

TJConsulting, Luxembourg

Assessment of the PAFC Cameroon forest certification scheme against the requirements of the PEFC Council

Final report

6 September 2019

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Abbreviations

AB	Accreditation Body
AB	Accreditation body
ATO	African Timber Organisation
CB	Certification body
CoC	Chain of Custody
COMIFAC	Commission of Central African Forests
DDS	Due Diligence System
EA	European cooperation for Accreditation
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FM	Forest management
FMU	Forest Management Unit
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ISO	International Standardisation Organisation
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organisation
PCI	Principles, Criteria and Indicators
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
SFM	Sustainable forest management

1 Background

PAFC Cameroon (here-in-after “the applicant” or “PAFC Cameroon”) submitted its forest certification scheme (here-in-after “the scheme”) (see chapter 6) for the mutual recognition and endorsement by the PEFC Council. Following the PEFC Council’s procedures identified in PEFC GD 1007:2012, the PEFC Council selected TJConsulting to carry out an independent and impartial assessment of the scheme documentation against the PEFC Council requirements.

PAFC Cameroon was established in 2007 and at the same year it became a member of the PEFC Council.

2 Objective

The objective of this assessment is to:

- a) Identify conformities and non-conformities of the submitted scheme’s documentation with the PEFC Council requirements;
- b) Provide the PEFC Council Board of Directors with recommendation on the re-endorsement of the submitted scheme’s documentation.

3 Impartiality claim

As the consultant for this assessment, neither TJConsulting nor Mr Jaroslav Tymrak (Principal of TJConsulting) has a vested interest in the development or the management of the scheme; was not involved by consulting or any other means in the revision of the scheme and has not provided any other consultancy services to the applicant.

TJConsulting was committed to undertake its assessment of the scheme based solely on submitted information and factual evidence in a professional and impartial manner.

4 Recommendation

Following the evaluation of the PAFC Cameroon Forest Certification Scheme against the PEFC Council's requirements, TJConsulting **only recommends to endorse the scheme** for a two (2) years period due to large number of non-conformities (12¹) related to the standard setting process as well as the fact that the critical standard setting activities were already conducted during the period 2014 – 2015.

¹ It should be noted that in a number of cases, individual non-conformities have been grouped according to thematic topics and the total number of minor non-conformities in the report's chapter on detailed assessment is considerable higher.

5 Executive Summary

The assessment of the scheme, including evaluation of the scheme documentation and records; reviewing stakeholders' survey, interviewing key stakeholders and managers of the scheme resulted in the following conclusions that are organised according to the main parts of the PEFC Council requirements.

The assessment has identified seventeenth (12) minor non-conformities.

5.1 Standard setting

Standard setting procedures

The standard setting is governed by Standard setting procedures^[10] that include a process based approach compatible with PEFC ST 1001.

The scheme's Standard setting procedures^[10] largely **comply** with PEFC ST 1001.

Standard setting process

The standard setting process lasted from 2014 to 2017. However, the critical activities were performed during 2014 and 2015. For the purposes of the standard setting, PAFC Cameroon established several bodies (the Specialised Technical Committee and the PAFC Forum), run two national seminars, public consultation and tested a draft standard in a pilot test.

The assessment identified a large number of minor non-conformities² with the PEFC requirements. The critical one is the fact that as the consensus building body, accessible to stakeholders, were considered two (2) ad-hoc meetings, one organised in the beginning of the process and the second at the end of the process.

Following this evaluation, PEFC Cameroon revised its documentation twice, in December 2018 and in June 2019.

- (1) Publication of the standard setting procedures, PEFC ST 1001, 4.2
- (2) Records keeping, PEFC ST 1001, 4.3
- (3) Forming a working group/committee, accessibility to stakeholders, balanced representation, PEFC ST 1001, 4.4, 4.4a, 4.4b
- (4) Identification of key and disadvantaged stakeholders, PEFC ST 1001, 5.2
- (5) Announcement of the start of the standard setting process and invitation to nominate representatives to the working group/committee, PEFC ST 1001, 5.3 a, b, c, d, e
- (6) Appointment of members of the working group/committee, PEFC ST 1001, 5.4

² It should be noted that in a number of cases, individual non-conformities have been grouped according to thematic topics and the total number of minor non-conformities in the report's chapter on detailed assessment is considerable higher.

- (7) Transparent and open work of the working group / committee, PEFC ST 1001, 5.5 a, b
- (8) Consideration of comments from public consultation, PEFC ST 1001, 5.6 c
- (9) Consideration of results of the pilot test, PEFC ST 1001, 5.7
- (10) Lack of evidence of consensus, PEFC ST 1001, 5.8, 5.9
- (11) Information on the standard setting being publicly available, PEFC ST 1001, 5.10
- (12) Publication of the formally approved standard(s), PEFC ST 1001, 5.12

Details about the assessment and the scheme compliance can be found in chapter 8.3 of this report.

5.2 Group forest management certification

The scheme does not have requirements for group forest certification. This fact should be reflected in the PEFC endorsement decision, i.e. the endorsement only applies to individual forest management certification.

5.3 Sustainable forest management standard

Requirements for forest management are defined in the Cameroonian Standard for Forest Management (Natural Production Forests in the Permanent Forest Domain). This document is limited to natural forests in the permanent forest estate and cannot be used for the management of community forests and forest plantations. This rather narrowly defined scope of the document is important for the scope of PEFC endorsement.

The Standard is logically structured and the standard's concept is used consistently throughout the document. The document includes sufficiently detailed management system as well as performance-based requirements that allow the Standard to be used for conformity assessment activities.

The Standard **complies** with the PEFC requirements.

Details about the assessment and the scheme compliance can be found in chapter 8.4 of this report.

5.4 Chain of custody requirements

The applicant has formally adopted the PEFC International chain of custody standard (PEFC ST 2002) as a part of the scheme and as such **complies** with the PEFC requirements.

Details about the assessment and the scheme compliance can be found in chapter 8.5 of this report.

5.5 Requirements for chain of custody certification bodies

PAFC Cameroon adopted the PEFC international requirements for chain of custody certification bodies (PEFC ST 2003) as the sole requirements for CoC certification bodies and as such **complies** with the PEFC requirements.

Details about the assessment and the scheme compliance can be found in chapter 8.6.1 of this report.

5.6 Requirements for forest management certification bodies

The requirements for certification bodies for forest management certification are covered by a document called “Requirements for Sustainable Forest Management Certifying and Accrediting Bodies^[4]” (Requirements for FM CBs and ABs).

The requirements for notification of certification bodies are covered by a document called “PAFC Cameroon notification procedures^[7]”.

The scheme’s requirements for certification bodies, their accreditation and notification **comply** with Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document.

Details about the assessment and the scheme compliance can be found in chapter 8.6.2 of this report.

5.7 Requirements for administration of the PEFC scheme

Following the tender dossier 9 May 2017, the scope of the assessment did not include PEFC requirements for (i) PEFC logo licensing; (ii) notification of certification bodies; and (iii) complaints procedures.

6 Referenced documentation

The following documents have been used for the assessment and are referenced in this report:

PEFC Council requirements:

PEFC ST 1001:2010: Standard setting-Requirements

PEFC ST 1002:2010: Group forest management certification – Requirements

PEFC ST 1003:2010: Sustainable forest management – Requirements

PEFC ST 2001:2008 (second edition): PEFC Logo Usage Rules - Requirements

PEFC ST 2002:2013: Chain of custody of forest based products – Requirements

PEFC ST 2003:2012 (second edition): Requirements for certification bodies operating chain of custody certification against the PEFC Council international chain of custody standard

Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document: Certification and Accreditation Procedures

PEFC GD 1004:2009: Administration of PEFC scheme

PEFC GD 1007:2012: Endorsement and Mutual Recognition of National Systems and their Revision

PEFC IGD 1007-03:2012 The Assessment Report

PEFC GD 2001:2014, second edition: Chain of Custody of Forest-Based Products - Guidance for Use

Tender dossier Call for proposals for the assessment of the PAFC Cameroon certification scheme against PEFC Council Requirements (9 May 2017)

Clarification: Assessment report (31 October 2012)

PEFC Council: Specific Assessment Issues 13/1/2016; accessed on 11 August 2017 at the PEFC Council Podio website.

The scheme's documentation³

The assessment of the scheme will be based on the following documentation provided by the PEFC Council on 9 May 2017 as a part of the tender dossier, in January 2019, in July 2019 and in August 2019. The assessment always considered the latest applicable version of the documentation as shown below.

Submitted scheme documentation

- [1] PAFC Cameroon description of the forest certification scheme (8 December 2017)
- [2] PAFC Cameroon standard for SFM certification (27 June 2019)
- [3] PAFC Cameroon CoC standard (8 December 2017)
- [4] PAFC Cameroon FM CB and AB requirement (27 June 2019)
- [5] PAFC Cameroon CoC CB requirement (8 August 2019)
- [6] PAFC Cameroon Complaint procedures (27 June 2019)
- [7] PAFC Cameroon Notification procedures (27 June 2019)
- [8] PAFC Cameroon operationalization manual for the SFM standard (withdrawn from the assessment)
- [9] PAFC Cameroon PEFC Logo License issuance (27 June 2019)
- [10] PAFC Cameroon forest management standard setting and revision procedure (27 June 2019)
- [11] Operationalization manual of the standard for the sustainable management of natural production forests in Cameroon (withdraw from the assessment)

Additional submitted documentation

- [12] PAFC Cameroon written request for assessment
- [13] PAFC Cameroon Checklist (January 2018)
- [14] PAFC Cameroon stakeholder mapping
- [15] Minutes PAFC Cameroon General Assembly (14 April 2017)
- [16] PAFC Cameroon List of the different colleges
- [17] PAFC Cameroon Executive Board
- [18] PAFC Cameroon stakeholder cartography
- [19] PAFC Cameroon Development report (January 2018)
- [20] Annex 1: Forum of stakeholders
- [21] Annex 2: Minutes of the standard presentation and validation workshop
- [22] Annex 3: Pilot test report

³ Numbers as referenced in the report

Additional evidence submitted on 8 August 2017

- [23] PEFC Cameroon's Statutes
- [24] Composition du Groupe de Travail du Forum PAFC (information document on the Forum meeting 27-28/3/2014), French
- [25] Minutes of the Forum meeting 27-28/3/2014, French
- [26] Terms and References of the Stakeholders Forum, information for the meeting of 27-28/3/2014, French
- [27] Feuilles de présence du Forum (participants list of the Forum meeting 27-28/3/2014), French
- [28] Terms and References of the Stakeholders Forum, information for the meeting of 30/6 – 1/7 2015, French
- [29] Stakeholders mapping (October 2012), French
- [30] List of stakeholders (2012)
- [31] Text of invitation to the meeting of 27-28 March 2014, French
- [32] Terms and References of the Stakeholders Forum, information for the meeting of 10-11/7/2015, French
- [33] A copy of an e-mail with invitation to the public consultation
- [34] Minutes of the Forum meeting 10-11/7/2015, French

7 Methodology and timetable

7.1 Scope of the assessment

The assessment was carried out based on PEFC GD 1007:2012, the tender dossier of 9 May 2017 and the TJConsulting's tender proposal of 4 June 2017.

The assessment that resulted in the draft interim report was carried out as a desk-top exercise based on the documentation that was provided by the applicant as a part of its application for the PEFC re-endorsement and during the assessment process (see chapter 6).

7.2 Assessment process

The following table describes the assessment process that is based on and fully conforms to PEFC IGD 1007-03:2012, the tender dossier of 9 May 2017 and the tender proposal of 4 June 2017.

Stage	Description	Output	Time period
Public consultation	The PEFC Council invited stakeholders to comment on the scheme	Stakeholders comments	12 May - 9 July 2017
Start of the assessment	PEFC Council announced the start of the assessment process on 24 July 2017. Following the contractual documentation, TJConsulting provided the PEFC Council and the applicant with specific assessment deadlines.	The PEFC announcement on the commencement of the assessment	24 July 2017
Stage 1 assessment	The stage 1 assessment was based on the documentation referred to in the tender dossier and other documentation submitted before the start of the assessment. In addition, TJConsulting asked for and received from the applicant additional documentation and evidence (See chapter 6). Stage 1 assessment also included distribution of the stakeholders questionnaire and its analysis	Draft interim report	21 August 2017
Comment period	The draft interim report was available to the applicant and the PEFC Council for comments	Responses to the Interim report	21 Aug – 18 Sep 2017
Visit to Cameroon	Stakeholders' interview and clarification of non-conformities	Visit's report and ppt	4 – 7 Sep 2017
Interruption of the	The applicant applied for and the PEFC Council approved interruption of the assessment process	Revised scheme documentation	27 Sep 2017 – 9 Jan 2018

assessment process	to allow the applicant to make changes to the scheme documentation		
Preliminary assessment of the revised documentation	Based on the request of the PEFC Council, the assessor carried out a preliminary assessment of the revised draft documentation	Preliminary assessment report	13-24 Nov 2017
Stage 2 assessment	Evaluation of responses to the draft interim report and changes to the documentation	Draft final report	9 -23 Jan 2018
2nd Interruption of the assessment process	The applicant applied for and the PEFC Council approved interruption of the assessment process to allow the applicant to make changes to the scheme documentation	Revised scheme documentation	January 2018 – July 2019
2nd Preliminary assessment of the revised documentation	Based on the request of the PEFC Council, the assessor carried out a preliminary assessment of the revised draft documentation	Preliminary assessment report	June-July 2018
2nd Stage 1 assessment	After lifting the interruption period, the assessment continued by a new stage 1 assessment based on newly submitted documentation of PAFC Cameroon.	2 nd Draft interim report	25 July 2019 – 2 August 2019
2nd Stage 2 assessment	Evaluation of responses to the draft interim report and changes to the documentation	2 nd Draft final report	16 August 2019 – 23 August 2019
PEFC Council internal review	PEFC Council reviewed the final draft report and provided comments to the report	Comments from the PEFC Council	23 Aug – 30 Aug 2019
Consideration of the PEFC Council comments	Consideration of the PEFC Council's comments and amendments to the report	Final report	30 Aug – 6 Sep 2019

7.3 Classification of non-conformities

The assessment provides for three types of decision relating to the scheme conformity with the PEFC Council's requirements as indicated in chapter 7.2.2.4.1.2 of PEFC GD 1007:

Major non-conformity: A major non-conformity violates the integrity of the certification system and has to be corrected before the endorsement of the system.

