and pygmy indigenous populations are informed and made aware of their rights and duties with regard to natural resource access. 4.1.5.1 A written conflict prevention and resolution procedure devised in a concerted manner exists. 4.1.5.2 The conflict prevention and resolution procedure is known and applied by the two parties. 4.1.5.3 Conflict resolution decisions are accepted and implemented by the parties concerned.”
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.	YES	“Indicator 4.3.1” “4.3.1 Preventive measures are taken by the manager to minimize any forestry activity occupational risks.” Additional supportive indicators: “4.3.1.1 Risks and hazards of forestry work are assessed. The workers are informed about the outcomes of this assessment and about suitable preventive measures. 4.3.1.2 Internal procedures and memoranda are widely circulated to remind the employees about the observance of safety standards. 4.3.1.3 Appropriate safety gear and equipment are distributed and worn by employees in their various work locations. 4.3.1.6 Emergency procedures are established and operational. 4.3.1.7 Work and safety gear and equipment is regularly maintained and renewed.”

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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 task in forest operations.	YES	"Indicator 4.3.1 Indicator 2.3.3" "4.3.1 Preventive measures are taken by the manager to minimize any forestry activity occupational risks. 2.3.3 The operator develops an employee training policy." Additional supportive indicators: "1.1.7.5 The forest manager respects legal requirements on hygiene, health and safety in the workplace. 4.3.1.2 Internal procedures and memoranda are widely circulated to remind the employees about the observance of safety standards."
5.6.13 Forest management shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.	YES	"Gabon has ratified all the ILO fundamental conventions, they are integrated in the law and other binding documents. In the standard, all the SI in the indicator 1.1.7" "1.1.7 National and international labour regulations are applied."
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 relevant research activities carried out by other organisations, as appropriate.	YES	"Indicator 3.1.3 Indicator 2.4.1 Indicator 3.1.2" "3.1.3 New scientific and technical data is periodically summarised. 2.4.1 The implementation of the management plan is continuously followed up and evaluated. 3.1.2 Impact studies are carried out in relation to the scale of exploitation, in accordance with the scarcity of the resources in question. These studies must be incorporated into the manager's practices."
Criterion 7: Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)		
5.7.1 Forest management shall comply with legislation applicable to forest management issues including forest management	YES	"Criteria 1.1" "1.1 Forest management complies with the legislation applicable at national level and covers forest management practices, nature

Question	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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>and environmental protection, protected and endangered species, customary rights of local populations, workers' rights, payment of taxes."</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>"1.1.2 The manager and operator are complying with their administrative and tax obligations. 1.1.7 National and international labour regulations are applied. 1.1.7.5 The forest manager respects legal requirements on hygiene, health and safety in the workplace."</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.	YES	<p>"Criteria 1.2"</p> <p>"1.2 The forest manager makes a contribution to providing adequate protection against illegal activities in its FMU."</p> <p>Additional supportive indicators:</p> <p>"1.2.1 The artificial limits of the FMU are marked out on the ground and are regularly maintained. 1.2.2 The forest manager regulates vehicle access to non-public roads in its FMU. 1.2.3 The forest manager documents illegal activities inside their concession and informs the relevant authorities."</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

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

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.

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	<p><u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "The certification is issued for a 3-year period by certifying bodies (CB) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are independent and impartial (part 3); • have not taken part in the standard setting or revision process as a governing or decision-making body; • have not taken part in Forest Management Unit forest management;" <p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "Chain of Custody certification is issued for a 5-year period by competent, independent certifying bodies". The requirement for the CB to be independent implies that the CB is not involved in the standard setting process as governing or decision making body (otherwise the CB could not be considered as independent).</p>
2.	Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification or chain of custody certification against a scheme specific chain of custody standard shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<p><u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "PAFC Gabon forest management certifying bodies must fulfill the requirements of the international standard ISO 17021 together with the requirements outlined in this document."</p> <p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 1</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	65?			"Chain of Custody certification is issued for a 5-year period by competent, independent certifying bodies with adequate means and accredited by COFRAC (French accreditation committee) or any other accrediting body that is a member of EA (European co-operation for Accreditation) or IAF (International Accreditation Forum) based on ISO Guide 65 and on these regulations for verification of Chain of Custody of forest products."
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> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 1</p> <p>"Chain of Custody certification is issued for a 5-year period by competent, independent certifying bodies with adequate means and accredited by COFRAC (French accreditation committee) or any other accrediting body that is a member of EA (European co-operation for Accreditation) or IAF (International Accreditation Forum) based on ISO Guide 65 and on these regulations for verification of Chain of Custody of forest products."</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> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 2.2.1</p> <p>"The authority in charge of certification decisions taken by the CB must include one or more person(s) with experience and/or technical knowledge of the forest-timber industry and its economic, environmental and social aspects, together with knowledge of the national forest management standard."</p>
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	<p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 2.1</p> <p>"The body responsible for certification decisions made by the CB must include one or more person(s) with timber industry qualifications and an in-depth knowledge of the PEFC Chain of Custody standard, together with staff who are all qualified to undertake core activities (contracting procedures, audit, surveillance, etc.)."</p> <p>The requirement of person(s) with timber industry qualification implies that the person must have technical competence in procurement, processing and material flows at different stages of processing and trading.</p>
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	Annex 6, 3.1	YES	<p><u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 2.2.3</p> <p>"Each member of the audit team must have an in-depth knowledge of the national forest management standard and certification process."</p> <p><u>COC</u></p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	management or C-o-C certifications?			PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 2.1 "The body responsible for certification decisions made by the CB must include one or more person(s) with timber industry qualifications and an in-depth knowledge of the PEFC Chain of Custody standard, together with staff who are all qualified to undertake core activities (contracting procedures, audit, surveillance, etc.)"

