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Description of PEFC Macedonian Forest Certification Scheme

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Introduction to Macedonian Forest Certification Scheme

This document describes Macedonian Forest Certification Scheme for certification of sustainable forest management and it is also used for certification of chain of custody of Forest Based Products.

In Macedonia forest management is based on the principles of the Strategy for Sustainable Forest Management in Republic of Macedonia (2006) and Law on Forests (2009) and its amendments as well on other regulations related to forest management as Law on Hunting, Law on Pasture Management, Law on Nature Protection, Law on Cadastre, Law on Water etc. The guiding principles in the Strategy and Law on Forest are adhering to sustainable forest management criteria and indicators formally adopted by Forest Europe.

The principle of PEFC to allow incorporation of country specifics in the national forest certification scheme, respecting international principles for SFM of PEFC was accepted by the broad range of stakeholders in Macedonia interested to support creation of national scheme.

The Macedonian Forest Certification Scheme is based on the requirements of the PEFC. It also complies with the Macedonian legislation governing forest management and nature protection, the national forest management strategy, the situation in the forestry and its past development, the ownership structure, the forest management planning system, the methodology of forestry data collection and processing and with other documents applicable in Macedonia.

The requests for the implementation of the Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products are based on the International Chain of Custody Standard (PEFC ST 2002:2013). The Macedonian Forest Certification Scheme incorporates this including all the amendments. The requirements for auditing on Chain of Custody are based on Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard (PEFC ST 2003:2012). The requirements for logo usage rules are based on the International PEFC Logo Usage Rules – Requirements (PEFC ST 2001:2008).

The Sustainable Forest Management Standard was set by an independent procedure.

Contents

In addition to Description of the Macedonian Forest Certification System which forms part of the system, the Macedonian Forest Certification System also includes the following documents:

- Statute of the Council for Sustainable Forest Management in Republic of Macedonia
- **PEFC MK 02:2017**, Standard setting and revision procedures
- **PEFC MK 03:2017**, PEFC National Standard for Sustainable Forest Management in Macedonia
- **PEFC MK 04:2017**, Certification and accreditation procedures
- **PEFC MK 05:2017**, Notification of Certification Bodies for Chain of Custody and Forest Management Certification in Macedonia against the requirements of the Macedonian forest certification scheme
- **PEFC MK 06:2017**, Group Certification Rules and Procedures
- **PEFC MK 07:2017**, PEFC Logo usage procedures
- **PEFC MK 08:2017**, Complaint and appeal settlement procedures
- **PEFC ST 2001:2008**, PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements
- **PEFC ST 2002:2013**, Requirements for Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products

- **PEFC ST 2003:2013**, Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard

Objective of the Macedonian Forest Certification Scheme

The forest certification has an objective to contribute to Macedonian forestry strategy objective: *“to increase the contribution of the forestry sector to the national economy and rural development through sustainable forest management, ensuring renewable resources and protection of local and global environment, and providing products and services for improving the quality of life of all citizens.”*

Process of creation of the Macedonian certification scheme

After several initial meetings and discussions at 2014, representatives from the several national stakeholders conducted a meeting to sign officially Declaration for initiation of the process for establishment of The Council for Sustainable Forest Management in Macedonia according to principles of PEFC.

The meeting was held on 21.01.2015 at Forest Faculty – Skopje. Declaration was signed by the representatives of:

- Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
- Forest Faculty
- National Association of Private Forest Owners
- The Cluster for Wood Industry
- CNVP Macedonia

The State Forest Company representative was not present on the meeting and has not signed a Declaration.

From beginning of the process until its formal establishment on 27.01.2016 at the Central Register of Macedonia, The Council for Sustainable Forest Management in Macedonia (CSFM) was acting informally but at the same time following all aspects of the PEFC Standard setting process requirements.

With decision of 6 organizations a group of experts were nominated to start with the process of drafting the standards for SFM and other necessary documents for the process: Statute, Standard setting and revision process, Stakeholder mapping, Group certification procedures, etc. This group was working from 31.01.2015 till 16.05.2015 on 17 working sessions.