Minor non-conformity: A minor non-conformity does not violate the integrity of the certification system, and is not a bar to endorsement. The assessor recommends appropriate corrective action. Generally, a minor non-conformity should be corrected within 6 months. The assessor may recommend a longer period where justified by particular circumstances.

Conformity: A procedure described by the scheme documentation fully meets the particular requirement of the PEFC Council.

In addition to the conformity statements above, the report also includes "observations" that are, however, not causing non-conformities with the PEFC requirements.

8 Assessment

8.1 History of the PAFC Cameroon forest certification scheme

The PAFC-Cameroon was created on June 2007 with the strategic objective of contributing to the promotion of sustainable management of Cameroon's forests through forest certification. PAFC Cameroon has chosen to apply the PEFC meta-standards as the basis for the development its scheme with the objective to achieve PEFC membership and PEFC endorsement.

The scheme development was supported by the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC), an intergovernmental organisation whose purpose is to support sustainable forest management processes in the Congo Basin and to harmonize forest policies of the member countries. The PAFC Cameroon has benefited, among others, from the institutional and governmental support of certain Ministries such as the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development, the Commission of Central African Forests, the Standardization Agency.

In 2014, PAFC Cameroon formally started a standard setting process that was completed by formal approval of the PAFC Cameroon scheme's documentation in April 2017. Shortly after that the scheme was submitted for the PEFC endorsement.

8.2 Assessment of the structure of the scheme

8.2.1 Structure of the scheme's documentation

The PEFC Council does not have any requirements relating to the structure of national forest certification schemes. Therefore, the text below illustrates the overall context and some implementation issues relating to the structure and clarity of the scheme's documentation.

Following the submitted documentation, the scheme consists of the following documents:

PAFC Cameroon description of the forest certification scheme (8 December 2018)	Provides a description of the structure and content of the PAFC Cameroon forest management standard
PAFC Cameroon standard for SFM certification (27 June 2019)	Provides requirements for forest management
PAFC Cameroon FM CB and AB requirement (27 June 2019)	Provides requirements for certification bodies operating FM certification and their accreditation
PAFC Cameroon CoC requirements (27 June 2019)	This is PEFC ST 2002, PEFC international chain of custody standard, formally adopted by PAFC Cameroon
PAFC Cameroon CoC CB requirement (8 August 2019)	Provides scheme specific requirements for chain of custody certification bodies
PAFC Cameroon Complaint procedures (27 June 2019)	Provides procedures for complaints arising from FM and CoC certification
PAFC Cameroon Notification procedures (27 June 2019)	Provides procedures for notification of FM and CoC certification bodies
PAFC Cameroon PEFC Logo License issuance (27 June 2019)	Provides procedures for issuance of PEFC Logo licenses
PAFC Cameroon forest management standard setting and revision procedures (27 June 2019)	Provides procedures for development and revision of FM standard.

8.2.2 Organisational arrangement

The scheme separates the standard setting, certification and accreditation functions by the following organisational arrangement.

PAFC Cameroon - Accreditation body - Certification body- Applicant for certificate

PAFC Cameroon is the governing body of the scheme and represents the scheme in the PEFC Council. It is also responsible for the formal approval of the scheme documentation, scheme administration, i.e. notification of certification bodies, and dispute settlement. PAFC Cameroon is a membership organisation whose members are organised in the following membership categories: (i) chamber of forest owners and those responsible for protection of forest resources; (ii) social chamber; (iii) chamber of forest professionals and (iv) environmental chamber. PAFC Cameroon has established several bodies for the association's management (the General Assembly, the Executive Board, the Specialised Technical Committee, and the PAFC Forum).

Certification bodies are responsible for assessing conformity of forest owners/managers that are applying for the certification and for assessing conformity of wood processing companies applying for chain of custody certification. The certification bodies are required to be accredited by a national accreditation body that is a member of IAF/EA.

Accreditation body is responsible for assessing the certification body's conformity with ISO 17065 (for CoC certification) or ISO 17021 (for FM certification) and other requirements defined by the scheme.

8.2.3 Observation relating to the structure of the scheme documentation and its management

The PEFC Council has no requirements for the structure of the scheme and the following observation should not have an impact on the endorsement of the scheme (unless specified in the compulsory chapters of the scheme).

- a) Individual documents are lacking a reference number, i.e. an alfa-numerical code that is used for clear and unambiguous identification of documents and their referencing. This creates ambiguity in cross-referencing of the documents within the scheme documentation.
- b) "PAFC Cameroon description of the forest certification scheme" document is focused on introduction of the forest management standard and is lacking information about other parts of the scheme.
- c) It is not clear whether PEFC international documents (PEFC ST 2001 and PEFC ST 2003) are a part of the PAFC Cameroon scheme).
- d) The documents have been formally approved in April 2017, respectively in December 2017. However, their publication (issue) date has been linked with the PEFC endorsement. This approach undermines the PEFC principles that it endorses independent national forest certification schemes that are functional and operational even without the PEFC endorsement.
- e) The submitted documents still include visible changes in MS Word "review" mode. It is expected, that the documents that have been formally approved and submitted for the PEFC endorsement should be clear of previous changes.

8.3 Requirements for standard setting

8.3.1 Introduction

History and objectives of the PAFC Cameroon Forest Certification Scheme

PAFC Cameroon Forest Certification Scheme is a national forest certification scheme that is owned and governed by PAFC Cameroon, a Cameroonian non-for-profit and multi-stakeholder organisation established in 2007. PAFC Cameroon has become a member of the PEFC Council in 2007.

The scheme, in particular its forest management standard has been based on Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI) that were jointly developed by the African Timber Organisation (ATO) and International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). The scheme development also considered the Cameroonian national PCI's, VLEGT Programme for Cameroon and PEFC international requirements.

The scheme development started in 2012 by preparatory work and was formally launched in spring 2014. The scheme development was completed in April 2017 by a formal adoption of the scheme's documentation and shortly after that was submitted for the PEFC endorsement. PAFC Cameroon has revised the scheme's documentation during the assessment process and approved the revised documents in December 2017.

8.3.2 Standard setting procedures

Introduction

The standard setting and revision process are governed by:

- Standard setting procedures^[10],
- PAFC Cameroon Statutes^[23] (concerning the formal adoption of the scheme's documentation by the PAFC Cameroon General Assembly).

Standard setting procedures^[10] and the PAFC Cameroon Statutes^[23] describe PAFC Cameroon as the sole scheme owner and the scheme's standardisation body. The document also establishes other bodies such as the PAFC Forum that is responsible for the consensus on the forest management standard^[23].

Standard setting procedures^[10] have a logical structure that follows a process approach and follows steps which are described in PEFC ST 1001.

The assessment of the standard setting procedures is based on the submitted version of standard setting procedures^[10]. It should be noted that the document was only approved at the end of the standard setting process in April 2017 and then revised in December 2017. Therefore, it is evident that the assessed version of the document was not governing the process itself as it formally started already in March 2014. This fact provides explanation of a number of logical discrepancies in this assessment between the written procedures and the description of the revision process itself.

General observations

The assessment has identified a number of observations relating to the standard setting procedures:

- The standard setting procedures^[10] are written in a mixture of future and past tenses. The past grammatical tense is inappropriate for the purposes of the procedural document as it should refer to the future activities rather than to the past.
- It is expected that the certification scheme submits for the PEFC assessment final and formally adopted documents. However, the assessed document (MS Word) still includes changes in the "review" mode and can hardly be considered as a final and formal document. Its formatting includes several mistakes and errors in chapters numbering (e.g. chapter 4.11 and 5).
- PAFC Cameroon does not have its own website. Therefore, it makes references to the PEFC Council website instead. However, the PEFC Council website cannot substitute the national website for the purposes of the announcement of a national public consultation: (i) the PEFC Council website is only managed in English and as such it is not accessible to local stakeholders in countries where English is not generally understood language; (ii) the news section at the PEFC Council website is changed rather quickly as it allows to display only the last 3 news; (iii) the complexity of the PEFC Council website makes a significant limitation to search for a document that is not visible at the main webpage. Similarly, requirements for the publication of the standards at the PEFC Council website (see requirement PEFC ST 1001, 5.12) is not appropriate. Firstly, PAFC Cameroon does not control the PEFC Council website and cannot therefore ensure the publication of the standard at the PEFC Council's website. Secondly, the PEFC Council only publishes at its website those standards that are formally endorsed by the PEFC Council and this usually happens one year after the standard approval (and that cannot be considered as "publication in a timely manner").

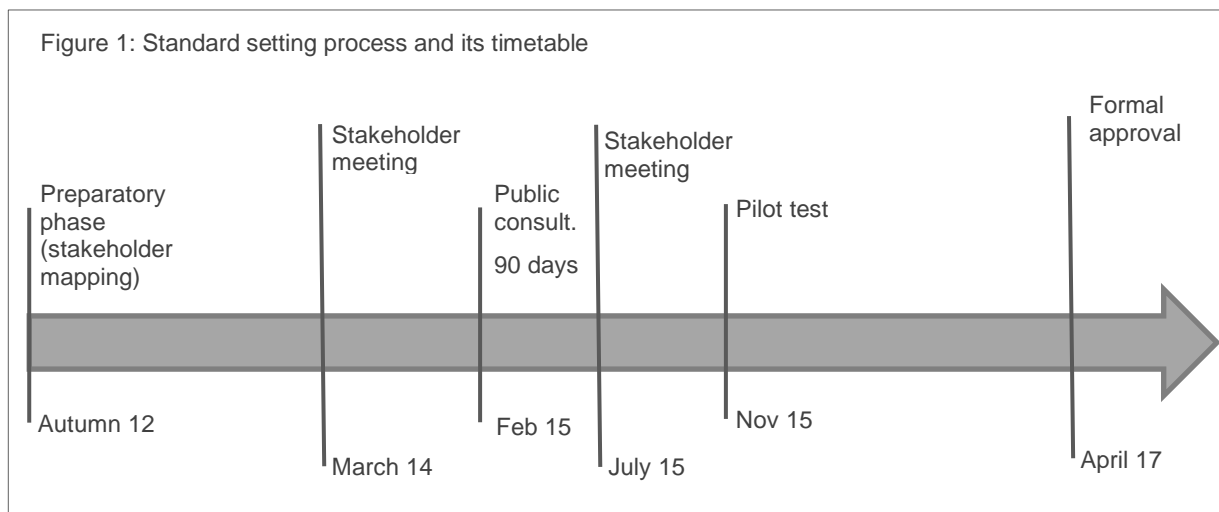
Other observations relevant to specific PEFC requirements are presented in the detailed assessment chapter.

8.3.3 Standard setting process

Standard setting process

The standard setting process formally started in March 2014 by a stakeholder meeting that was focused on presentation and validation of the standard setting process and ended in April 2017 by a formal adoption of the scheme documentation by the PAFC Cameroon General Assembly, while the work of the PAFC Forum was already completed in July 2015. Some preparatory work such as developing the standard setting procedure or stakeholder mapping had already taken place before the formal start since autumn 2012.

The stages of the process and its timetable is shown in figure 1:



Stakeholders mapping

The applicant provided several stakeholder mapping documents with different results, the “stakeholder mapping document”^[14] from April 2017, and based on the assessor’s request also a stakeholder mapping document from October 2012^[29] and a list of stakeholders from 2012^[30] as well as a list of stakeholders included in the revised Development Report^[30].

The 2017 stakeholder mapping includes a description of interest groups, the typology of key stakeholders, preferred means of communication and a list of 39 “key” stakeholders.

The 2012 stakeholder mapping includes a general description of interest groups and the associated list of stakeholders includes 140 stakeholders.

The presented lists include neither identification of disadvantaged stakeholders nor identification of their constraints to join the standard setting process nor actions to resolve those constraints.

Announcement of the standard setting process

The standard setting process was formally announced as a part of the stakeholder meeting on 27-28 March 2014. The invitation was sent out by an email and letters to a pre-selected list of stakeholders (60) that originated in the stakeholder mapping.

The announcement of the stakeholder meeting was also presented at the PEFC Council website, in the news section.

Applicant has submitted no evidence that the meeting (and thus the public announcement) was announced by other public media than the PEFC Council website.

Commission / Working group for the development of the SFM standard

Standard setting procedures^[10] require that the **PAFC Forum** is the body responsible for the consensus building and that ensures balanced representation of relevant stakeholders.

The letter as well as spirit of the PEFC requirements for the consensus building body (4.4) imply that this is a body with appointed members (5.4) amongst different stakeholders that develops the forest management standard (5.5) and builds consensus on its content (5.8, 5.9).

However, PAFC Cameroon considered as the “PAFC Forum” two (2) alone standing stakeholder meetings, one organized in the beginning of the process and the second at its end. The invitation to those meeting was only distributed to “pre-selected” stakeholders; participation was not balanced; the approach did not allow stakeholders sufficient opportunity to influence the standard and to negotiate their views and concerns. In principle, this approach does not satisfy neither the letter nor the spirit of the PEFC requirements and was classified as a “**Minor non-conformity**”.