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> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 2.2.3 "Each member of the audit team must have an in-depth knowledge of the national forest management standard and certification process. Each member of the audit team must have completed a training day on the PAFC Gabon standard, delivered either by PAFC Gabon or by experts appointed by PAFC Gabon. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each member of the audit team must have a knowledge of the PAFC Gabon standard; • one member of the audit team must have experience and/or technical knowledge of forest management; • one member of the audit team must be qualified to take charge of audits in accordance with the CB's certification procedures." <p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 2.1.2 "The certifying body must ensure that all members of the audit team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have knowledge corresponding to at least a secondary education; • have attended specific courses related to timber and related industries or have professional experience in the field; • have, in the last two years, participated in PEFC Council or PAFC Gabon Forest Product Chain of Custody training; • have successfully completed training in audit techniques based on ISO 19011; • have knowledge and skills of audit techniques, procedures and principles; • have knowledge and skills enabling them to understand the client organisation's operational context; • have knowledge and skills of applicable national and international legislation governing the forest-timber sector; • have an in-depth understanding of the Chain of Custody standard and certification process;"
8.	Does the scheme documentation require that	Annex 6, 3.2	YES	<p><u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 2.2.3</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	the auditors must fulfil the general criteria of ISO 19011 for Quality Management Systems auditors or for Environmental Management Systems auditors?			"Auditors must fulfill the requirements of ISO 19011 in respect of management system and environmental management auditing." <u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 2.1.2 "The certifying body must ensure that all members of the audit team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have successfully completed training in audit techniques based on ISO 19011;" PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.3.2 "Certifying bodies must establish audit procedures compatible with the requirements specified in ISO 19011." PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.4 "The initial evaluation must be carried out in accordance with recommendations in paragraph 6.5 of ISO 19011." PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.5 "The evaluation report shall comply with clause 11 of ISO Guide 65 and clauses 6.6.1 and 6.6.2 of ISO 19011."
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	See point 7 above.
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	<u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.2.1 "Certifying bodies shall establish internal procedures for PAFC Gabon sustainable forest management certification that are compatible with the requirements laid down in ISO 17021." <u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.2.1 "Certifying bodies must establish internal procedures for PEFC Chain of Custody certification compatible with the requirements laid down in ISO Guide 65 and the requirements contained in document PEFC ST 2003:2012 relating to requirements for certifying bodies providing Chain of Custody certification in accordance with the PEFC International standard."
11.	Does the scheme documentation require that	Annex 6, 4	YES	See point 10 above.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	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?			
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	See point 10 above.
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> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.2.2 "Certification bodies must establish audit procedures compatible with the requirements specified in ISO 19011."</p> <p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.2.2 "Certifying bodies must establish audit procedures compatible with the requirements specified in ISO 19011."</p>
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	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "In addition, the certifying body shall notify the list of those holding sustainable forest management certification to PAFC Gabon, together with any changes to the dates or scope of these certificates."</p> <p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "In addition, the certifying body (CB) must inform PAFC Gabon without delay of:</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	certificates?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any new Chain of Custody certificates issued and any changes to certificates already issued; • a list of all sites covered in the case of multi-site certification."
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> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "Finally, the certifying body is responsible for checking correct use of both PAFC Gabon and PEFC trademarks by the certified forest manager."</p> <p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements 2013 Scheme Chapter 1 "The CB is responsible for checking correct use of the PEFC trademark by certified entities."</p>
16.	Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Annex 6, 4 PEFC ST 2003:2012 Chapter 13.1.1	YES	<p><u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.4</p> <p><u>Observation</u> Annex 6 Chapter 4 The Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, Chapter 4 requires that "the maximum period for surveillance audits is one year and maximum period for reassessment audit is five years for both forest management and chain of custody certifications." The PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements 2013 Scheme Chapter 4.3 requires that "the gap between two surveillance audits must be 12 months". This wording means that a surveillance audit has to be carried out exactly after 12 months and there is no possibility to carry out the surveillance audit before 12 months have passed. However, it is no non-compliance since the maximum period of one year would not be exceeded, but the scheme should reconsider the wording.</p> <p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.6.3 "The maximum period between the conduct of two surveillance audits is one year."</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> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.4 "A renewal audit shall take place every three years." (renewal audit = assessment audit)</p> <p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 3.6.3 "A renewal audit shall take place every 5 years."</p>
18	Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "The certifying body shall produce a summary of the findings of the audit report, drawn up in agreement with the concession holder or forest manager who is responsible for making it available to the public."</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
				<p><u>COC</u> Not applicable.</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> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "Moreover, the certifying body shall take all necessary measures to ensure consultation of external interested parties during the audit." <u>COC</u> Not applicable.</p>
20.	Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures? [4]	Annex 6, 4	YES	<p><u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Various points. <u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Various points.</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> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "The certification is issued for a 3-year period by certifying bodies (CB) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and are accredited by COFRAC (French accreditation committee) or any other accrediting body that is a member of EA (European co-operation for Accreditation) or IAF (International Accreditation Forum) in compliance with a specific programme that defines requirements applicable to them in respect of certification of compliance of sustainable forest management with the PAFC Gabon standard." <p>There is no national accreditation body available in Gabon. Therefore, the selection of the COFRAC or any other accreditation body which is member of the EA or IAF can be accepted. <u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "Chain of Custody certification is issued for a 5-year period by competent, independent certifying bodies with adequate means and accredited by COFRAC (French accreditation committee) or any other accrediting body that is a member of EA (European co-operation for Accreditation) or IAF (International Accreditation Forum)" There is no national accreditation body available in Gabon. Therefore, the selection of the COFRAC or any other accreditation body which is member of the EA or IAF can be accepted.</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
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><u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 4 "The symbol of the accrediting body that issued the accreditation certificate to the certifying body must appear on the certificate."</p> <p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme "3.6.2 the accrediting body's logo together with the accreditation number in compliance with the rules for its usage, making it clear that this is an accredited certification;"</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 ISO 17011 and other documents recognised by the above mentioned organisations?	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p>See point 21 above. It is obligatory to all members of the IAF or regional groups as EA to use the ISO 17011.</p>
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	Annex 6, 5	YES	<p><u>FM</u> PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "PAFC Gabon forest management certifying bodies must fulfil the requirements of the international standard ISO 17021 together with the requirements outlined in this document." PAFC Gabon FM CB and AB requirements 2013 Scheme Chapter 2.1 "The scope of the certification is defined by the forest certification scheme in the document PAFC Gabon sustainable forest management standard".</p> <p><u>COC</u> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "Chain of Custody certification is issued for a 5-year period by competent, independent certifying bodies..... based on ISO Guide 65 and on these regulations for verification of Chain of Custody of forest products"</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC Council PROCEDURES	YES / NO*	Reference to scheme documentation
	accreditation scope?			PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 2 "The scope of the certification is defined by the PEFC Chain of Custody standard. The CB's standard must, as a minimum, include all requirements contained in this standard."
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> PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "Chain of Custody certification is issued for a 5-year period by competent, independent certifying bodies with adequate means and accredited by COFRAC (French accreditation committee) or any other accrediting body that is a member of EA (European co-operation for Accreditation) or IAF (International Accreditation Forum) based on ISO Guide 65 and on these regulations for verification of Chain of Custody of forest products."
26.	Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?	Annex 6, 6	YES	See PAFC Gabon Notification procedures document.
27.	Are the procedures for PEFC notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Annex 6, 6	YES	The PAFC Gabon Notification procedures document does not refer specifically to non-discriminatory procedures. However, the notification conditions show that applicants must be a legal entity which holds valid accreditation for FM and/or COC and agrees to be published on the PEFC online database may sign a contract with PAFC Gabon. Accreditation fees have to be paid for each issued certificate which base on transparent annual turnover conditions of the certificate holders. The decision about the application is made by the PAFC Gabon Secretariat. In case of negative decisions, the applicant may appeal to the PAFC Gabon Board of Directors to reconsider the decision of the PAFC Gabon Secretary General. The Board of Directors' decision shall be final. These general procedures do not show indications of discriminatory processes.

* 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

Part V: Standard and System Requirement Checklist for system specific Chain of custody standards – COMPLIANCE WITH PEFC ST PEFC 2002:2010**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", adopted by the General Assembly of the PEFC Council on 23/05/2013 together with its annexes were adopted without modification by the PAFC Gabon at its Extraordinary General Assembly on 12/07/2013 and form an integral part of the PAFC Gabon Certification Scheme. This is documented in the PAFC Gabon CoC Standard 2013 Scheme. The French document is a translation of the original English document carried out by PEFC France, which supplied the French document to PAFC Gabon.