According to the stakeholder mapping document there were 26 institutions and organizations recognized. Starting from 18.05.2016 emails were sent, phone calls realized and at the same time public call announced in “Dnevnik” newspaper (23.05.2016) informing for start-up of the process in Macedonia, inviting interested parties to join in to the process.

At total 25 institutions and organization were invited to join the process, mainly throughout email (2 times) and also by phone calls in addition.

ECONOMY SECTOR		
State Forest Company	Note: part of initiative group	
National Association of Private Forest Owners	Note: part of initiative group	
The Chamber of Commerce – wood industry group	mile@mchamber.mk	
Cluster for Wood Industry	Note: part of initiative group	

Association of Forest Non Wood Products	office@intermak.com.mk sloga88@on.net.mk	
Hunting Federation	lfm_makedonija@hotmail.com	
ENVIRONMENT SECTOR		
National Park "Mavrovo"	junpmtomo@yahoo.com	
National Park "Pelister"	np_pelister@yahoo.com	
National Park "Galichica"	galicica@galicica.org.mk	
Natural Preservation Area "Jasen"	jp.jasen@gmail.com	
NGO Macedonian Ecological Society "MED"	brajanoska@mes.org.mk	
NGO "Front 21/42"	contact@front.org.mk	
NGO "Eko svest"	info@ekosvest.com.mk	
NGO The Ecologist's Movement of Macedonia "DEM"	dem@dem.org.mk	
The Federation of Mountain Sports in Macedonia	contact@fpsm.org.mk	
SOCIAL SECTOR, YOUTH, WOMEN		
Labour Union of Workers from Forestry & Wood Industry	sidemk@t-home.mk sindikatsidmk@hotmail.com	
NGO "Youth Can"	info@youthcan.org.mk	
NGO Young Forestry Students Association "Dren"	dren@sf.ukim.edu.mk	
NGO "National Council for gender Equity"	szmrc@unet.com.mk szm@t-home.mk	
EDUCATION, SCIENCE, INSTITUTIONS		
Forest Faculty - Skopje	sumarski@sf.ukim.edu.mk	
High School of Forestry – Kavadarci	zsuckavadarci@t-home.mk	
Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy – Forestry sector	Note: part of initiative group	
Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy – Rural Development sector	neda.gjokovik@mzsv.gov.mk	
Directorate for Environment (in Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning)	i.trajkovski@moepp.gov.mk igor.trajkovski.007@gmail.com	
Association of Municipalities in Macedonia – ZELS	contact@zels.org.mk	

After this activity there were representatives of 13 interested parties that joined the process:

- Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy – Sector of forestry and hunting
- State Forest Company "Makedonski Sumi"
- Forest Faculty in Skopje
- High School for Forestry in Kavadarci
- National Association of Private Forest Owners
- The Cluster for Wood Industry
- The Chamber of Commerce – Wood Processing Association
- National Park "Pelister"
- National Park "Mavrovo"
- Natural Preservation Area "Jasen"
- Macedonian Ecological Society "MED"
- Labor Union
- Young Forestry Students Association "Dren"

The work group compiled of 13 nominated person has started to work on Criteria & Indicators for SFM from 02.06.2015 and finished their work on 01.03.2016. During this period the group have executed five workshops. After this process was executed, all 13 members of the work group voted

via email about acceptance of the draft C&I for SFM. After positive response from all the members of the work group the Assembly of the CSFM voted (25.04.2016) also positive and started next steps on opening of the process of public consultation. The Assembly of CSFM have also nominated members of Appeal Body, consisting of three experts with obligation to respond on every comment and appeal on the content of C&I and overall process. The format for receiving appeals and comments was published on the web page <http://pefc.mk/> as well an email address and mobile phones for contact <http://pefc.mk/%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%82/> .

The process of public consultation have started on 27.04.2016. The final version of the C&I for SFM was published on the official website <http://pefc.mk/images/Kil.pdf> and on Facebook profile on The CSFM. Informational email about the start of the process was sent to all emails on the stakeholders identified in stakeholders mapping. Information was also widespread via Facebook where more than 100 visitors have seen the information. During the process of public consultation that lasted till 05.07.2016 there were no comments or appeals received.