In addition to the PAFC Forum, PAFC Cameroon also established a group of experts (8) called Specialised Technical Committee that was supporting the PAFC Cameroon’s Executive Board during the standard setting process. However, the applicant has not submitted records or additional evidence relating to the work of this body.

Open and transparent work of WG (PAFC Forum)

The PAFC Cameroon organised two stakeholders’ meetings of the PAFC Forum, one as the kick-off meeting (27-28/3/2014) of the standard setting process and the second at the end of the process to “validate” the forest management standard (10-11/7/2015). In principle, this arrangement does not provide meaningful opportunity for stakeholders to negotiate the content of the standard and to build a consensus on the content of the forest management standard.

The applicant provided minutes of the meetings. However, comprehensive evidence of how the stakeholders were invited and supported by documentation was not provided.

Public consultation

A public consultation was carried out from February to May 2015. The stakeholders were invited to the public consultation by e-mail (75), letters and personal visits⁴. In addition, an announcement of the public consultation was made at the PEFC Council website.

No evidence has been submitted on number of comments received and their content; their consideration by the PAFC Forum; and synopsis being publicly available.

Pilot testing

⁴ Only for email communication an evidence has been presented.

A pilot test was organised for one week in November 2011 on a land of a private operator. The pilot test was carried out by a team with sufficient competencies in all aspects of the FM Standard (environmental, economic and social) and was reported in a detailed report.

However, no evidence has been submitted that the results of the pilot test would be considered by the PAFC Forum. Also, the pilot test was carried out 5 months after the last meeting of the PAFC Forum.

Approval of the standards by consensus (by the PAFC Forum)

The last “validation” meeting of the PAFC Forum took place on 10 July 2015 that was focused on presentation of the FM Standard and relating discussion. The minutes of the meeting show that several suggestions to improve the FM Standard have been made but no evidence has been submitted to demonstrate that the PAFC Forum reached consensus on the FM Standard and recommended it for a formal approval. 2

Formal approval of the SFM standard and its publication

The FM standard was formally approved by the PAFC Cameroon General assembly in April 2017. The formally approved FM Standard and another scheme documentation have never been published and made publicly available.

During this assessment, PAFC Cameroon made changes to the PAFC Cameroon documentation and approved it at its General assembly held in December 2017.

Non-conformities for the standard setting process

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 4.2
Topic	Publication of the standard setting procedures
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	<p>PAFC Cameroon is not operating its own website and has therefore not published (made publicly available) its standard setting procedures.</p> <p>The publication of the standard setting procedures (as a part of the scheme submitted for the PEFC endorsement) at the PEFC Council website does not fully satisfy the PEFC requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The procedures were only published after the completion of the standard setting process when the scheme was submitted for the PEFC endorsement; b) It is extremely difficult to find the document itself at the PEFC website for those stakeholders who i) do not speak English; ii) do not have detailed knowledge of the PEFC Council website structure (procedures are only displayed in the public consultation section) and iii) detailed knowledge of the PEFC Council endorsement procedures (to recognize that the standard setting procedures are a part of the ZIP file that includes all documentation of the Cameroonian scheme submitted for the PEFC endorsement).

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 4.3
Topic	Records keeping
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	PAFC Cameroon kept some records relating to the standard setting, especially those that were linked to official events supported by external funding (PAFC Forum meetings, pilot test reports, etc.). However, for a number of the PEFC Council requirements, sufficient records and evidence have not been submitted and there is a serious doubt of whether PAFC Cameroon systemically keeps records relating to its activities and required records/evidence exist and are kept by PAFC Cameroon.

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 4.4, 4.4a, 4.4b
Topic	Forming a working group/committee (4.4) Accessibility to stakeholders (4.4a) Balanced representation (4.4b)
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	<p>The applicant submitted information and evidence about two stakeholders meetings organised in March 2014 and in July 2015. The meetings are introduced as “Forum of PAFC Cameroon” and as such it is understood that these meeting(s) are considered by PAFC Cameroon as a “working group/committee” in terms of PEFC ST 1001.</p> <p>4.4: Organising a one-off meeting to which stakeholders are invited (one to kick-off the process and the second to validate the standard) does not satisfy the letter and especially the spirit of the PEFC requirement. The “working group/committee” as defined in PEFC ST 1001, 4.4 shall be based on nomination of stakeholders, on-going negotiations and consensus building amongst the stakeholders during the period of the standard setting.</p> <p>4.4a: There is no evidence that PAFC Cameroon publicly announced the standard setting and that stakeholders could obtain information about the foreseen standard setting process and would have possibility to submit their nominations to a consensus building body. A direct invitation to 60 stakeholders cannot be considered as an open invitation and PAFC Forum being accessible to stakeholders.</p> <p>4.4b: There is no a single membership list of the PAFC Forum, i.e. stakeholders that have been nominated and accepted as members of the PAFC Forum.</p> <p>Also, the provided list of participants of a meeting of 27-28/3/2014 does not allow to split the participants into stakeholder categories and to make evaluation of whether the participation at the particular meeting was balanced.</p> <p>There is no detailed information on the participants of the validation workshop (10-11/7/2015) that would allow evaluation of the balanced representation.</p>

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 5.2
Topic	Identification of key and disadvantaged stakeholders
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	<p>The 2017 stakeholder mapping describes the key stakeholders and defines main communication channels to reach them. However, it does not identify disadvantaged stakeholders.</p> <p>The 2012 stakeholder mapping that is crucial for the assessment of the standard setting process does neither identify the key nor disadvantaged stakeholders. It does not identify means of addressing their constraints and means to address them.</p>

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 5.3 a, b, c, d, e
Topic	Announcement of the start of the standard setting process Invitation to nominate representatives to the working group/committee
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	<p>5.3a: No evidence has been provided that the announcement has been made at the standardisation body's website and other suitable "public" media; the announcement did not sufficiently describe the objective, scope and timetable of the standard setting process.</p> <p>5.3 b: do not sufficiently describe the opportunity for participation in the standard setting process beyond the 27-28/3/2014 meeting nor it invites to make nomination to the PAFC Forum.</p> <p>5.3 c: The referenced texts of the invitation letter, email communication or the PEFC Council's news do not sufficiently describe the invitation to nominate representative to the consensus building body (PAFC Forum) beyond the meeting of 27-28/03/2014;</p> <p>5.3 d: The announcements did not invite stakeholders to comment on the proposed standard setting process and its scope</p> <p>5.3 e: The announcements did not include a reference to publicly available standard setting procedures.</p>

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 5.4
Topic	Appointment of members of the working group/committee
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	The applicant has not provided information that it asks for nominations to the PAFC Forum, considered those nominations and made decisions on their acceptance or rejection.

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 5.5 a, b
Topic	Transparent and open work of the working group / committee
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	<p>5.5a: The applicant has submitted no evidence to confirm that participants of the two stakeholders' meetings (27-28/3/2014 and 10-11/7/2015) were provided with draft documents in advance.</p> <p>5.5b: Two stakeholders' meetings, one in the beginning of the process (a kick-off meeting) and the second at the end (presenting results of the process) cannot be considered as "meaningful opportunity" to contribute to the development of the standard.</p>

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 5.6 c,
Topic	Public consultation
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	<p>5.6 c: The draft standard was not publicly available and accessible.</p> <p>5.6 d: The applicant has provided no evidence or records relating to received comments and their consideration by PAFC Forum, the consensus building body.</p> <p>5.6 e: The applicant has provided no evidence that a summary of received comments would exist and was publicly available.</p>

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 5.7
Topic	Pilot test
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	The results of the pilot test have not been considered by the PAFC Forum, the consensus building body.

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 5.8, 5.9
Topic	Evidence of consensus
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	No evidence has been submitted to demonstrate that the PAFC Forum, the consensus building body, reached consensus.

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 5.10
Topic	Information on the standard setting being publicly available
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	No evidence has been submitted that information on standard setting process, the Development Report, was made publicly available.

PEFC requirement	PEFC ST 1001, 5.12
Topic	Publication of the formally approved standard(s)
Classification of non-conformity	Minor
Description of non-conformity	No evidence has been submitted that the formally approved forest management standard has been published and was made publicly available.

Observations

PAFC Cameroon is not operating its own website

On a number of occasions, the PEFC ST 1001 requires public to be informed and documents to be publicly available. A website of the standardization organization is considered as the most suitable tool to be used. However, PAFC Cameroon is not operating its own website and for a large number of PEFC requirements PAFC Cameroon thus ignored to place information in the public domain.

PAFC Cameroon argues on a number of occasions that the documentation is available from the PEFC International website. However, this approach does not satisfy the concept of developing and managing a national forest certification scheme. Firstly, it is difficult to expect that local stakeholders or certification users would be looking for specific national information at the PEFC International website. Secondly, it is difficult to find country specific information at the PEFC International website and thirdly, a significant part of the Cameroonian stakeholders do not understand the English language of the PEFC Council's website.

8.3.4 Stakeholders questionnaire

TJConsulting distributed a questionnaire to more than 50 stakeholders in Cameroon that covered all stakeholder groups relevant to sustainable forest management with a request to provide feedback on the standard setting/revision process of the Macedonian scheme. The questionnaire was sent to all stakeholders identified by PAFC Cameroon as a part of its stakeholder mapping exercise that included an e-mail address.

TJConsulting provided stakeholders with a 4 weeks response period between 2 August 2017 and 30 August 2017. The results of the survey were taken into consideration in the scheme assessment. Only two (2) stakeholders returned the questionnaire and any interpretation of the survey results should therefore take into consideration the limited number of responses received.

Question	Green Cameroon (NGO)	Ministry of mines, industry and technological development
Notice of the public announcement	No	Yes
Access to standard setting procedures	No	Yes
Invited to the WG/Committee	No	Yes (direct mailing)
Invited to public consultation	No	Yes (direct mailing)
Comments submitted	No	Yes
Comments considered	No	Yes
Complaints submitted	No	No
Work of WG/Committee open and transparent	5	Yes
Consensus reached		Yes

It is useful to provide here a comment from Green Cameroon, an NGO, concerning the PAFC Cameroon initiative:

“... most decisions on some of these issues no longer depend on who has the competence or is suitable. Those who run the project pick those they think they are related to or more comfortable working with and it is more of a relationship issue than relevance. It baffles me that such an initiative was carried out and our institution was not invited to take part. Please check our website at www.greencameroon.org to see what we do for yourself and decide if it was proper to leave us in the dark. However, most initiatives in Cameroon function this way. I am just commenting because my opinion is being sort if not, some of us keep working and others take the credit”.

⁵ Green Cameroon did not participate in the WG/Committee (PAFC Forum)

The assessor has also met and interviewed a limited number of stakeholders during the in-country visit. The meetings were organized and stakeholders invited directly by PAFC Cameroon.

The following conclusions of the interviews can be drawn:

- The majority of the interviewed stakeholders were either individuals engaged with PAFC Cameroon or consultants/experts involved in the standard setting process.
- Those that participated in the process:
 - a) were formally invited by PAFC Cameroon (a letter/email);
 - b) noticed public consultation;
 - c) considered it as open and transparent;
 - d) confirmed that discussion took place at the second PAFC Forum meeting (10/7/2015); that there was not a formal voting / agreement; some consider the result of the meeting as consensus, others argued that although unanimity was not reached at all levels there was not a strong objection; there was common understanding of the topics in question;
- One stakeholder (representing forest industry association) noted that his organization was not invited to the process and thus could not participate in the process.

Details about the program of the in-country visit and a list of interviewed stakeholders is shown in Annex 4 of the report.

8.3.5 Detailed assessment⁶

PEFC ST 1001, 4.1		
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	<p>Formal adoption of the standard:</p> <p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 3.4 requires that the General Assembly of PAFC Cameroon is responsible for the approval of a SFM Standard.</p> <p>The decision making of the General Assembly is defined in the PAFC Cameroon Statutes^[23], Article 13, 14.</p> <p>Body responsible for consensus building</p> <p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 3.3.1 defines the role of a PAFC Forum for the development and revision of a SFM standard.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] define that PAFC Cameroon is the standard setting body. The PAFC Forum is responsible for development of consensus and the General Assembly for a formal approval of the SFM standard.</p>
b) the record-keeping procedures	Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 7 includes procedures for records keeping.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] requires to keep records relating to the standard setting process.</p>
c) the procedures for balanced representation of stakeholders,	Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 3.3.3 defines procedures for the composition of the PAFC Forum that is responsible for consensus building.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] include procedures for representation of stakeholders in the Forum.</p> <p>It should be noted that this statement only reflects presence of procedures, not whether those procedures are appropriate or not.</p>
d) the standard-setting process,	Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4 includes procedures for the standard setting/revision process.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p>

⁶ The numbers in brackets [] identify referenced documentation as listed in chapter 6

		Justification: Standard setting procedures ^[10] include procedures for the standard-setting process.
e) the mechanism for reaching consensus, and	Procedures	Standard setting procedures ^[10] , chapter 5 includes procedures for consensus building within the PAFC Forum. Compliance: Conformity Justification: Standard setting procedures ^[10] include procedures for reaching consensus. It should be noted that this statement only reflects presence of procedures, not whether those procedures are appropriate or not.
f) revision of standards/normative documents.	Procedures	Standard setting procedures ^[10] , chapter 4.11 includes procedures for the revision of standards. The revision shall follow all stages required for the initial development of the SFM Standard. Compliance: Conformity Justification: Standard setting procedures ^[10] , chapter 6 defines procedures for the revision of standards.