2 Checklist

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
Requirements for chain of custody process – physical separation method				
1.	Does the national C-o-C standard require identification of origin of certified material/products in compliance with chapter 4.2?	4.2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
2.	Does the national C-o-C standard require separation of the certified raw material in compliance with chapter 4.3?	4.3	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
3.	Does the national C-o-C standard require information delivered to the customer at the point of sale of certified products in compliance with chapter 4.4?	4.4	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications..
4.	Does the national standard require that usage of the logo or label shall be carried out according to the terms and conditions of the	4.4.2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
	logo / label copyright owner?			
Requirements for the chain of custody process – percentage based methods				
5.	Does the national standard require that the requirements for C-o-C process shall be implemented for the production group defined in compliance with chapters 5.1.2?	5.1.2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
6.	Does the national C-o-C standard require identification of origin of material/products entering the product group in compliance with chapter 5.2?	5.2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
7.	Does the national standard include requirements for the calculation of the certification percentage, which are compatible with the chapter 5.3?	5.3	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
8.	Does the national standard include an average percentage method in compliance with chapter 5.4.1?	5.4.1	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
9.	Does the national standard include a volume credit method in compliance with chapter 5.4.2?	5.4.2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
10.	Does the national C-o-C standard require information delivered to customer at the point of	5.5	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
	sale of certified products in compliance with chapter 5.5?			
11.	Does the national standard require that usage of the logo or label shall be carried out according to the terms and conditions of the logo / label copyright owner?	5.5.2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
12.	Does the national standard require a Due Diligence System (DDS) to ensure that the certified products do not include raw material from controversial sources?	5.6; Appendix 2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
Minimum management system requirements				
13.	Does the national standard require management responsibilities for the organisation's management in compliance with chapter 6.2.1?	6.2.1	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
14.	Does the national standard include requirements for responsibilities and authorities for C-o-C in compliance with chapter 6.3?	6.3	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
15.	Does the national standard include requirements for documented procedures in compliance with chapter 6.3?	6.3	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
16.	Does the national standard include requirements for record keeping in compliance with chapter 6.4?	6.4	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
17.	Does the national standard include requirements for human resources management and technical facilities in compliance with chapter 6.5.1 and 6.5.2?	6.5.1, 6.5.2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
18.	Does the national standard include requirements for inspection and control in compliance with chapter 6.6?	6.6	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
19.	Does the national standard include requirements for complaint resolution procedures in compliance with chapter 6.7?	6.7	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
20.	Does the national standard include requirements for subcontracting in compliance with chapter 6.8?	6.8	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
Specification of the of the PEFC claim on "PEFC certified" material				
21.	Does the national standard include definition of certified raw material, neutral and other raw material (for the purposes of PEFC claims / labelling) in compliance with Appendix 1?	Appendix 1	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
PEFC Due Diligence System (DDS) for avoidance of raw material from controversial sources				

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
22.	Is the scope of the DDS of the national standard in compliance with Appendix 2, chapter 1?	Appendix 2, 1	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
23.	Does the DDS of the national standard include requirements for self-declarations of suppliers in compliance with Appendix2, chapter 2?	Appendix 2, 2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
24.	Does the DDS of the national standard include requirements for risk-assessment in compliance with Appendix2, chapter 3?	Appendix 2, 3	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
25.	Does the DDS of the national standard include requirements for management of high-risk supplies in compliance with Appendix2, chapter 3?	Appendix 2, 4	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
Implementation of chain of custody by multisite organisations (only for standards which include rules for multisite or group certification)				
26.	Does the national standard define the multisite organisation in compliance with chapter 2 of Appendix 3?	Appendix 3, 2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
27.	Does the national standard include general criteria for multi requirements in compliance with chapter 3.1 of Appendix 3?	Appendix 3, 3.1	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.
28.	Does the national standard include requirements for function and responsibilities of the central office in compliance	Appendix 3, 3.2.1	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC 2002:2010	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
	with chapter 3.2.1 of Appendix 3?			
29.	Does the national standard include requirements for function and responsibilities of sites connected to a multisite organisation in compliance with chapter 3.2.2 of Appendix 3?	Appendix 3, 3.2.2	YES	The PAFC adopted the PEFC ST 2002:2013 without modifications.

* 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.

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

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.

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 procedures are documented in the PAFC Gabon Notification procedures 2013 Scheme. According to the SSRCL Gabon, the PAFC Gabon used the PEFC GD 1006:2012 "PEFC Notification of Certification Bodies operating Chain of Custody Certification in Countries without Authorised Bodies" as guidance for the elaboration of the PAFC Gabon Notification procedures 2013 Scheme. However, the PAFC Gabon clearly is the authorized body in Gabon whose responsibilities concerning notification are described in the PAFC Gabon Notification procedures 2013 Scheme.</p> <p>Requirement 5.1.a) PAFC Gabon Notification procedures Scheme Chapter 3</p> <p>"The certifying body requesting notification from PAFC Gabon must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a legal entity; • agree to be listed on the publicly available online databases of the PEFC Council and PAFC Gabon which includes the certifying body's identification data. • have valid accreditation issued by a national accrediting body that is a member or of or belongs to the IAF (International Accreditation Forum). The accreditation must be issued in accordance with ISO Guide 65 for Chain of custody certification and ISO/IEC 17021 for sustainable forest management certification. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Chain of Custody certification, the scope of the accreditation must make explicate reference to the PAFC Gabon's technical documents, <i>Chain of Custody of forest and wood products – Requirements and rules for use of the PEFC logo</i>; - For forest certification, the scope of the accreditation must make explicit reference to PAFC Gabon's Forest Certification Scheme. - sign a notification contract with PAFC Gabon (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2)."