The pilot testing on C&I was executed on a workshop organized on Forest Faculty in Skopje on 19.07.2016. It was decided to execute this process on a workshop because there was no sense to implement this practice on the field knowing that many aspects of C&I are not in use in Macedonia, either at state or private forest management. For the workshop we have asked assistance from two experts from Bulgaria, Mr. Martin Borisov from the Forest Faculty in Sofia and Mr. Zhivko Bogdanov represent of Control Union (CB) from Netherlands. They are both deeply engaged as FSC FM audits in Bulgaria. We have used their practical experience to check if description of criteria and indicators is applicable from the point of view of FM audit. On the workshop there were present 8 participants from several institutions/organizations. After whole day of work, our colleagues from Bulgaria have prepared recommendations for improvement on the C&I. At the end of the process of pilot testing as result of recommendations, the work group have merged two criteria in one, added some more indicators, improved the descriptions on the most of indicators and worked on some of sources of verification.

On 28.07.2016 improved version of C&I for SFM was brought to the work group. After their positive response and votes, improved version of C&I for SFM was also accepted by the Assembly of CSFM on 02.09.2016.

Methods for certification of sustainable forest management according to the Macedonian Forest Certification Scheme

The guiding principle in forest certification are: non-discrimination, cost efficiency and voluntary participation.

The Macedonian Forest Certification Scheme allows for two certification methods:

1. Individual and
2. Group

In view of the above methods of sustainable forest management certification the following may apply for a certificate:

1. Authorised group representative and
2. Forest owner or authorised manager of forest owner.

Participants in forest certification and/or chain of custody of Forest Based Products certification

Pursuant to the requirements of the Macedonian Forest Certification Scheme the following bodies or individuals participate in the scheme:

- The Council for Sustainable Forest Management in Macedonia;
- Accreditation body;
- Certification body;
- Applicant for certificate.

The Council for Sustainable Forest Management in Macedonia

The Council for SFM is a not-for-profit and non-governmental organization established as a National Governance Body for promotion of sustainable forest management according to the requirements of the PEFC.

The Council for SFM has aim to promote sustainable forest management through:

- Maintenance and development of the Macedonian certification scheme for sustainable forest management in accordance with the PEFC Council;
- Promotion of the PEFC scheme among relevant stakeholders;

The Council for SFM is governed by the Assembly and besides other competences is authorized to:

- elect The Council for SFM President from the Assembly members
- appoint members of the disputes resolution commission
- appoint members of the commission for development and analysis of measures and indicators for sustainable forest management (working group)
- create other temporary commissions and working groups and nominates their members
- vote on the acceptance of the certification scheme according to the PEFC procedures, prior to the submission of the certification scheme for approval by PEFC
- give authentic explanations of the certification scheme contents

Accreditation body, certification body and auditors

The accreditation and certification procedures are described in detail in PEFC MK 04:2016.

Certification and Accreditation Procedures of Certification Bodies, Notification of certification body and/or Certification the Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products.

Certification body is an independent body accredited by the National Accreditation for auditing on the Implementation of PEFC National Standard for Sustainable Forest Management in Macedonia (PEFC MK 03:2017) and/or Requirements for Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products (PEFC ST 2002:2013).

The requirements for auditors of Sustainable Forest Management and/or Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products are given in PEFC MK 04:2016 and PEFC ST 2003:2013.

Applicant for a certificate

In view of the method of certification of sustainable forest management, the applicants may be an authorised group representative or forest owner or an authorised person of forest owner.

The requirements to be met by the applicant for Sustainable Forest Management are given in PEFC MK 03:2016.

Certification of chain of custody of Forest Based Products

The International Chain of Custody Standard (PEFC ST 2002:2013) was prepared by the working group of the PEFC Council. The Macedonian Forest Certification Scheme contains a translation of this standard including all amendments and supplements.