PEFC ST 1001, 4.2

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	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 1 states that “once the PEFC approves the scheme, this procedure will be made publicly available on the PEFC website, PAFC Cameroon website and can be requested at any time from the PAFC Cameroon Secretariat”.</p> <p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 8 states that “This procedure is available and can be downloaded from the website of PEFC and obtained via the PAFC Cameroon Executive Committee”.</p> <p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 1 states that “this procedure will be revised just like the standards (see paragraph 4.11) either regularly (every five years) or on an ad-hoc basis”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] satisfy the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: Chapter 1 of Standard setting procedures^[10], requires that the document is revised just like standards following chapter 4.11. The review and/or revision should take place before or in the beginning of the revision process. Therefore it is rather impractical to require full standard setting process for the revision of the standard setting procedures as in reality this would mean that PAFC Cameroon would run two revision processes, one for the standard setting procedures and second, subsequently for the forest management standard itself.</p>
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Process	<p>The Checklist^[13] includes information that “The “currently applicable” SSP is available on the PEFC website or is going to be publicly available on a website (www.pafc-Cameroon.org) or at the PAFC-Cameroon Secretariat”.</p> <p>PEFC Council’s website includes the standard setting procedures as a part of the international consultation that is a part of the PEFC endorsement process (https://pefc.org/news-a-media/general-sfm-news/2346-cameroonian-canadian-and-uruguayan-systems-open-for-public-consultation). The reference to the PEFC Council’s international consultation was made in the PEFC Council’s news of 12 May 2017 (https://pefc.org/news-a-media/general-sfm-news/2346-cameroonian-canadian-and-uruguayan-systems-open-for-public-consultation).</p> <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The publication of the standard setting procedures (as a part of the scheme submitted for the PEFC endorsement) at the PEFC Council website does not fully satisfy the PEFC requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The procedures were only published after the completion of the standard setting process when the scheme was submitted for the PEFC endorsement; b) It is extremely difficult to find the document itself at the PEFC website for those stakeholders who i) do not speak English; ii) do not have detailed knowledge of the PEFC Council website structure (procedures are only displayed in the public consultation section) and iii) detailed knowledge of the PEFC Council endorsement procedures (to recognize that the standard setting procedures are a part of the ZIP file that includes all documentation of the Cameroonian scheme submitted for the PEFC endorsement. <p>It should be noted that the purpose of the standard setting procedures is to set up rules for the standard development process that is available to stakeholders in the beginning of the process itself. There was no evidence submitted that would confirm that the standard setting procedures were available to stakeholders in the beginning of the process.</p> <p>The referenced website of PAFC-Cameroon is not operational.</p>
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PEFC ST 1001, 4.3	
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	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 7.1 states that “PAFC Cameroon, via its Executive Committee, is responsible for recording and conserving the documents linked to the standard setting and revision process. These documents constitute evidence of compliance with the PEFC requirements”.</p> <p>Chapter 7.2 defines the records to be kept: and requires the records to be kept for five (5) years.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] satisfy the requirement.</p>
Process	<p>As a part of the application for the PEFC endorsement and during the course of this assessment, a whole range of documents and records (see chapter 6) relating to the standard setting / revision process has been submitted by the applicant and assessed by the assessor.</p>

	<p>However, a number of records was not provided to the assessor or the submitted records were missing information that would confirm compliance with the PEFC Council requirements, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public availability of standard setting procedures; - Records relating to invitation of stakeholders, especially where letters were sent and telephone calls made; - Records relating to the announcement of the start of the process in public media, e.g. radio/television; - Records relating to availability of draft documents to the PAFC Forum; - Records relating to the work of the Specialised Technical Committee; - Records relating to comments received in public consultation, their consideration and public availability of the summary results; - Records relating to the consideration of results of pilot testing; - Records relating to the consensus reached at the PAFC Forum level; - Records relating to the publication of the Development Report; - Records relating publication of the formally approved standard(s) <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: PAFC Cameroon kept some records relating to the standard setting, especially those that were linked to official events supported by external funding (PAFC Forum meetings, pilot test reports, etc.). However, for a number of the PEFC Council requirements, sufficient records and evidence have not been submitted and there is a serious doubt of whether PAFC Cameroon systemically keeps records relating to its activities and whether the required records/evidence exist and are kept by PAFC Cameroon.</p> <p>TJConsulting has not received any information (either through the PEFC International public consultation or TJConsulting’s questionnaire sent to stakeholders) that the standardisation body would reject any request for records to be made available.</p>
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PEFC ST 1001, 4.4	
4.4 The standardising body shall establish a permanent or temporary working group/committee responsible for standard-setting activities.	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10] chapter 3.3 states that “A working group will be set up and will be responsible for devising or revising the PAFC standard. The working group will be known as the PAFC Forum”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] satisfy the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The language of the standard setting procedures is inappropriate. The procedure should define generally valid rules that are applied in the future. Therefore, the usage of past tense “was set up” is highly inappropriate. It should be noted that this approach is taken throughout the document.</p>
Process	<p>The Development Report^[19] and additional evidence submitted by PEFC Cameroon^[20, 24-27] include information about a stakeholder meeting of 27-28/3/2014 (PAFC Forum) during which the start of the development of a national forestry standard was presented. 54 stakeholders participated in the meeting.</p> <p>The Development Report^[19] and additional evidence submitted by PEFC Cameroon^[21] include information about a stakeholder meeting of 10-11 July 2015 during which the forest management standard was presented and validated. It</p>

	<p>should be noted that a document has been presented^[10] that makes a reference to a presentation and validation meeting of 30/6-1/7/2015.</p> <p>The Development Report^[19] makes also reference to the Specialised Technical Committee consisting of various experts (8) that supported the PAFC Cameroon Board of Directors in developing the forest management standards. No records relating to the meetings of the Committee have been presented.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The applicant submitted information and evidence about two stakeholders' meetings organised in March 2014 and in July 2015. The meetings are introduced as "Forum of PAFC Cameroon" and as such it is understood that this body meeting(s) are considered by PAFC Cameroon as a "working group/committee" in terms of PEFC ST 1001.</p> <p>Organising an one-off meeting to which stakeholders are invited (one to kick-off the process and the second to validate the standard) does not satisfy the letter and especially the spirit of the "working group/committee" defined in PEFC ST 1001 which is based on nomination of stakeholders, on-going negotiations and consensus building amongst the stakeholders during the period of the standard setting.</p>
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PEFC ST 1001, 4.4 a	
4.4 a [The working group/committee shall]: be accessible to materially and directly affected stakeholders,	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 3.3.3 states that "From among the stakeholders who have expressed an interest in devising or revising the PAFC standard, the PAFC Executive Committee must take into account the following criteria when selecting the PAFC Forum participants"</p> <p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 3.3.3 then defines criteria for acceptance of nominations to the PAFC Forum including: (i) Stakeholders who are practically or directly concerned by the implementation of the standard; (ii) balanced representation of stakeholders; (iii) relevant standard development expertise and (iv) honest and efficient representation of the concerned stakeholder.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The term "accessible to all stakeholders" is interpreted as that a stakeholder organisation within or outside the membership of the standardisation organisation can (i) make nomination to the committee/body responsible for building consensus, (ii) these nominations are considered and (iii) any appointment/refusal of the nomination is justifiable. Standard setting procedures^[10] satisfy all three conditions.</p>
Process	<p>PAFC Cameroon provided information that it has carried out stakeholders mapping^[29] and documentation showing that PAFC Cameroon carried out a stakeholder meeting on 27-28 March 2014^[19, 20, 24-27] (this also includes a list of participants).</p> <p>PAFC Cameroon submitted^[19, Annex 4] a copy of an invitation email to the stakeholders' workshop of 27-28 March 2014 with 60 recipients.</p> <p>PAFC Cameroon has not provided evidence on the public announcement of the standard setting process and invitation to stakeholders to nominate their representatives to the "PAFC Forum". The applicant has neither submitted the list of</p>

stakeholders that submitted nominations nor a list of stakeholders that were accepted for the membership in the "PAFC Forum".

It should be noted that on 14 April 2014, the PEFC Council published a news at its website (<https://www.pefc.org/news-a-media/general-sfm-news/1479-pafc-cameroon-to-initiate-standard-development-process-at-its-first-stakeholder-forum>) relating to the stakeholder meeting of 26-28 March 2014.

Compliance: Minor non-conformity

Justification: The following arguments have been used to set up non-conformity with the requirement:

- a) A one-off meeting is not considered as a consensus building body in terms of PEFC ST 1001, 4.4 (see also evaluation of the requirement 4.4);
- b) There is no evidence that PAFC Cameroon publicly announced the standard setting and that stakeholders could obtain information about the foreseen standard setting process and would have possibility to submit their nominations to a consensus building body. A direct invitation to 60 stakeholders cannot be considered as an open invitation and accessible to stakeholders.

PEFC ST 1001, 4.4 b	
4.4 b [The working group/committee shall]: 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	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 3.3.3 states that “There must be a balance 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. There must be a balance between the different categories of participants (representatives of the four interest groups, as defined in chapter 3 of the forest management stakeholders mapping document: the college of forest owners and beneficiaries, the social college, the professional’s college and the environmental college). 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> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The Standard setting procedures^[10] requires balance of four stakeholder categories that are relevant to the subject matter and define a precise formula for balanced representation of “interest groups”. The 25 % deviation in an equal number of members representing individual stakeholder groups is justifiable.</p>
Process	<p>PAFC Cameroon considers the stakeholder meeting of 27-28/3/2017 and the validation meeting of 10-11/7/2015 as the “PAFC Forum”, a body responsible for the development of consensus.</p> <p>PAFC Cameroon provided a list of participants (a registration list) for the meeting of 27-28/3/2017^[19, 20, and 27]. The applicant provided two lists of participants, one displaying 54 participants and the second 61 participants. However, it does not provide sufficient classification of the participants’ interest group to evaluate balance stakeholder’s representation of the meeting.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The following arguments have been using to set up non-conformity with the requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A one-off meeting is not considered as a consensus building body in terms of PEFC ST 1001, 4.4 (see also evaluation of the requirement 4.4); b) There is no a single list of stakeholders that have been nominated and accepted as members of the PAFC Forum, i.e. a body responsible for the consensus building; c) The provided list of participants does not allow to split the participants into stakeholder categories and to make evaluation of whether the participation at the meeting (27-28/3/2014) has been balanced. d) No detailed information on the participants of the validation workshop (10-11/7/2015) that would allow evaluation of the balanced representation.

PEFC ST 1001, 4.4 c	
4.4c [The working group/committee shall]: include stakeholders with expertise relevant to the subject matter of the standard, those that are materially affected by the standard, and those that can influence the implementation of the standard. The materially affected stakeholders shall represent a meaningful segment of the participants.	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10] chapter 3.3.3 states that “[PAFC Forum] includes stakeholders who are practically or directly concerned by the implementation of the standard (35% of the Forum) and stakeholders with relevant standard development and revision expertise”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] satisfy the requirement.</p>
Process	<p>PAFC Cameroon considers the stakeholder meeting of 27-28/3/2017 and the validation meeting of 10-11/7/2015 as the “PAFC Forum”, a body responsible for the development of consensus.</p> <p>PAFC Cameroon provided a list of participants (a registration list) for the meeting of 27-28/3/2017^[19, 20, and 27]. Although it does not provide sufficient classification of the participants’ interest group, it is evident that majority of the participants in the meetings were materially affected and having expertise in forestry sector.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: PAFC Cameroon has organised two stakeholders’ meetings. Although the meetings themselves do not satisfy the PEFC Council’s requirements for the consensus building body (PEFC ST 1001, 4.4), the participation at those two meetings covered materially affected stakeholders and those having expertise in the forestry sector.</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 4.5	
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	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 6 states that:</p> <p>“Complaints and appeals made within the context of the setting of the standard will be managed in accordance with the PAFC Cameroon scheme procedure outlined in this chapter”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] include procedures for complaints resolution relating to the standard setting activities.</p> <p>It should be noted that the procedures do not exceed the detail defined by PEFC ST 1001.</p> <p>In addition, PEFC scheme also includes an alone standing document for dispute resolution. However, this document is not applicable to disputes arising from the standard setting as it only applies to implementation of the forest management standard.</p>

Process	<p>The applicant claims that no formal complaint has been received during standard setting process.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: No information has been received from the PEFC Council's international consultation, assessor's stakeholder consultation or in-country visit that the PAFC Cameroon would receive a complaint.</p>
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PEFC ST 1001, 4.5	
4.5a [Upon receipt of the complaint, the standard-setting body shall]: a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint to the complainant,	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 6 states that:</p> <p>“Upon receipt of a complaint, the PAFC Cameroon shall:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint to the complainant”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] include the same text as PEFC ST 1001.</p> <p>It should be noted that the procedures do not exceed the detail defined by PEFC ST 1001.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant claims that no formal complaint has been received during standard setting process.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: No information has been received from the PEFC Council's international consultation, assessor's stakeholder consultation or in-country visit that the PAFC Cameroon would receive a complaint.</p>

4.5b [Upon receipt of the complaint, the standard-setting body shall]: b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint, impartially and objectively evaluate the subject matter of the complaint, and make a decision upon the complaint.	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 6 states that:</p> <p>“The body responsible for resolving requests for arbitration from the Forum is the PAFC Cameroon Board of Directors”.</p> <p>“Upon receipt of a complaint, the PAFC Cameroon shall:...</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) gather and verify all necessary information to validate the complaint, impartially and objectively evaluate the subject matter of the complaint, and make a decision upon the complaint,”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] include the same text as PEFC ST 1001.</p> <p>It should be noted that the procedures do not exceed the detail defined by PEFC ST 1001.</p>