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>Requirement 5.1.b) See 5.1.a) above.</p> <p>Requirement 5.1.c) PAFC Gabon Notification procedures Chapter 6 "PAFC Gabon notification is valid for the period of the validity of the certifying body's accreditation. PAFC Gabon notification may be terminated or suspended by PAFC Gabon if the notification contract is violated."</p> <p>Requirement 5.1.d) See 5.1.a) above. PAFC Gabon Notification procedures Appendix 1 and 2 Examples for the notification contracts are shown for FM and COC certification.</p> <p>Requirement 5.1.e) PAFC Gabon Notification procedures Chapter 5 "The PAFC Gabon Notified Certifying Body must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform PAFC Gabon of any changes to its accreditation, the scope of which covers Chain of Custody and sustainable forest management certification; • provide PAFC Gabon without delay with information on every PAFC Gabon Chain of Custody and sustainable forest management certificate that it issues in Gabon and/or information on any changes to certificates already issued. The range of data shall be specified by PAFC Gabon;" <p>Requirement 5.1.f) PAFC Gabon Notification procedures No discriminatory procedures can be found in the document.</p> <p>Requirement 5.2 PAFC Gabon Notification procedures Appendix 4 A table showing the notification fees to be paid related to the annual turnover of the certificate holders are transparently documented and made known to the PEFC with the submission of the documents for the re-endorsement process.</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
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>The procedures for the logo usage licenses are documented in the PAFC Gabon PEFC logo license issuance 2013 Scheme. According to the SSRCL Gabon the PAFC Gabon used the PEFC GD 1005:2012 "Issuance of PEFC Logo use licenses by the PEFC Council" as guidance for the elaboration of the PAFC Gabon PEFC logo license issuance 2013 Scheme. However, the PAFC Gabon clearly is the licensing body in Gabon whose responsibilities concerning the logo usage licenses are described in the PAFC Gabon PEFC logo license issuance 2013 Scheme.</p> <p>Requirement 6.1.1</p> <p>PAFC Gabon PEFC logo license issuance Chapter 1</p> <p>"This document defines the rules for issue of a PEFC logo usage licence by PAFC in order to ensure legal use of the logo in accordance with the Logo Usage Rules – Requirements, PEFC ST 2001: 2008. This document is based on procedures PEFC ST 2001:2008 and PEFC GD 1004:2009."</p> <p>Requirement 6.1.2)</p> <p>PAFC Gabon PEFC logo license issuance Chapter 4.1 and 4.2</p> <p>"General conditions</p> <p>The entity requesting a licence must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Be a legal entity, b) Agree to allow PAFC Gabon to collect and make public the client organisation's identification details, together with any other information specified by PAFC Gabon. <p>Special conditions</p> <p>Group C users: group certification (multi-sites) must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Hold a valid, recognised PAFC Gabon Chain of Custody certificate d) Have signed the PEFC logo usage contract with PAFC Gabon (Appendix 1)" <p>In combination with the general requirements for a valid multi-site certificate concerning individual legal entities or centralized management systems in the PAFC Gabon CoC Standard 2013 Scheme Appendix 2 it can be implied that the requirement is met.</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.1.a)</p> <p>PAFC Gabon PEFC logo license issuance Chapter 5</p> <p>The procedure for the logo usage license shows the obligation to sign a contract between PAFC Gabon and the applicant for logo usage.</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>PAFC Gabon PEFC logo license issuance Appendix 1 An example of the logo usage contract is attached.</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.1.b) PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 "The CB is responsible for checking correct use of the PEFC trademark by certified entities." PAFC Gabon Notification procedures Chapter 5 "The PAFC Gabon Notified Certifying Body must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide Chain of Custody certification within the scope of the valid accreditation, referring to the PAFC Gabon's "Technical Documents"(Chain of Custody of forest and wood products – Requirements and Rules for use of the PEFC logo);" <p>The combination of the points above implies that the CBs will ensure the correct use of the logo during the annual audits.</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.1.c) PAFC Gabon Notification procedures Chapter 4.2 "Group B users: Concession holders / managers must</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Hold a valid, recognised PAFC Gabon forest management certificate b) Have signed the PEFC logo usage contract with PAFC Gabon (Appendix 1) <p>Group C users: group certification (multi-sites) must</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Hold a valid, recognised PAFC Gabon Chain of Custody certificate b) Have signed the PEFC logo usage contract with PAFC Gabon (Appendix 1) <p>Group D users: other users, must</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Outline objectives for use of the logo, which must not conflict with the objectives and reputation of the PEFC Council and PAFC Gabon <p>Have signed the PEFC logo usage contract with PAFC Gabon (Appendix 1)"</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>Requirement 6.2.1.d) PAFC Gabon PEFC logo license issuance Chapter 7 "The PEFC Logo usage licence can be terminated by the licensing body in the case of the PEFC Logo user's non adherence to the conditions of the PEFC logo usage rules (PEFC ST 2001:2008) or in the case of cancellation of the contract between the PEFC Council and the authorised body."</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.1.e) PAFC Gabon PEFC logo license issuance Chapter 9 "Where unauthorised use has taken place, the PEFC Logo usage licence provides for contractual penalty of one fifth of the market value of the products to which the unauthorised logo use relates, unless the PEFC Logo user proves that such unauthorised use was unintentional. In the latter case, the penalty will be limited to 15,000 CHF."</p> <p>Requirement 6.2.2) PAFC Gabon CoC CB requirements Scheme Chapter 1 The CBs are responsible for the assessment of the logo use by certificate holders (see requirement 6.2.1.b) above.</p> <p>PAFC Gabon PEFC logo license issuance Chapter 9 "PAFC Gabon shall set up a mechanism to monitor and control the enforcement and the compliance with the PEFC Logo usage rules (PEFC ST 2001:2008). PAFC Gabon shall take actions, including legal if necessary, to protect the PEFC Logo trademark."</p>
Complaints and dispute procedures				
3.	Are complaint and dispute procedures in place, which comply with chapter 6 of PEFC GD 1004:2009, <i>Administration of PEFC scheme?</i>		YES	<p>Requirement 8.1) PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Chapter 2 The PAFC Gabon developed written procedures to deal with complaints and disputes related to the administration of the PAFC Gabon Scheme. "PAFC Gabon shall designate an independent committee to deal with complaints and appeals arising</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>from implementation or certification procedures that cannot be addressed by the relevant accredited certifying bodies. This committee is composed of a member of the administration, a member of PAFC Gabon Board of Directors, a representative of the certified companies, either appointed by them or elected by vote, and an independent external expert. The body responsible for resolving requests for arbitration from the Forum is the PAFC Gabon Board of Directors."</p> <p>"If the complaints, disputes or conflicts cannot be resolved by the parties involved, or by the certification or accreditation bodies, they are governed by the PAFC Gabon dispute settlement body, insofar as this does not contravene the competence of the certification or accreditation bodies concerned."</p> <p>Requirement 8.2.a) PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Scheme Chapter 3 "The PAFC Gabon Secretariat shall confirm that the request has been duly received."</p> <p>Requirement 8.2.b) PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Scheme Chapter 3 "Any request to launch a dispute settlement procedure must be sent to the PAFC Gabon secretariat. It must be accompanied by documentation providing background to the specific case, declarations by all interested parties and, if necessary, the result of the internal inquiry carried out by the certification body." "If within three months of the request being received, no regular PAFC Gabon meeting takes place, appointment of the dispute settlement body and its members must be arranged by written correspondence. During this period, the dispute settlement body shall meet for the first time. In more complex cases, an independent expert must be called in. This decision must be taken within three months of the dispute settlement body's first meeting. Decisions are made by a simple majority vote." The procedures mentioned above imply that the necessary information is collected, an impartial evaluation is made and a decision is made in an impartial way.</p> <p>Requirement 8.2.c) PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Scheme Chapter 3 "The PAFC Gabon secretariat is responsible for providing minutes of the dispute settlement body's meetings and informing the parties concerned of the outcome of the dispute settlement process."</p> <p>Requirement 8.2.d) PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Scheme Chapter 4 "This procedure specifies the creation and operating principles of a dispute settlement body to deal with complaints arising from the implementation of the standard or certification procedures that cannot be addressed by the dispute settlement procedures of the relevant accredited certification body as well as</p>

No.	Question	Reference to PEFC GD 1004:2009	YES / NO*	Reference to application documents
				<p>the complaints concerning the activities and decisions of PAFC Gabon."</p> <p>PAFC Gabon_conflict resolutin Scheme Chapter 4</p> <p>"Certifying bodies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shall keep a records of all appeals, complaints and disputes connected to certification; 2. Shall take appropriate preventive and corrective measures where relevant; 3. Shall document actions undertaken by client organisations."