Process	<p>The applicant claims that no formal complaint has been received during standard setting process.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: No information has been received from the PEFC Council's international consultation, assessor's stakeholder consultation or in-country visit that the PAFC Cameroon would receive a complaint.</p>
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4.5 [Upon receipt of the complaint, the standard-setting body shall]: c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint and of the complaint handling process to the complainant.	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 6 states that:</p> <p>“Upon receipt of a complaint, the PAFC Cameroon shall:...</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(c) formally communicate the decision on the complaint and of the complaint handling process to the complainant”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] include the same text as PEFC ST 1001.</p> <p>It should be noted that the procedures do not exceed the detail defined by PEFC ST 1001.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant claims that no formal complaint has been received during standard setting process.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: No information has been received from the PEFC Council's international consultation, assessor's stakeholder consultation or in-country visit that PAFC Cameroon would receive a complaint.</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 4.6	
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	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 6 states that:</p> <p>“The contact point for enquiries and complaints relating to PAFC Cameroon standard-setting activities is the PAFC Cameroon Secretariat, with the following contact details: PAFC-Cameroon B.P: 57 Mbalmayo, Cameroon Tels: +237 699 76 11 83 / 679 22 80 09 / 677 84 69 68 Emails: caft.cameroun@gmail.com//reine.edwige27@gmail.com”</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Standard setting procedures^[10] identify the contact point for complaints resolution.</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 5.1	
5.1 The standardising body shall identify stakeholders relevant to the objectives and scope of the standard-setting work.	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.1 state that:</p> <p>“Stakeholders needed to be identified by the PAFC Cameroon Executive Committee before the process of setting and revising the standard gets underway”;</p> <p>“Stakeholder mapping identified the individuals and organisations affected by the setting or revision of the Cameroonian forest certification standard and / or who are affected by implementation of the standard”.</p> <p>“Furthermore, the standardising body shall define for each interest sectors the relevant stakeholders, the key stakeholders and the disadvantaged stakeholders”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document requires to identify relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Observation: The language of the referenced part of chapter 4.1 is not clear: “Stakeholder needed to be identified before...”. The procedures are expected to govern processes and as such referring to the past (needed) is not appropriate.</p> <p>The wording “define ... stakeholders” is not appropriate as its meaning differs from the intended identification of stakeholders.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant provided a “stakeholder mapping document”^[14] from April 2017 and based on the assessor’s request also a stakeholder mapping document from October 2012^[29] and a list of stakeholders from 2012^[30].</p> <p>The 2017 stakeholder mapping includes a description of interest groups and a list of 39 stakeholders.</p> <p>The 2012 stakeholder mapping includes a general description of interest groups, the list of stakeholders includes 140 stakeholders.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: PAFC Cameroon carried out stakeholders mapping before the start of the standard setting process.</p> <p>Observation: It is not clear why the list of identified stakeholders dropped significantly between 2012 and 2017. It is expected that as the standardisation body establishes its operation, the list of stakeholders grows.</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 5.2	
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.	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.1 state that:</p> <p>“Furthermore, the standardising body shall define for each interest sectors the relevant stakeholders, the key stakeholders and the disadvantaged stakeholders.</p> <p>The standardising body shall address the constraints of their participation and proactively seek their participation and contribution in the standard-setting activities”.</p> <p>“The Executive Committee shall pay particular attention to the most disadvantaged 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>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures require to identify the key and disadvantaged stakeholders and to address constraints of their participation and proactively seek their participation.</p> <p>Observation: It is not clear for which stakeholders the document requires to address their constraints and proactively seek their participation. Whether for all relevant stakeholder, key, disadvantaged or all.</p> <p>It is also not clear why the document only requires to use suitable communication means and effective ways of engagement for “the most disadvantaged stakeholders” and the approach is not required for key and for other disadvantaged stakeholders. It is also not clear on what basis PAFC Cameroon will distinguish between “disadvantaged” and the “most disadvantaged” stakeholders.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant provided a “stakeholder mapping document”^[14] from April 2017 and based on the assessor’s request also a stakeholder mapping document from October 2012^[29] and a list of stakeholders from 2012^[30].</p> <p>The 2017 stakeholder mapping includes a description of interest groups, main communication channels, and a list of 39 stakeholders.</p> <p>The 2012 stakeholder mapping includes a general description of interest groups, the list of stakeholders includes 140 stakeholders.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The following arguments have been used to justify the minor non-conformity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 2017 stakeholder mapping describes the key stakeholders and defines main communication channels to reach them. However, it does not identify disadvantaged stakeholders; - The 2017 stakeholder mapping that is crucial for the assessment of the standard setting process does neither identify the key nor disadvantaged stakeholders. It does not identify means of addressing their constraints and proactive engagements.

PEFC ST 1001, 5.3	
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.	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.2.1 states that “The start of the standard setting and revision process will be publicly announced via as many media as possible, mainly a national radio broadcast and a press release in the national written news press. The public announcement will also be made on the PEFC Council website and on the PAFC Cameroon web site in construction. The announcement will be done in a timely manner”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures do not require the announcement to be made on PAFC Cameroon’s website, in suitable media and in a timely manner.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant has not submitted evidence relating to the “public” announcement of the standard setting process.</p> <p>The applicant provided a text of invitation to the meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[31]. However, it has not provided a list of letter’s recipients, means of the letter distribution and a date when the letter was sent out.</p> <p>The applicant provided an e-mail invitation to the stakeholders’ meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[19, Annex 4] that was distributed to 60 recipients.</p> <p>The applicant made a reference to the PEFC Council’s presentation^[19, Annex 3] on the PEFC/PAFC approach (March-April 2013) that was presented at the COMIFAC website (pfb-cbfp.org/docs/news/.../RDP-Sideevent3PAFC_PEFC_presentation_CBFP.pdf).</p> <p>It should be noted that on 14 April 2014, the PEFC Council published a news at its website (https://www.pefc.org/news-a-media/general-sfm-news/1479-pafc-cameroon-to-initiate-standard-development-process-at-its-first-stakeholder-forum) relating to the stakeholder meeting of 26-28 March 2014.</p> <p>The applicant presented a letter^[19, Annex 4] to the Cameroon Radio Television asking for the media coverage of the stakeholder seminar of 27-28 March 2014.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: PAFC Cameroon announced the seminar of 26-27 March 2017 that was considered as a kick-off meeting of the standard setting process. The seminar itself and its media coverage could be considered as the announcement of the start of the standard setting process.</p> <p>Observation: It should be noted that PAFC Cameroon considers the stakeholder meeting as an announcement of the start of the standard setting process and at the same time the meeting itself is the only meeting of the consensus building body (PAFC Forum) before the standard is validated (10-11/7/2015).</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 5.3	
5.3 [The announcement and invitation shall include:] a) information about the objectives, scope and the steps of the standard-setting process and its timetable	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.2.2 state that “the public announcement and the invitations shall include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information about the objectives, scope and the steps of the standard-setting process and its timetable...”. <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The text is identical with the PEFC requirement.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant provided a text of invitation to the meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[19, Annex 4, 31]. The letter makes a reference to attached draft standard setting procedures (which include steps of the standard setting) but does not inform its recipients about the objectives, scope and timetable of the announced standard setting process.</p> <p>The applicant provided an e-mail invitation to the stakeholders’ meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[19, Annex 4] that was distributed to 60 recipients.</p> <p>It should be noted that on 14 April 2014, the PEFC Council published a news at its website (https://www.pefc.org/news-a-media/general-sfm-news/1479-pafc-cameroon-to-initiate-standard-development-process-at-its-first-stakeholder-forum) relating to the stakeholder meeting of 26-28 March 2014.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The minor non-conformity has been assigned based on the following arguments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No evidence has been provided that the announcement has been made at the standardisation body’s website and other suitable “public” media; - The referenced texts of the invitation letter, email communication or the PEFC Council’s news do not sufficiently describe the objective, scope and timetable of the standard setting process. - The PEFC Council news informs about the forthcoming seminar rather than about the scope and timetable of the standard setting process.
5.3 [The announcement and invitation shall include:] b) information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.2.2 state that “the public announcement and the invitations shall include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the process - Information for other stakeholders who will not be identified to take part in the process”. <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document satisfies the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The document duplicates the requirement without any added value.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant provided a text of invitation to the meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[31]. The letter makes an invitation to the meeting of 27-28 march 2014 but does not</p>

	<p>make an invitation to participate in the following stages of the standard setting process. Neither has it provided an opportunity to nominate its representative to the body responsible for the consensus building (PAFC Forum).</p> <p>The applicant provided an e-mail invitation to the stakeholders' meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[19, Annex 4] that was distributed to 60 recipients.</p> <p>It should be noted that on 14 April 2014, the PEFC Council published a news at its website (https://www.pefc.org/news-a-media/general-sfm-news/1479-pafc-cameroon-to-initiate-standard-development-process-at-its-first-stakeholder-forum) relating to the stakeholder meeting of 26-28 March 2014.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The minor non-conformity has been assigned based on the following arguments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No evidence has been provided that the announcement was made at the standardisation body's website and other suitable "public" media; - The referenced texts of the invitation letter, email communication or the PEFC Council's news do not sufficiently describe the opportunity for participation in the standard setting process beyond the 27-28/3/2014 meeting.
<p>5.3 [The announcement and invitation shall include:] 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,</p>	
<p>Procedures</p>	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.2.2 state that "the public announcement and the invitations shall include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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". <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document satisfies the requirement as it is identical with PEFC ST 1001.</p>
<p>Process</p>	<p>The applicant provided a text of invitation to the meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[31]. The letter makes an invitation to the meeting of 27-28 march 2014 but does not make an invitation to nominate its representative to the consensus building body (PAFC Forum) beyond the meeting of 27-28/03/2014.</p> <p>The applicant provided an e-mail invitation to the stakeholders' meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[19, Annex 4] that was distributed to 60 recipients.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The minor non-conformity has been assigned based on the following arguments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No evidence has been provided that the announcement has been made at the standardisation body's website and other suitable "public" media; - The referenced text of the invitation letter or e-mail does not sufficiently describe an invitation to nominate a representative to the consensus building body (PAFC Forum) beyond the meeting of 27-28/03/2014; - It is not evident neither from the letter nor from the email that the invitation would be made to key and disadvantaged stakeholders.

5.3 [The announcement and invitation shall include:] d) an invitation to comment on the scope and the standard-setting process	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.2.2 state that “the public announcement and the invitations shall include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An invitation to comment on the standard setting process and its scope”. <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document satisfies the PEFC requirement.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant provided a text of invitation to the meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[31]. The letter makes an invitation to the meeting of 27-28 march 2014.</p> <p>The applicant provided an e-mail invitation to the stakeholders’ meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[19, Annex 4] that was distributed to 60 recipients.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The announcements did not invite stakeholders to comment on the proposed standard setting process and its scope.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that it is expected that the seminar of 27-28 March 2014 itself provided an opportunity for present stakeholders to comment on the foreseen standard setting process.</p>
5.3 [The announcement and invitation shall include:] e) reference to publicly available standard-setting procedures.	
Procedures	<p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.2.2 state that “Invitations to take part in the setting process was sent to all the identified stakeholders by post, email or personal delivery, with confirmation of receipt being required. The invitations stated that the deadline for registering for the forum was one month starting from the date when the invitations were sent out”.</p> <p>The invitation is required to include: “Information about the public availability of certification standard setting and revision procedures”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The Standard setting procedures^[10] differentiate between the public announcement (4.2.1) and the invitation to participate in the standard setting process (4.2.2). This results in a non-conformity as the chapter 4.2.2 only applies to direct communication with “pre-selected” stakeholders but does not apply to the public announcement.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant provided a text of invitation to the meeting of 27-28 March 2014^[31]. The letter makes references to attached standard setting procedures.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The minor non-conformity has been assigned based on the following arguments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No evidence has been provided that the announcement has been made at the standardisation body’s website and other suitable “public” media; - The announcements that would have a public reach (e.g. the PEFC Council’s news) or the e-mail invitation did not include a reference to publicly available standard setting procedures; - PAFC Cameroon does not have its own website, so it had limited possibility to make the standard setting procedures publicly available.

PEFC ST 1001, 5.4	
<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	<p>Review of the standard setting process/acceptance of the nominations</p> <p>Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 5 states that “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> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The text is identical with the PEFC ST 1001.</p> <p>Observation: However, its position within the document creates doubts about the interpretation and implementation of the described procedures.</p> <p>Chapter 5 is without any title and in principle refers to the decision making of the PAFC Forum. However, intention of PEFC ST 1001, 5.4 is to review the proposed process and to appoint members of the working group/committee in the beginning of the standard setting/revision process.</p> <p>It is also not clear how what is the relationship between chapter 4.3, 4.4 and 5.</p>
Process	<p>Review of the standard setting process</p> <p>The applicant has not provided evidence on what comments relating to the proposed standard setting process it received and how the process was amended. However, the standard setting process has been presented at the seminar on 27-28/3/2014 and it is expected that participants in the seminar had an opportunity to comment on it.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity for the review of the standard setting process</p> <p>Justification: The seminar itself provided an opportunity to comment on the presented standard setting process.</p> <p>Appointment of members of the Working Group/PAFC Forum</p> <p>The applicant has submitted information/evidence neither on how many nominations for the membership in the PAFC Forum it received nor on how many it accepted or rejected.</p> <p>It should be noted that PAFC Cameroon has never established a formal multi-stakeholder working group or committee and instead organised two stakeholder meetings to which it invited stakeholders.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity for consideration of nominations</p> <p>Justification: The non-conformity has been assigned based on lack of evidence submitted by the applicant.</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 5.5	
5.5 The work of the working group/committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where: a) working drafts shall be available to all members of the working group/committee,	
Procedures	<p>The Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.5.2 requires that “the working documents were made available to all Forum participants”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The standard setting procedures, chapter 4.5.2 is written in the past tense. This grammatical tense is inappropriate for the purposes of the procedural document as it should refer to the future activities rather than to the past.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant provided information/evidence relating to two meetings, one focused on the start of the standard setting process 27-28/3/2014^[19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31] and second relating to validation of the results of the standard setting process 10-11/7/2015^[19, 21, 32].</p> <p>For the meeting of 27-28/3/2014, the applicant submitted a text of an invitation letter^[31] that also makes reference to the attached documents (stakeholders mapping and a draft standard) and a copy of an invitation e-mail^[19, Annex 4].</p> <p>In addition, the applicant provided a document relating to a meeting of 30/6-1/7/2015^[28]. The terms and references for meetings of 10-11/7/2015^[32] and 30/6-1/7/2015^[28] are identical and this raises a question whether both meetings took place. This concern is strengthened by the fact that the applicants Development report^[19] does not make any reference to the meeting of 30/6-1/7/2015.</p> <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The minor non-conformity has been assigned based on the following argumentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is not clear how and to whom the invitation letter^[31] was distributed; - no evidence was submitted to confirm that participants of two stakeholders' meetings (27-28/3/2014 and 10-11/7/2015) were provided with draft documents in advance.
5.5 The work of the working group/committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where: 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	
Procedures	<p>The Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.5.2 requires that “All possible efforts were made to ensure that the Forum participants were involved in developing the draft version (e.g. interviews, interpreters, travel expenses etc.)”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The standard setting procedures, chapter 4.5.2 is written in the past tense. This grammatical tense is inappropriate for the purposes of the procedural document as it should refer to the future activities rather than to the past.</p>
Process	<p>The applicant provided information/evidence relating to two meetings, one focused on validation of the standard setting process 27-28/3/2014^[19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31] and the second relating to validation of the results of the standard setting process (10-11/7/2015)^[19, 21, 32].</p> <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p>

	<p>Justification: Two stakeholders’ meetings one in the beginning of the process (a kick-off meeting) presenting the start of the process and the second at the end presenting results of the process cannot be considered as “meaningful opportunity” to contribute to the development of the standard.</p>
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<p>5.5 The work of the working group/committee shall be organised in an open and transparent manner where: c) comments and views submitted by any member of the working group/committee shall be considered in an open and transparent way and their resolution and proposed changes shall be recorded.</p>	
<p>Procedures</p>	<p>The Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.5.2 requires that “Participants’ comments and opinions were recorded (see paragraph 7). They have been dealt with in a transparent and open manner and were settled by reaching a consensus in accordance with the “Decision-Making Mechanism” procedure (see paragraph 5)”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The standard setting procedures, chapter 4.5.2 is written in the past tense. This grammatical tense is inappropriate for the purposes of the procedural document as it should refer to the future activities rather than to the past.</p> <p>Chapter 7 of the Standard setting procedures^[10] according to which the Forum’s comments and opinions should be recorded, describes the complaints resolution process. It should be noted that the comments and opinions of the PAFC Forum members are not complaints and should be resolved within the PAFC Forum debate rather than externally according to chapter 7.</p>
<p>Process</p>	<p>The applicant provided information/evidence relating to two meetings, one focused on validation of the standard setting process 27-28/3/2014^[19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31] and second relating to validation of the results of the standard setting process 10-11/7/2015^[19, 21, 32].</p> <p>The applicant provided minutes of the meetings of 27-28/3/2014^[20] and 10-11/7/2015^[21].</p> <p>The applicant provided minutes of the meetings of 27-28/3/2014^[20] and 10-11/7/2015^[21]. The meetings provide a good overview of the meetings, its participants and topics discussed.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The submitted minutes provide a good overview, its participants and topics discussed at the meetings.</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 5.6	
5.6a [The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that] the start and the end of the public consultation is announced in a timely manner in suitable media	
Procedures	<p>The Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.6.1 states that “The draft version of the standards put forward by the PAFC Forum will be made public and accessible (via PEFC Council website, emails and the PAFC Cameroon Executive Committee) at the very latest one month after it will be approved by the PAFC Forum. The public were invited to comment on it during a 60-day consultation period starting from the date when the invitation was issued”.</p> <p>“The start and end dates of the public consultation will be announced in an appropriate manner via email and circulated to the Forum participants and different stakeholders so that the dates will 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. Additionally, it will be announced on the PEFC Council website”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement. It requires the public consultation that starts after the invitation was sent out. Direct communication, radio broadcast, national online media is considered as “suitable media”.</p> <p>Observation: PAFC Cameroon website should be considered as the suitable media for the public consultation.</p> <p>Observation: The standard setting procedures, chapter 4.6.1 is written in a mixture of future and past tenses. The past grammatical tense is inappropriate for the purposes of the procedural document as it should refer to the future activities rather than to the past.</p>
Process	<p>The public consultation was carried out between 18 February 2015 and 24 May 2015^[19]. The invitation of 13 February 2015^[19, Annex 5, 33] sent by e-mail to 75 email addresses announces the start of the public consultation on 15 February 2015 with the end set up on 15 April 2015. The development report also states that^[19] the invitation was supported by personal visit of PAFC Cameroon personnel.</p> <p>The applicant claims that the COMIFAC Website also posted the forest certification standard draft that was the subject of the public consultations (file:///C:/Users/jaroslav/Downloads/Standard%20PAFC%20CMR%20(1).pdf). However, this site includes no invitation to submit comments and it is also not clear how would people find a path to this particular site.</p> <p>The news about the public consultation was published at the PEFC Council’s website: (https://www.pefc.org/news-a-media/general-sfm-news/1807-pafc-cameroon-launches-national-public-consultation).</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The public announcement was announced by direct communication and at the PEFC Council’s international website.</p> <p>Observation: The usage of the PEFC Council website is highly inappropriate for the purposes of the announcement of a national public consultation and should not be used to replace the role of a national website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PEFC Council website is only managed in English and as such it is not accessible to local stakeholders in countries where English is not generally understood language;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The news section at the PEFC Council website is changed rather quickly as it allows to display only the last 3 news. The complexity of the PEFC Council website makes a significant limitation to search for a document that is not visible at the main webpage.
<p>5.6b [The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that] the invitation of disadvantaged and key stakeholders shall be made by means that ensure that the information reaches its recipient and is understandable</p>	
<p>Procedures</p>	<p>The Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.6.1 state that “The draft version of the standards put forward by the PAFC Forum will be made public and accessible (via PEFC Council website, emails and the PAFC Cameroon Executive Committee) at the very latest one month after it will be approved by the PAFC Forum. The public were invited to comment on it during a 60-day consultation period starting from the date when the invitation was issued”.</p> <p>“Particular care will be taken to ensure that disadvantaged stakeholders can take part, with the document being sent to them in an understandable format”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement. Although it does not explicitly mention the key stakeholders, one of the required distribution channels for the invitation are “emails” that satisfies the purpose of the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The standard setting procedures, chapter 4.6.1 is written in a mixture of future and past tenses. The past grammatical tense is inappropriate for the purposes of the procedural document as it should refer to the future activities rather than to the past.</p>
<p>Process</p>	<p>The public consultation was announced by an email of 13 February 2015^[19, Annex 5, 33] sent to 75 email addresses. The development report also states that ^[19] the invitation was sent out by mail and was supported by personal visit of PAFC Cameroon personnel.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: There is sufficient evidence that the invitation to public consultation reached the key stakeholders.</p>

<p>5.6c [The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that] the enquiry draft is publicly available and accessible</p>	
<p>Procedures</p>	<p>The Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.6.1 states that “the draft version of the standards put forward by the PAFC Forum will be made public and accessible (via PEFC Council website, emails and the PAFC Cameroon Executive Committee) at the very latest one month after it will be approved by the PAFC Forum. The public were invited to comment on it during a 60-day consultation period starting from the date when the invitation was issued”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document satisfies the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The usage of the PEFC Council website is highly inappropriate for the purposes of the announcement of a national public consultation taking into account the following facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The PEFC Council website is only managed in English and as such it is not accessible to local stakeholders in countries where English is not generally understood language; b) The news section at the PEFC Council website is changed rather quickly as it allows to display only the last 3 news. The complexity of the PEFC Council website makes a significant limitation to search for a document that is not visible at the main webpage.
<p>Process</p>	<p>The public consultation was announced by an email of 13 February 2015^[33] sent to 75 email addresses. The e-mail included as an attachment the FM Standard. The development report also states that ^[19] the invitation was sent out by mail and was supported by personal visit of PAFC Cameroon personnel.</p> <p>The announcement made at the PEFC Council website did not include the commented document but only a contact point of PAFC Cameroon.</p> <p>The applicant claims that the COMIFAC Website also posted the forest certification standard draft that was the subject of the public consultations (file:///C:/Users/jaroslav/Downloads/Standard%20PAFC%20CMR%20(1).pdf). However, this site includes no invitation to submit comments and it is also not clear how would people find a path to this particular site.</p> <p>The news about the public consultation was published at the PEFC Council’s website: (https://www.pefc.org/news-a-media/general-sfm-news/1807-pafc-cameroon-launches-national-public-consultation). However, the announcement made at the PEFC Council website did not include the commented document but only a contact point of PAFC Cameroon.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The draft standard was made available via e-mail to a pre-selected stakeholders. This does not satisfy the requirement that the draft standard is publicly available and accessible. The availability of the document at the COMIFAC website is not sufficient as no reference was made to that website in the public announcement.</p>

5.6d [The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that] the public consultation is for at least 60 days	
Procedures	<p>The Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.6.1 states that “the public were invited to comment on it during a 60-day consultation period starting from the date when the invitation was issued”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The standard setting procedures, chapter 4.5.2 is written in the past tense. This grammatical tense is inappropriate for the purposes of the procedural document as it should refer to the future activities rather than to the past.</p>
Process	<p>The public consultation was carried out between 18 February 2015 and 24 May 2015, and it was extended by one month based on stakeholders’ request^[19].</p> <p>The invitation of 13 February 2015^[33] sent by e-mail to 75 email addresses announces the start of the public consultation on 15 February 2015 with the end set up on 15 April 2015. The development report also states that ^[19] the invitation was sent out by mail and was supported by personal visit of PAFC Cameroon personnel.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: There is sufficient evidence that the public consultation was announced for at least 60 days.</p>
5.6e [The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that] all comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner.	
Procedures	<p>The Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.6.2 states that “The PAFC Cameroon Executive Committee appointed by the Forum will acknowledged receipt of each comment that will be made during the public consultation.</p> <p>At the end of the 60-day consultation period, comments will be compiled and summarized by the PAFC Cameroon Executive Committee. All comments received are considered by the working group/committee in an objective manner”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The standard setting procedures require the working group/committee to consider received comments.</p> <p>Observations: Chapter 4.6.2 uses the term “working group/committee” as the whole sentence has been copied and pasted from PEFC ST 1001. However, the rest of the document^[10] uses the term “PAFC Forum” for the consensus building body. This inconsistency can lead to different interpretations and implementations of the procedures.</p>
Process	<p>The Development Report^[19] includes information that “among the main reactions that were returned to us, it should be noted, among others that of the GFBC (Groupement de la Filière Bois of Cameroon) which held internal consultations between its members to browse the document submitted to them and to give a consensual point of view”.</p> <p>The Checklist^[13] includes information that “a document gathered all the received comments and justified the way they were taken into account (integrated or rejected)”.</p>

	<p>However, the applicant has not provided any evidence that would demonstrate that the received comments were considered.</p> <p>In addition, minutes of the meeting of 10-11/7/2015 (the only meeting of the PAFC Forum after the public consultation) does not include any reference to the public consultation, comments received or their consideration.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The applicant has provided no evidence or records on received comments and their consideration by the PAFC Forum, the consensus building body.</p>
<p>5.6f [The standardising body shall organise a public consultation on the enquiry draft and shall ensure that] a synopsis of received comments compiled from material issues, including the results of their consideration, is publicly available, for example on a website.</p>	
Procedures	<p>The Standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.6.2 states that “The PAFC Cameroon Executive Committee will produce a summary of the compiled comments and the objective way in which they will be handled. This summary will be made publicly available on the website and from the PAFC Cameroon secretary’s office”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement.</p>
Process	<p>The Checklist^[13] includes information that “All the documentation is going to be publicly available on a website or with the PAFC Cameroon Secretariat”.</p> <p>However, the applicant has not provided any evidence that would demonstrate that such a summary exists and would be publicly available.</p> <p>Compliance: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The applicant has provided no evidence that a summary of received comments would exist and is publicly available.</p>

<p>PEFC ST 1001, 5.7</p>	
<p>5.7 The standardising body shall organise pilot testing of the new standards and the results of the pilot testing shall be considered by the working group/committee.</p>	
Procedures	<p>The standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.8 states that “the definitive version of the standard will be trialled on the ground (in a private owned Forest Management Unit) in order to assess its implementation and evaluate its relevance. The PAFC Forum will evaluate the results of this trial so that they can be included in the definitive version of the standard”.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement.</p>
Process	<p>On 15-20/11/2015, PAFC Cameroon organised a pilot test on a land managed by a private operator “Pallisco”. The pilot test was carried out by a team with sufficient competences in all aspects of the FM Standard (economic, environmental, and social). The pilot test resulted in a number of recommendations, mainly focused on the Operationalization manual^[8].</p> <p>The pilot test is sufficiently described in a Pilot test report^[23].</p>