Annex 2: Results of stakeholder survey

1. Stakeholder survey response

A stakeholder survey was conducted from Tuesday 26.11.2013 to Tuesday 10.12.2013. 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 18 stakeholders (see Appendix 5). The survey was completed by six stakeholders (33%). The questionnaire was sent translated in both French and English.

In addition an email was sent to 33 stakeholders who were listed as a part of the stakeholder mapping exercise and their email addresses were available. The purpose of this email was to assess whether the mapped stakeholders had been given a meaningful opportunity to engage in the standard setting process and participate in the Forum. No responses were received.

The first question of the questionnaire asked for a self categorization of the stakeholder into the groups specified in the table below. The respondents to the stakeholder survey fell into the following categories (the two 'other' categories fit in the Bureau du Forum and Administration stakeholder category):

Table 5: Stakeholder categories responding to stakeholder survey

1. Quelle catégorie de parties prenantes représentez-vous? (What stakeholder category do you represent?)	Response Count	Response Percent
Bureau du Forum	0	0.0%
Administration	1	16.7%
Economique	1	16.7%
Social	2	33.3%
Environnement		0.0%
Autre (veuillez spécifier)/ Other (please specify)	2	33.3%

2. Survey results

The following table shows the content of the questions 2 - 12 from the questionnaire sent to the stakeholders, including the response count and percentage calculation concerning the individual questions.

Table 6: Results of stakeholder survey - counts and percentages

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
2. Les parties prenantes participantes représentaient-elles la diversité des intérêts de la gestion forestière de votre pays ? Sinon, quels autres groupes d'intérêt auraient dû participer?		
(Did the participating stakeholders represent the range of interests in forest		

management in your country? If not, which other interests groups should have participated?)		
Oui (Yes)	100.0%	6
Non (No)	0.0%	0
En partie (Partially)	0.0%	0
Veuillez fournir des commentaires et des renseignements complémentaires (Please provide comments and additional information)		3
3. Avez-vous été satisfait par la façon d'identifier et de contacter les parties prenantes désavantagées ? Une « partie prenante désavantagée » pouvant l'être du point de vue financier ou d'un autre point de vue au niveau du travail d'élaboration des standards. (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.)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Oui (Yes)	83.3%	5
Non (No)	16.7%	1
En partie (Partially)	0.0%	0
Veuillez fournir des commentaires et des renseignements complémentaires (Please provide comments and additional information)		3
4. Les documents concernant la révision du standard, y compris les documents de travail, les minutes de réunions etc., ont-ils été mis à votre disposition durant les activités du Forum? (Were the standard revision documents, including working drafts, meeting minutes etc. made available to you during the work of the Forum?)		
Oui (Yes)	100.0%	6
Non (No)	0.0%	0
En partie (Partially)	0.0%	0
Veuillez fournir des commentaires et des renseignements complémentaires (Please provide comments and additional information)		3
5. Vous a-t-on donné l'opportunité de contribuer de façon significative à la révision du standard et d'émettre des commentaires à propos des versions non définitives? (Were you provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts?)		
Oui (Yes)	100.0%	5
Non (No)	0.0%	0
En partie (Partially)	0.0%	0
Veuillez fournir des commentaires et des renseignements complémentaires (Please provide comments and additional information)		4
6. Les commentaires et points de vue, que vous avez émis, ont-ils été considérés dans un esprit d'ouverture et de transparence ? Leur résolution et les changements proposés ont-ils été enregistrés? (Have comments and views that		

you submitted been considered in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes recorded?)		
Oui (Yes)	100.0%	6
Non (No)	0.0%	0
En partie (Partially)	0.0%	0
Veillez fournir des commentaires et des renseignements complémentaires (Please provide comments and additional information)		2
7. La version proposée à la consultation a-t-elle été rendue disponible et accessible pour le public? (Was the enquiry draft publicly available and accessible?)		
Oui (Yes)	100.0%	6
Non (No)	0.0%	0
En partie (Partially)	0.0%	0
Veillez fournir des commentaires et des renseignements complémentaires (Please provide comments and additional information)		4
8. Avez-vous le sentiment que les commentaires reçus sont considérés par le groupe de travail/comité dans un esprit d'objectivité, d'ouverture et de transparence? (Do you feel that comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective, open, and transparent manner?)		
Oui (Yes)	100.0%	6
Non (No)	0.0%	0
En partie (Partially)	0.0%	0
Veillez fournir des commentaires et des renseignements complémentaires (Please provide comments and additional information)		2
9. Avez-vous été satisfait du processus suivi par la prise de décision lorsque le consensus n'était pas atteint? (Were you satisfied with the decision making process, where a consensus was not reached?)		
Oui (Yes)	100.0%	6
Non (No)	0.0%	0
En partie (Partially)	0.0%	0
Veillez fournir des commentaires et des renseignements complémentaires (Please provide comments and additional information)		2
10. Avez-vous reçu la version finale des documents relatifs au schéma et avez-vous eu l'opportunité de faire des commentaires? (Did you receive a final draft of the scheme documentation and did you have the opportunity to comment?)		
Oui (Yes)	100.0%	6
Non (No)	0.0%	0
En partie (Partially)	0.0%	0
Veillez fournir des commentaires et des renseignements complémentaires (Please provide comments and additional information)		3

11. Le processus recommandant l'approbation finale du standard reposait sur l'envoi d'un courrier électronique aux membres du forum, en leur donnant 10 jours pour faire connaître leur réponse (accord/rejet). Si aucune réponse n'avait été reçue à la date limite du 28 juin 2013, cette absence de réponse était considérée comme une acceptation de la recommandation. Avez-vous trouvé ce processus acceptable? (The process for recommending the final draft standard for formal approval was based upon emailing the forum members and allowing 10 days for responses (agreement/rejection). If no response was received by the deadline 28th June 2013 this was considered as agreement with the recommendation. Did you find this process acceptable?)		
Oui (Yes)	100.0%	6
Non (No)	0.0%	0
En partie (Partially)	0.0%	0
Veuillez fournir des commentaires et des renseignements complémentaires (Please provide comments and additional information)		3

3. Breakdown of comments

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

Table 7: Stakeholder survey - breakdown of comments

2. Les parties prenantes participantes représentaient-elles la diversité des intérêts de la gestion forestière de votre pays ? Sinon, quels autres groupes d'intérêt auraient dû participer? (Did the participating stakeholders represent the range of interests in forest management in your country? If not, which other interests groups should have participated?)	
1	La question relative à la représentativité du groupe des scientifiques ou chercheurs a été longuement débattue et la nécessité des les maintenir comme partie prenante a été rejetée par consensus.
2	Les autres parties prenantes qui auraient pu participer sont la recherche
3	Au Gabon, un accent a été mis pour l'égalité des parties. ces parties étaient: le Gouvernement - les employeurs - les travailleurs - la société civile (populations indigènes et autochones) tous représentées par deux personnes.
3. Avez-vous été satisfait par la façon d'identifier et de contacter les parties prenantes désavantagées ? Une « partie prenante désavantagée » pouvant l'être du point de vue financier ou d'un autre point de vue au niveau du travail d'élaboration des standards. (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.)	
1	Toutes les parties prenantes