	<p>There is no evidence that the results of the pilot test were considered by the PAFC Forum as the last meeting was carried out on 10-11/7/2015^[21] before the pilot test itself.</p> <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: The minor non-conformity has been assigned based on the fact that the results of the pilot test have not been considered by the PAFC Forum.</p>
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PEFC ST 1001, 5.8	
5.8 The decision of the working group to recommend the final draft for formal approval shall be taken on the basis of a consensus.	
Procedures	<p>The standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 5 requires consensus for the approval of the FM standard. The definition of the consensus (chapter 5.1) is identical with the PEFC definition.</p> <p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement.</p>
Process	<p>The Checklist^[13] includes information that “No opposition was made after the submission of the final draft to the members of the Forum”.</p> <p>The development report^[13] as well as the minutes of the meeting of 10-11/7/2015^[21, 34] include information that the stakeholders meeting was on 10/7/2015 and on 11/7/2015 was a meeting of an expert team (Specialized Technical Committee). The minutes report that stakeholders made suggestions (10/7/2015) to further improve the FM standard.</p> <p>The minutes^[21, 34] include no information that stakeholders were asked to vote (as per the standard setting procedures) or an explicit statement that the stakeholders were asked to express any opposition and that no opposition was raised.</p> <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: No evidence has been submitted to demonstrate that the PAFC Forum reached consensus. In addition, further work continued after the last stakeholders meeting (10/7/2015) by a team of experts (Specialized Technical Committee (11/7/2015) and as a follow-up of the pilot test (November 2015).</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 5.8	
<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> <p>b) a telephone conference meeting where there is a verbal yes/no vote,</p> <p>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</p> <p>d) combinations thereof.</p>	
Procedures	<p>The standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 5.2 requires a minimum quorum of 50% of each interest group of the Forum. Chapter 5.3 requires four (4) mechanisms that are identical with those listed under PEFC ST 1001, 5.8 a-d.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement.</p>
Process	<p>The Checklist^[13] includes information that “No opposition was made after the submission of the final draft to the members of the Forum”.</p> <p>The Development Report^[19] and the minutes of the meeting of 10-11/7/2015^[21, 34] include information that the stakeholders meeting was on 10/7/2015 and on 11/7/2015 was a meeting of an expert team. The minutes report that stakeholders made suggestions (10/7/2015) to further improve the FM standard.</p> <p>The minutes^[21, 34] include no information that stakeholders were asked to vote (as per the standard setting procedures) or an explicit statement that the stakeholders were asked to express any opposition and that no opposition was raised.</p> <p>During the interviews that took place during the in-country visit, some stakeholders participating in the PAFC Forum noted that no formal voting took place during the second PAFC Forum meeting; the meeting included discussion among stakeholders and there was no strong objection against the presented standard although unanimity was not reached at all levels.</p> <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: No evidence has been submitted to demonstrate that the Forum reached consensus. In addition, further work continued after the last stakeholders meeting (10/7/2015) by a team of experts (11/7/2015) and as a follow-up of the pilot test (November 2015).</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 5.9	
<p>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):</p> <p>a) discussion and negotiation on the disputed issue within the working group/committee in order to find a compromise,</p> <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,</p> <p>c) dispute resolution process.</p>	
Procedures	<p>The standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 5.2 requires that “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> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The described mechanism for resolution of an opposition in principle complies with the PEFC requirement as it includes several rounds of negotiations and voting. Although it does not end up in a dispute resolution process, this can be generally applied based on article 6 of the procedures^[10].</p>
Process	<p>The Checklist^[13] includes information that “No opposition was made after the submission of the final draft to the members of the Forum”.</p> <p>The Development Report^[19] and the minutes of the meeting of 10-11/7/2015^[21, 34] includes information that the stakeholders meeting was on 10/7/2015 and on 11/7/2015 was a meeting of an expert team. The minutes report that stakeholders made suggestions (10/7/2015) to further improve the FM standard.</p> <p>The minutes^[21, 34] include no information that stakeholders were asked to vote (as per the standard setting procedures) or an explicit statement that the stakeholders were asked to express any opposition and that no opposition was raised.</p> <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: No evidence has been submitted to demonstrate that the Forum reached consensus. In addition, further work continued after the last stakeholders meeting (10/7/2015) by a team of experts (11/7/2015) and as a follow-up of the pilot test (November 2015).</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 5.10	
5.10 Documentation on the implementation of the standard-setting process shall be made publicly available.	
Procedures	<p>The standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.10.1 states that “The PAFC Cameroon Executive Committee hereby submits 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. - Summary of the main concerns / opposition raised during the process and of complaints and appeals lodged. - The finalised version of the standard approved by consensus by the Forum. <p>This report will be made publicly available”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement.</p>
Process	<p>The Checklist^[13] includes information that “All the documentation is going to be publicly available on a website (www.pafc-Cameroon.org) or with the PAFC Cameroon Secretariat”.</p> <p>However, no evidence has been provided that a summary report on the standard setting (the Development Report^[19]) has been made publicly available, except its submission, together with other scheme documentation, for the PEFC endorsement and following presentation at the PEFC Council website (for the purposes of the PEFC international public consultation.</p> <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: No evidence has been submitted to demonstrate the compliance.</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 5.11	
5.11 The standardising body shall formally approve the standards/normative documents based on evidence of consensus reached by the working group/committee.	
Procedures	<p>The standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.10.1 states that “The PAFC Cameroon Executive Committee hereby will submit 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of the main concerns / opposition raised during the process and of complaints and appeals lodged. - The finalised version of the standard approved by consensus by the Forum. <p>This report will be made publicly available”.</p> <p>The standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.10.1 requires the PAFC General Assembly to formally approve the standard.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement as it requires a formal approval of the standard by PAFC Cameroon and requires consensus at the PAFC Forum level.</p>
<p>Process</p>	<p>The minutes of the PAFC Cameroon General Assembly^[15] of 14 April 2017 includes information about approval of the PAFC Cameroon scheme documentation, including the FM Standard^[2].</p> <p>Furthermore, the documents revised during the assessment process were approved by the PAFC Cameroon General Assembly in December 2017 and in June 2019.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The documents were formally adopted by the PAFC Cameroon General Assembly.</p>

<p>PEFC ST 1001, 5.12</p>	
<p>5.12 The formally approved standards/normative documents shall be published in a timely manner and made publicly available.</p>	
<p>Procedures</p>	<p>The standard setting procedures^[10], chapter 4.10.3 states that “The formally approved standards/normative documents by the PAFC Cameroon General assembly shall be published as soon as it is approved and made publicly available on the PAFC Cameroon web site, PEFC Council web site, at the secretary of PAFC and announced on local radios”.</p> <p>Compliance: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The procedures satisfy the requirement as it requires timely publication and public availability of the approved standard.</p> <p>Observation: The reference to the PEFC Council website is not appropriate. Firstly, PAFC Cameroon does not control the PEFC Council website and cannot therefore ensure the publication of the standard at the PEFC Council’s website. Secondly, the PEFC Council only publishes at its website those standards that are formally endorsed by the PEFC Council and this usually happens one year after the standard approval (and that cannot be considered a timely manner).</p>
<p>Process</p>	<p>The Checklist^[13] includes information that “All the documentation is going to be publicly available on a website (www.pafc-Cameroon.org) or with the PAFC Cameroon Secretariat”.</p> <p>However, no evidence has been provided that the formally approved standard(s) have been published. The referenced website www.pafc-cameroon.org is not operational.</p> <p>Conclusion: Minor non-conformity</p> <p>Justification: No evidence has been submitted to demonstrate the compliance.</p>

PEFC ST 1001, 6.1	
6.1 The standards/normative documents shall be reviewed and revised at intervals that do not exceed a five-year period. The procedures for the revision of the standards/normative documents shall follow those set out in chapter 5.	
Process	Not applicable. The assessment concerns the first edition of the SFM standard.

PEFC ST 1001, 6.2	
6.2 The revision shall define the application date and transition date of the revised standards/normative documents.	
Process	The requirement for “process” is not applicable as assessment concerns the first edition of the SFM standard.

PEFC ST 1001, 6.3	
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	The requirement for “process” is not applicable as assessment concerns the first edition of the SFM standard.

PEFC ST 1001, 6.4	
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	The requirement for “process” is not applicable as assessment concerns the first edition of the SFM standard.

8.4 Requirements for forest management standard

8.4.1 Introduction and summary

Scope of the FM Standard

Requirements for forest management are defined in the Cameroonian Standard for Forest Management (Natural Production Forests in the Permanent Forest Domain). This document is limited to the "codification" of the sustainable management of natural forests in the permanent forest estate and cannot be used for the management of community forests and forest plantations (chapter Scope). The document also expects that for those types of forests a separate standard(s) should be developed.

This rather narrowly defined scope of the document is important for the scope of PEFC endorsement as well as it defines forests that can be certified against the standard.

Structure and content of the FM standard

The FM Standard is logically structured into three (03) principles and sixteen (16) criteria. In addition, the criteria are further elaborated into indicators and sub-indicators.

The 03 principles and 16 criteria are justified as follows:

Principles		Criteria	No. of Indic.	No. of Sub-indic.
1.	The FMU, whatever its vocation, is managed sustainably for the production of goods and services	1.1 Forest management must comply with all laws in force in the country and with all international treaties to which the country is a signatory.	2	8
		1.2 The FMU is managed with a view to definite objectives and clearly established in a sustainable management perspective	11	38
		1.3 Sustainable production of timber is ensured in quality and quantity	6	25
		1.4 Sylvicultural techniques implemented on the FMU are compatible with the objectives of the development, adapted to the FMU and to the desired productions	5	13
		1.5 Within the FMU, the exploitation of non-timber forest products is carried out on a sustainable basis, in consultation with the main stakeholders	2	
		1.6 Development is reviewed periodically or exceptionally in case of force majeure	2	5
2.		2.1 Sustainable management is based on a "dynamic" knowledge of ecological knowledge	5	15

	The principal ecological functions of the forest are maintained	2.2 The impact of harvesting activities on the forest structure is minimized	3	8
		2.3 The impact of harvesting activities on biodiversity is minimized	3	8
		2.4 The natural regeneration capacity of the forest is assured	4	15
		2.5 The impact of harvesting activities on water, soil and land is minimized	6	22
3.	Depending on the size and intensity of its forest operations, the manager of the forest management unit must contribute to the improvement of the economic and social well-being of the workers on the management unit and of the local population	3.1 In the case of pygmy indigenous peoples in the FMU, forest management shall not directly or indirectly threaten, restrict or disrupt their legal rights; and their rights to the use and management of their lands, territories and resources must be recognized and respected	6	2
		3.2 The rights and duties of the workers on the FMU and the local population are clearly defined, recognized and respected	8	23
		3.3 The forest manager encourages the participation of the local populations present on the FMU in the management of forest resources	4	
		3.4 The sharing of the benefits of the forest is considered satisfactory by all stakeholders	5	5
		3.5 Depending on the size and impact of its forestry operations, the forest manager contributes to the improvement of the public health and education of the workers present on the management unit and the local populations	3	18

Compliance with PEFC ST 1003

The FM Standard **complies** with the PEFC requirements.

Observations (not causing non-conformities)

Issue date of the FM Standard

The FM Standard (the front page) includes a statement that the “issue date is a date when the standard is endorsed by the PEFC Council. This approach is not consistent with the PEFC Council principles that it endorses standards and schemes that are formally approved and published (see also PEFC ST 1001).

Mandatory nature and wording of the FM Standard

The FM Standard is not systemically using a number of verbs for its provisions, including “must”, “should”, “shall”, “can” but also descriptive verbs such as “is”, “are”, “will”, etc.

PAFC Cameroon should use a harmonized usage of verbs indicating mandatory nature of the standard’s provisions, preferably the one used by ISO (International Standardization Organization).

Concerning the results of the assessment, the terms such “is”, “are”, “will”, etc. were considered as indicating a mandatory nature of the provisions. However, the term “should” has been interpreted as a recommendation.

Translation of the FM standard

The English translation of the FM Standard includes some errors, e.g. Sub-indicator 1.2.6.7, 2.4.4.2, 2.5.3.3, etc. This seems to be a result of translation as the original French version is correct and more precise.

Clarity and auditability of the FM Standard

The FM Standard is using on a number of occasions terms such as “where possible”, “where appropriate”, “where possible”, “where relevant” (e.g. 1.2.4.1, 1.2.4.2, 2.3.3.5, 2.4.4.1). Those terms decrease the clarity and unambiguity of the standard and allow for different interpretations within the auditing and certification process.