2	Du point de vu financier
3	Les commentaines ci-dessus sont alables pur cette questions
4. Les documents concernant la révision du standard, y compris les documents de travail, les minutes de réunions etc., ont-ils été mis à votre disposition durant les activités du Forum? (Were the standard revision documents, including working drafts, meeting minutes etc. made available to you during the work of the Forum?)	
1	Tous les documents du forum ont été distribués en version numérique par internet ou clé usb, et en version papier ou photocopies disponible dans la salle de réunion.
2	A chaque raconte les documents de travail étaient distributes.
3	les documents ont été transmis pour la plus part communiqué par internet aux parties avant les rencontres.
5. Vous a-t-on donné l'opportunité de contribuer de façon significative à la révision du standard et d'émettre des commentaires à propos des versions non définitives? (Were you provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the revision of the standard and submit comments to the working drafts?)	
1	Les discussions étaient libres et chaque décision se prenait par consensus.
2	Je n'étais pas partie prenante
3	La participation des parties prenantes étaient effective et les propositions ,les idées ,les arguments étaient en débat
4	J'ai été élu démocratiquement Président du bureau
6. Les commentaires et points de vue, que vous avez émis, ont-ils été considérés dans un esprit d'ouverture et de transparence ? Leur résolution et les changements proposés ont-ils été enregistrés? (Have comments and views that you submitted been considered in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes recorded?)	
1	Tous les points de vue émis faisaient l'objet d'une explication et la décision finale était toujours prise par consensus.
2	Lors des échanges très démocratiques, toutes les parties ont discuter leurs intérêts, y compris les travailleurs. Nos avis ont été pris en compte.
7. La version proposée à la consultation a-t-elle été rendue disponible et accessible pour le public? (Was the enquiry draft publicly available and accessible?)	
1	Je l'ai reçu sur mon mail et consultable
2	En version numérique et photocopie
3	Ont été rendu public par les consultations publiques et envoyer aux différents organismes concerné par gestion durable des forets et du marché du bois légal.
4	Elle a fait l'objet d'une publication publique (communiqué aux parties prenantes par courrier électronique aux employeurs, travailleurs, ONG de toutes sortes qui étaient connus mais n'avaient pas aux discussions par les journaux de manière à susciter des réactions)
8. Avez-vous le sentiment que les commentaires reçus sont considérés par le groupe de travail/comité dans un esprit d'objectivité, d'ouverture et de transparence? (Do you feel that comments received are considered by the	

working group/committee in an objective, open, and transparent manner?)	
1	Des lors que les remarques apportées avaient fait l'objet d'une discussion et celles jugées pertinentes intégrées dans les documents.
2	Tous les commentaires recus ont été débattus lors des réunions du forum
9. Avez-vous été satisfait du processus suivi par la prise de décision lorsque le consensus n'était pas atteint? (Were you satisfied with the decision making process, where a consensus was not reached?)	
1	La parole était donnée à groupe d'intérêt et le consensus se dégageait
2	Très démocratique
10. Avez-vous reçu la version finale des documents relatifs au schéma et avez-vous eu l'opportunité de faire des commentaires? (Did you receive a final draft of the scheme documentation and did you have the opportunity to comment?)	
1	Je suis vice président de PAFC, je reçois tous les documents techniques du forum
2	Oui, nous l'avons reçu par mail et par support papier
3	Notre organisation est détenteur de la version finale. Je vous rappelle que c'est le travailleurs qui présidait les travaux.
11. Le processus recommandant l'approbation finale du standard reposait sur l'envoi d'un courrier électronique aux membres du forum, en leur donnant 10 jours pour faire connaître leur réponse (accord/rejet). Si aucune réponse n'avait été reçue à la date limite du 28 juin 2013, cette absence de réponse était considérée comme une acceptation de la recommandation. Avez-vous trouvé ce processus acceptable? (The process for recommending the final draft standard for formal approval was based upon emailing the forum members and allowing 10 days for responses (agreement/rejection). If no response was received by the deadline 28th June 2013 this was considered as agreement with the recommendation. Did you find this process acceptable?)	
1	Ce processus est acceptable dès lors que si aucune personne n'émet objection sur une question, cela signifie que la personne est d'accord de façon tacite.
2	L'absence de réponse ne signifie pas forcément acceptation.
3	Au Gabon, nul se lève très tôt pour agir même si c'est en sa faveur. les réactions sont prompts si il y a de l'argent derrière. Avec beaucoup d'insistance Madame Rose ONDO et son bureau ont réussi cette lourde mission.
12. Veuillez fournir ici tout autre commentaire sur le processus de révision du standard. (Please provide any further comments on the standard revision process.)	
1	Pas de trop de commentaire à donner au delà de ceux qui avaient déjà durant la révision. Car cela ne tienne, nous avons apprécié l'implication de toutes les parties prenantes de la gestion forestière au Gabon lors de la révision de ces standards. Ainsi, chaque entité se reconnaîtra dans les différentes exigences du standard.
2	Je fais partie des gens qui ont organisé ça. Ca me paraît compliqué d'être juge et partie.

3	Nous pensons avoir précédé à la révision du standard en respectant au mieux les règles établies.
4	Ce processus de révision du standard a été très bien mené. Nous sommes impatient de le voir accepté dans les meilleurs délais. La certification est une nécessité pour tous les acteurs et principalement l'Administration Gabonaise
5	La révision du schéma de certification PAEFC Gabon a suivi de façon minutieuse la norme avec toutes les parties prenantes concernées par la révision et avait été accompagné par un bureau d'expertise TERREA
6	Sur le processus de révision de standard PAFC-GABON /PEFC je n'ai pas de commentaires. Je propose qu'il y ait un plus de publicité sur le PEFC qui est peu connu de nos entreprises. Le FSC gagne du terrain.

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 8: List of stakeholders respondents to the stakeholder survey

Organisation/Position	Name	E-mail
SEEF	Marius KOMBILA	kombila_marius@yahoo.fr
TEREA (Facilitateur)	Sophie DIROU	s.dirou@terea.org
Secrétaire/Rapporteur	Hermance MOURE OKOGHE ep NANG BEH	hermerode2012@yahoo.fr
ASDD	Godefroy MBOUMBA	godefroymboumba@yahoo.fr
EN.SY.TG	Leon MEBIAME EVOUNG	ententesyndicale@yahoo.fr

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 25.03.2013 to 25.05.2013.

The assessment team was informed by PEFCC, that no stakeholder comment was received.

Annex 4: Panel of Experts comments

Report chapter / page	Consultant's report statement	PoE member comment	Consultant's response
pp. 1-27	The report	The assessment report is excellent. It is well structured, clear and easy to read, and gives a comprehensive picture of the assessment process as well as the Gabonese scheme.	Comment appreciated.
Table of contents P. ii	"General conditions 108 Special conditions 108	Quotation mark not needed These chapters do not exist on page 108	Corrected, was a formatting error.
Acronyms and ... p. iv	SSRC	For Standard and System Requirement Checklist also the Acronym SSRCL is used (p. 108)	Corrected.
1.2 / p. 2	Point 3: ... and Ian Denty of Efeca from 26.11.2013 to 10.12.2013.	Who / what is Efeca? See also p. 3 and p. 8 (it is not explained in the document).	Efeca is a UK based consulting company which is part of the assessment team. The assessment team consists of Joern Ackermann and Andreas Knoell as lead assessors for the document review and Efeca for the stakeholder survey and quality assurance. see http://www.efeca.com/
1.5. table 1, p. 5-6	some abbreviations in table 1	There are many abbreviations used which are not listed on page iv (Acronyms and Abbreviations), like EN, AB, CB, SSP, TERE, GA	List of acronyms completed.
2. p. 9	The PAFC Gabon Secretariat received the Final Draft Report V1 including 11 Minor NCs on 10.02.2014. The PAFC Gabon BoD decided to correct the relevant scheme documentation in	The Final Draft Report V2 refers several times to the Final Draft Report V1 with 11 Minor NCs, These 11 Minor NCs have been "corrected" by PAFC Gabon in two months. Were all these NCs procedure-based or process- based and how	Chapter 2 in report adapted and explanation added. The Final Draft Report V2 including the 11 Minor NCs is available at PEFCC.

	regard to the 11 Minor NCs and submitted adapted scheme documents on 28.04.2014. These documents were assessed by the assessment team and all Minor NCs could be closed. Thus, the final PAFC Gabonese Forest Certification Scheme complies with the PEFCs requirements in all points.	is it possible to solve these NCs so quickly? Some more information on the character of the Minor NCs could be added! This issue rises easily many questions!	
3.9 / p. 12	... minutes of meetings and other documents/records were provided in French ...	Is the French documentation satisfactory to evaluate all relevant criteria, e. g. consensus of decisions?	In case of minutes and other records which are supportive documentation to the SSP of the PAFC Gabon, a translation was not seen necessary since the minutes and records can be assessed in French as well. They do not belong to the central standard documentation which has to be submitted in English language.
3.10 p. 13	The purpose of this email was to assess whether the mapped stakeholders had been given a meaningful opportunity to engage in the standard setting process and participate in the Forum. There were no responses to this email.	Could the consultant draw some conclusions of the situation of no responses?	No. There are no indications why no responses were received.
5. table 3 p. 17	Content of the table	Very informative table! It gives clear view of the standard setting process.	Comment appreciated.
5 / p. 18	Representatives of various organizations representing following main groups of interest were present during the launch workshop: Administration - five organizations Social - five organizations	I cannot follow these figures as they differ – how many representatives were part of the launch workshop and the Forum?	Corrected. There was a misprinting on page 18 concerning the member organizations of the launch workshop to approve the stakeholder mapping. The figures concerning the applications and final Forum members are correct, since

	<p>Environmental - nine organizations Economic - three organizations</p> <p>This (Forum) was carried out between 02.11.2012 - 02.12.2012 and resulted in the following makeup: Administration college: three applications registered. Economic stakeholders' college: four applications registered. Social college: six applications registered. Environmental college: four applications registered. Teaching and research college: no applications registered.</p> <p><u>Part I, 2. / p. 35 (4.4a) and p. 36 (4.4b):</u> Representatives of the following major interest groups were present at the launch workshop to approve the stakeholder selection prepared by the consultant TEREА: Administration > 4; Economic > 1; Environment > 3 and Social > 5.</p> <p>The Forum finally represented the following major interest sectors in the shown quantity: Administration: 3 organizations Economic: 4 organizations Social: 4</p>		<p>they do not have to match due to the fact that not all identified stakeholders (60) were present at the launch workshop and few applications were refused to guarantee a balanced representation of interests in the Forum.</p>
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	organizations? Environ ment: 4 organizations		
5. p. 20	After the reception of the Final Draft Report V1 from the assessment team including several NCs, PAFC Gabon decided to put in additional efforts to revise the scheme documentation again with support of TERE A and held a Forum meeting on 20.03.2014 to adopt the revised scheme documentation. The revised documentation was adopted by consensus. The General Assembly of PAFC Gabon held a meeting on 26.03.2014 and adopted the revised scheme documentation by consensus.	Same comment as my last one on page 1.: 11 Minor NCs were corrected in one day Forum meeting with the help of the consultant (TEREA). It could help to understand the process, if in this Final Draft Report V2 were some of those Minor NCs shortly described. Otherwise it easily gives the feeling that certification is only "paper work".	Chapter 2 in report adapted and explanation added. The Final Draft Report V2 including the 11 Minor NCs is available at PEFCC. Since PAFC Gabon took measures to close these NCs the assessors are of the view that they should not be displayed in the final report. Furthermore, there seems to be a misunderstanding: PAFC Gabon and TERE A prepared the documentation for the approval by the Forum. The Forum meeting was held on one day, but the preparation process lasted for approx. 2.5 months (see chapter 1.2 in this report). So, the 11 NCs were not corrected in one day, but the corrections were approved in one day.
p. 20	(see Major NC-05)	Which Major NC? In the document only observations are given, but no non-conformities.	Misspinting - corrected.
9/24	... auditors as defined in ISO 19011. ... and with the requirements of ISO 19011.	Relevant parts of ISO 19011 have been included in ISO/IEC 17021:2011 but it is necessary to have the reference to ISO 19011 for ISO Guide 65 (now ISO/IEC 17065).	Considered.
Part I, 2, 4.2 / p. 34	... (see SSRCL Gabon).	Which reference document is meant with "SSRCL Gabon"? It is not referred to in the list of abbreviations and no explanation could be found in the document (this abbreviation is used several times in the document).	SSRCL stands for Standard and System Requirement Checklist. The abbreviation is listed on page viii. Each applicant scheme has to submit a SSRCL with its own assessment results together with the scheme documentation.
Part I, 2, / p. 42 and 46	<u>5.3c (Process):</u> The Development Report does not give any reference about the	Were these disadvantaged stakeholders (or their representatives from organizations in Libreville) invited and informed	The mapped stakeholders by TERE A include several orrganizations representing indigeniuos people in Gabon. The organization AGAFI

	<p>way of approaching disadvantaged stakeholders in the public consultation process. The SSRCL Gabon 5.6c) claims, that all disadvantaged stakeholders have access to internet, newspaper or radio.</p> <p>During the two weeks comment period, PAFC Gabon explained that there are associations which represent the indigenous people in Libreville and the "representatives of disadvantaged stakeholders in this case the indigenous peoples were mandated to relay the information to their members."</p> <p><u>5.6.b (Process):</u> The Development Report does not give any reference about the way of approaching disadvantaged stakeholders in the public consultation process. The SSRCL Gabon 5.6c) claims, that all disadvantaged stakeholders have access to internet, newspaper or radio.</p> <p>During the two weeks comment period, PAFC Gabon explained that there are associations which represent the indigenous people in Libreville and the "representatives of disadvantaged stakeholders in this</p>	<p>accordingly?</p>	<p>(Indigenous population protection) was represented in the Forum. All organizations were contacted during the stakeholder survey and no response indicated any dissatisfaction with the way of inviting disadvantaged stakeholders (Question 3 in questionnaire). Thus, there is no indication that the described way of approaching disadvantaged stakeholders by PAFC Gabon was inappropriate.</p>
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	case the indigenous peoples were mandated to relay the information to their members."		
Part I, 2, 5.10 / p. 52	Observation: The webpage www.pafc-gabon.org which is referred to in the SSRCL Gabon 5.10 is not operational. See also 5.12.	It is operational now.	A test on 24.05.2014 showed that there is still only a link to the PEFC Webpage http://consultations.pefc.org/consult.ti/PAFCGabon/
Annex I Part III 4.1. d) pp. 59-60	Observation: The PAFC Gabon document "Sustainable forest management – PAFC Gabon standards requirements" does not contain the wording "record-keeping". The description under 3.2.3 above does not specify that records must be kept. It is recognised that the execution of some of the activities required in the PAFC Gabon FM standard may lead to record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements.	This requirement for record-keeping could be easily added on the PAFC Gabon documentation, without greater problems. Has the consultant outlined this in the Draft Final Report V1 to PAFC Gabon?	As described in the assessment result directly above the observation there are several requirements for documentations and records. The assessors found that to be sufficient as the purpose of "record-keeping" can also be described in terms of documentation and records. Classical case whereby no identical wording compared to PEFC requirements is needed to achieve the same results in practical implementation.
Annex I Part III 5.1.2 p. 61	Observation: Indicator 2.4.1.3 is missing in the PAFC Gabon standard.	PAFC Gabon did not react on this observation between the Final Draft Report V1 and V2? This means that appr. 2 % of the indicators of SFM are missing? - or is it only a misprint of numbering?	Misprint of numbering.
Annex I Part III 5.1.6 p. 64	" 2.1.5.1 The management plan requirements are made available to all the stakeholders notably by means of a public summary, while respecting the confidential nature of	The requirement states: "A summary of the forest management plan ... is publicly available". – Is the 2.1.5.1 wording adequate to confirm the requirement? Where and how the plans are made available to all stakeholders?	Yes, it is the view of the assessors that the requirement is met. The assessors did not conduct implementation checks. Which in this case would have been even impossible, since there is no PEFC-certified in Gabon to date.

	some information.”		
Annex I Part III 5.1.11 pp. 66- 67	“3.2.2.3 Any reclassification of a part of the FMU is documented.”	How “documentation” can fulfill the requirement 5.1.11 ? There is very few evidence set out by the consultant that the requirement 5.1.11 really is fulfilled!	The PoE comment refers to the standard indicator. The assessors requested further clarification on this matter which was delivered by PAFC Gabon and incorporated in the report under “Additional information provided by the scheme” below the cited indicator. In there it says: “SI 3.2.2.1 Allows the conversion of forest land to another type of land only in the case of “farmland”, it is more restrictive than the metastandard PEFC. Any type of land conversion to another interest is prohibited including conservation in the long term.”
Part III, 2, 5.2.1 / p. 68	Observation: Rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems or forestation activities in general (not enrichment planting) do not occur in the standard of PAFC Gabon.	Is there any explanation given why these criteria do not occur?	The requirement is part of indicator 2.5.2.1, the rest of which is met by PAFC documentation. An related explanation is given in 5.1.12 directly above, where is reads “...More generally, savannas re colonize only, no reforestation is performed”.
Annex I Part III 5.2.2. p. 69, and 5.2.3 p. 70	“The Forum felt that certain forms of damage to forest health such as pests, diseases, over-grazing and intensive stockbreeding, climatic factors and air pollutants are not relevant at the present time in the Gabonese context.	I do not have expertise of tropical forests or Gabonese forests, but this statement by the Forum is odd - is this really true! It is easy to avoid fulfilling requirements of SFM by saying “it is not relevant for us”! My understanding is that all requirements should be taken in consideration although they were “not relevant” !	Please have a look at the section “Additional supportive indicators” in the same text box below the cited statement.
Annex III p. 121	The assessment team was informed by PEFC, that no stakeholder comment was received.	A short comment by the consultant clarifying why no comments were received – or is it a general situation for all international consultations?	The assessors have no information why no comments were received during the international stakeholder consultation carried out by PEFC.

		– This issue is important because the Gabonese scheme is the only one in Africa	Generally this depends on the level of interest by stakeholders. If they do not contribute there is nothing PEFC and the assessors can receive.
IV, 2, 7 / p. 93		Text on the bottom is not readable.	Corrected. Formating mistake.
Part IV/ No 8/94	<u>FM</u> “Auditors must fulfil the requirements of ISO 19011 ...”	Relevant parts of ISO 19011 have been included in ISO/IEC 17021:2011.	That is correct, but the current PEFC SSRCL requires the compliance with ISO 19011 and the PAFC System is referencing the ISO 19011 in this respect, which is not seen as a non-compliance.
Part IV/ No 13/95	<u>FM</u> “Certification bodies must establish audit procedures compatible with the requirements specified in ISO 19011.”	Relevant parts of ISO 19011 have been included in ISO/IEC 17021:2011.	That is correct, but the current PEFC SSRCL requires the compliance with ISO 19011 and the PAFC System is referencing the ISO 19011 in this respect, which is not seen as a non-compliance.
Annex V p. 123	Content of the second column	Abbreviations do not say anything to the reader: is it possible to increase the information in a way or another? Same problem on page 120, table 8, first column	Full names were added.

Annex 5: Any other relevant information

Table 9: List of participating organizations and their representatives in the Forum

Forum college	Organisation/position	Name
Bureau du Forum	President	Kenny Francel BEBANGA
Bureau du Forum	Secrétaire/Rapporteur	Hermance MOURE OKOGHE ep NANG BEH
Bureau du Forum	Facilitateur	Sophie DIROU
Administration	PAPFG	NSOME NGUEMA Mathias
Administration	Ministère des Eaux et Forêts, Direction Générale des Forêts (Directorate General of Forests)	BIMBISSA MINANGA Beatrice
Administration	Ministère des Eaux et Forêts (Direction CICBVPF)	NGOMBE MIKIELA Ginette
Economique	BSO (Ogooué Timber Sawmill)	DUBOIS Samuel
Economique	SEEF (Plywood company)	KOMBILA Marius
Economique	NFO (Nyanga Forestry Operations)	BLONDEL Pierre
Economique	BORDAMUR (Timber harvesting)	TANGBAON Romeo
Social	Global Hum International (G.H.I)	KALALA MABICKA Alphonse Parfait
Social	AGAFI (Indigenous Population Protection)	MINKOUE MI ELLA Jeanne Marthe
Social	EN.SY.TG (Entente syndicale des travailleurs du Gabon)	MEBIAME EVOUNG Leon
Social	ASDD (Solidarity Action for Democracy and Development)	MBOUMBA Godefroy
Environnement	Croissance Saine Environnement	NNO EDOU Jacques Darel
Environnement	ANCE (Friends of Nature-Culture and the Environment)	MOUSSOUNDA Placide
Environnement	FOGAPED (Gabonese foundation for environmental protection and development)	KOUMBA KOUMA Guy
Environnement	GEO CONSEILS (Geotechnical consulting company)	BEBANGA Kenny Francel