8.4.2 Detailed assessment

PEFC ST 1003, 4.1a	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>4.1 The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The documents include both management system (management planning, monitoring, documented procedures, training and competences of staff, etc.) as well as performance-based requirements.</p> <p>The requirements of the documents are designed for the forest management unit level.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document complies with the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 4.1b	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>4.1 The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall</p> <p>b) be clear, objective-based and auditable.</p>	<p>In general, the wording of the documents is clear, objective based on auditable.</p> <p>In addition to the FM Standard, the Operationalization manual provides details of sources of verification and means of verification of the FM Standard's requirements.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 4.1c	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>4.1 The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall</p> <p>c) apply to activities of all operators in the defined forest area who have a measurable impact on achieving compliance with the requirements.</p>	<p>"SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.6.7: Workers in the forest management unit, subcontractors and riparian communities shall be made aware of the requirements of these forest management standards and the implications of their implementation for forest management practices. Each of the stakeholders in the forest management unit".</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard complies with the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The English version of the FM Standard includes a syntax error in Sub-indicator 1.2.6.7, the last sentence. Based on review of its original French version, this is a result of translation as the French version is correct.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 4.1d	FM Standard ^[2] and its operationalization manual ^[11]
<p>4.1 The requirements for sustainable forest management defined by regional, national or sub-national forest management standards shall</p> <p>d) require record-keeping that provides evidence of compliance with the requirements of the forest management standards.</p>	<p>The Operational manual identifies documentation and records that shall be provided to an auditor during the certification process. Those documents and records provide evidence of compliance with the forest management standard.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The operational manual satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.1	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>	<p>“INDICATOR 1.2.4: Forest management aims to ensure sustainable, ecologically sound, economically profitable and socially relevant forest management.”</p> <p>Sub-indicators 1.2.4.1-1.2.4.6 state that “the forest management has as one of its specific objectives”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “the maintenance, preservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the ecosystem, species, and genetic levels, and where possible or appropriate, diversity of the landscape” (1.2.4.1); - “the maintenance and improvement of the vitality and health of forest ecosystems and the rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems where possible through silvicultural means (1.2.4.2); - “to preserve or increase the extent of forests and other wooded areas and improve the quality of economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water” (1.2.4.3); - “to maintain the capacity of forests to produce a range of timber and non-timber forest products on a sustainable basis” (1.2.4.4); - “the achievement of sound economic performance, taking into account available market studies and opportunities to find new markets and economic activities related to all goods and relevant forest services” (1.2.4.5) and - “the preservation and enhancement of the protective functions of forests for society, such as protection of infrastructure, protection of soils from erosion, and protection of water resources” (1.2.4.6).

Conclusion: Conformity

Justification: The referenced requirements clearly describe the objectives of the forest management.

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.2	FM Standard ^[2] and its operationalization manual ^[11]
<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 negative impacts.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.7.6: The management plan shall include a cycle from inventory to planning, through implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and include appropriate / adequate Economic, social and environmental impacts assessment of forest management operations. This shall serve as a basis for a continuous improvement cycle to minimize or avoid negative impacts”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.6.2.1: Monitoring results, research and new scientific and technical data are incorporated into the development document as part of the revisions”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.1.4: The results of the monitoring system and the new scientific or technical data are taken into account for the improvement of practices related to the exploitation of the forest”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: Referenced indicators require forest management plan to be based on the “management cycle”. The feedback of monitoring activities is considered as the principle element of continuous improvement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.3	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.1.3 Inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to local and national conditions and in correspondence with the topics described in this document.</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 1.2.5: Forest management should be based on a thorough understanding of the forest resource base in the forest unit”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.5.1: Inventory and mapping of forest resources will be developed and maintained. They will be adapted to national and local conditions and in accordance with the themes described or addressed in the management plan”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.7.1: The management plan, in its technical prescriptions, is based on an inventory of development carried out according to the rules of the art (technical standards in force)”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.3.1: The inventory of exploitation is carried out in advance in accordance with the standards in force”.</p>

Conclusion: Conformity

Justification: The FM Standard requires inventory and mapping of forest resources of the forest management unit.

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.4	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“INDICATOR 1.2.7: There is a management plan approved by the Forestry Administration”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.7.1: The management plan, in its technical prescriptions, is based on an inventory of development carried out according to the rules of the art (technical standards in force).”</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.3.3: Forest Exploitation/Harvesting is carried out in accordance with the management plan and the specifications annexed to the management convention/agreement”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.3.1: The quinquennial management plan is developed each year to cover the next five years of implementation of the management plan”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.3.3: The annual plan of operations effectively plans the implementation, for a period of one year, of the quinquennial management plan in all its technical, social, environmental and ecological articulations. quinquennial management plan”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires the management plan, the quinquennial management plan and an annual plan of operations. The approval of the plan ensures compliance with the legislation. Sub-indicators 1.2.7.1-1.2.7.7 ensure that the plan adequately covers forest resources.</p> <p>Observation: The English version of the FM Standard includes a syntax error in Sub-indicator 1.3.3.3, the last sentence. Based on review of its original French version, this is a result of translation as the French version is correct.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.5	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“SUB-INDICATORS 1.2.4.1.-1.2.4.6 require to set up objectives of forest management. The Operationalization manual considers the management plan as source of information for verification of the sub-indicators”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.2.5: Forest management should be based on a thorough understanding of the forest resource base in the forest unit”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.5.1: Inventory and mapping of forest resources will be developed and maintained. They will be adapted to</p>

	<p>national and local conditions and in accordance with the themes described or addressed in the management plan”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.6.3: The limits of the managed forest unit and the various subdivisions (micro-zoning) are materialized in the field in accordance with the legislation in force”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.7.2: The management plan, in its technical prescriptions for the authorized annual allowable cut, is based on studies, carried out according to the most current technical standards, on the dynamics of the forest for species deductions”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.7.5: The management plan shall include at least a description of the current / present condition of the forest”.</p> <p>SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.7.8: the forest management plan shall include information on allowable exploitation of non-timber forest products.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires for management plans to description of forest resources (1.2.5, 1.2.5.1, 1.2.6.3, 1.2.7.5); requires to set up objectives of forest management (1.2.4.1-1.2.4.6) and annual allowable exploitation for both timber (1.2.7.2) and non-timber forest products (1.2.7.8).</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.6	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.1.6 A summary of the forest management plan or its equivalent appropriate to the scope and scale of forest management, which contains information about the forest management measures to be applied, is publicly available. The summary may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by national legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 1.2.11: A summary of the management plan, appropriate to the scope or scale and scale of forest management, containing information related to forest management measures to be applied, is available to the public.”</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.7	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.1.7 Monitoring of forest resources and evaluation of their management shall be periodically performed, and results fed back into the planning process.</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 1.6.1: There is ongoing monitoring / evaluation of the implementation of the management plan by the competent authorities”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.6.1.1: The annual activity report shall report on progress in the implementation of forest management”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.6.1.2: A permanent plot disposal exists and is regularly measured and analyzed”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.6.1.3: The actual Harvesting is regularly compared with the planning document forecasts”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.6.2: The development document is revised at a defined periodicity at the national level”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.6.2.1: Monitoring results, research and new scientific and technical data are incorporated into the development document as part of the revisions”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires on-going monitoring of implementation of the management plan with annual reporting and feedback to the management planning.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.8	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.1.8 Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 1.2.8: A specification annexed to the agreement [<i>agreement between concessionaire and the State</i>] and negotiated between the stakeholders sets out the methods of intervention as well as the rights and duties of the forest manager”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.8.9: Responsibilities for the implementation of forest management will be clearly defined and assigned in the specifications”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the document complies with the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.9	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>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.</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 1.3.2: Rotation and Forest Possibility (Harvest Rate) are clearly established and are consistent with sustained production”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.3.4: The wastage of the resource is minimized at all stages of production and processing”.</p> <p>“Sub-indicators 1.3.4.1-1.3.4.11 require minimisation of impacts on forest resources, trees (1.3.4.1), soil (1.3.4.4), water resources (1.3.4.6) and forest services (1.3.4.11) and requires mitigation of negative impacts and relating compensation mechanism (1.3.4.11)”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires sustainable production (1.3.2) and minimisation of impacts on forest resources (1.3.4).</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.10	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.1.10 Appropriate silvicultural measures shall be taken to maintain or reach a level of the growing stock that is economically, ecologically and socially desirable.</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 1.3.2: Rotation and Forest Possibility (Harvest Rate) are clearly established and are consistent with sustained production”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.2.1: The possibility must correspond to a harvest rate of wood products (and possibly non-wood products) that is sustainable or sustainable over the long term”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.2.2: The calculations of forest possibility and rotation are verifiable from the planning or management documents”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.2.3: The rotation is based on growth rates, minimum administrative operating indicators and data from the management inventory”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.2.4: The management plan sets out prospects beyond the first rotation”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.4.1.2: Appropriate silvicultural measures will be taken to maintain or achieve an economically, ecologically and socially desirable harvest level”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.4.1: The conditions of natural regeneration are met and the processes of this regeneration continue”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p>	

Justification: The FM Standard does not explicitly refer to a “desirable growing stock”. However, the conformity with the PEFC requirement is based on the fact that the requirements included in the document relating to the sustainable level of harvest (1.3.2, 1.4.1) and continuing natural regeneration lead to the desirable growing stock.

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.11	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.1.11 Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <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>“INDICATOR 1.2.10: In forest management prescription proposals, conversion of land within the forest unit will be permitted only in cases where the impact on the forest ecosystem is considered positive”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.10.1: The conversion of forests to other forms of land use, including the conversion / transformation of primary or other natural forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) comply with national and regional policy and legislation relevant to 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) 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 (c) make a contribution to long-term conservation, as well as social and economic benefits; and d) include stakeholders consultation during the land-use planning. <p>The total area of conversion of forests under the justified circumstances since the first certification against the PAFC Cameroon scheme shall not exceed 5% of the FMU’s area”.</p> <p>Definitions:</p> <p>“Primary forest: A forest that has never been directly disturbed by humans and that has developed as a result of natural disturbances and natural processes, irrespective of age. This term includes forests used without consequences by indigenous and riparian communities with traditional lifestyles”.</p> <p>“Natural forests: A forest area composed of native trees, not planted by man. It is generally classified according to the criteria of forest</p>

	<p>formation or type, degree of disturbance or modification and human interference”.</p> <p>“Forest conversion: Forest conversion refers to the direct, man-made transformation of forests to other forms / types of land or land use including the conversion of primary forests or other natural forests to forest plantations.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The Standard complies with the PEFC requirements as it prohibits in principle forest conversion and provides criteria for “justified circumstances” where the forest conversion is acceptable.</p> <p>The 5 % threshold that applies cumulatively for the FMU since the first certification against the PAFC scheme provides sufficient safeguard on the scale of justified circumstances taking into account the potential needs for development of an area, including infrastructure but also development of local communities.</p> <p>The conversion to forest plantation goes over and above the PEFC requirement 5.1.11 as it also applies to “other natural forests”. This is in conformity with the spirit of PEFC ST 1001 and especially with its requirements on maintaining and enhancing quality of forest resources.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.1.12	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.10.2: The conversion of abandoned and treeless land into forest areas should be taken into account, especially when it can add / contribute economic, ecological, social and / or cultural value”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.1	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.4.2: Forest management has as one of its specific objectives the maintenance and improvement of the vitality and health of forest ecosystems and the rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems where possible through silvicultural means”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.2	FM Standard ^[2] and its operationalization manual ^[11]
<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,</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 2.1.5: Monitoring of ecosystem health is conducted and documented and its</p>

<p>diseases, overgrazing and overstocking, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations.</p>	<p>results are taken into account in the forest management planning process”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.1.5.1: Forest health and vitality will be verified periodically, in particular key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially affect the health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as insect pests, diseases, overgrazing and Excessive storage, fires, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or management operations”.</p> <p>The operationalization manual states that results of the monitoring are incorporated in the “five-year management plan”</p> <p>In addition, the FM Standard also includes detailed requirements for ecological monitoring (2.1.4) and monitoring of impacts of forest exploitation activities (2.1.2, 1.6.1) that also include information on forest health and vitality.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires monitoring of forest health and vitality and its feedback into the planning process (2.1.5.1). The document does not specify periodicity of the monitoring program. However, the operationalisation manual states that the source of information for verifying the monitoring program is the five-year management plan. This implies that the periodicity of the monitoring program is aligned with the five-year management plan.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.3	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.2.3 The monitoring and maintaining of health and vitality of forest ecosystems shall take into consideration the effects of naturally occurring fire, pests and other disturbances.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.1.5.2 Monitoring and maintaining the health and vitality of forest ecosystems should take into account the effects of natural fires, insect pests and other disturbances”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.4	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.4.1: Wood harvesting techniques shall minimize direct or indirect damage to the forest, for example by avoiding damage to forest or undisturbed trees and trees”.</p> <p>Additional sub-indicators to 1.3.4 require minimization of impacts on soil, water resources and trees.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.4.2.1: Forest management plans or their equivalents should specify ways and means to minimize the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems”.</p>

Conclusion: Conformity

Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement as it makes an explicit requirement relating to the content of a forest management plan (1.4.2.1) as well as requirement relating to forestry operations (1.3.4.1).

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.5	FM Standard ^[2]
<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 diversity shall be encouraged and/or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resistance capacity of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.4.2.2: Forest management practices shall make the best use of natural structures and processes and use biological preventive measures wherever and whenever economically feasible in order to preserve and improve health and forest vitality”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.4.2.3: Suitable genetic, structural and species diversity shall be encouraged and / or maintained or preserved to enhance forest stability, vitality and resilience in the face of harmful or hostile environmental factors and to strengthen the mechanisms of mutual regulation”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.6	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.2.6 Lighting of fires shall be avoided and is only permitted if it is necessary for the achievement of the management goals of the forest management unit.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.3.4.6: The ignition of fires shall be avoided and shall be permitted only if necessary to achieve the management objectives of the forest management unit”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.7	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.2.7 Appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied. The spillage of oil during forest management operations or the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be avoided, collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner.</p>	<p>“CRITERIA 2.4: The natural regeneration capacity of the forest is assured, and artificial regeneration compensating activities are carried out to improve and restore ecological connectivity”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.4.1: The conditions of natural regeneration are met and the processes of this regeneration continue”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.4.3: Artificial regeneration activities in the forest unit will be carried out under special circumstances and with a view to improving the forest ecosystem”.</p>

	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.4.3.1: For afforestation and reforestation, indigenous species and local varieties well adapted to site conditions will be preferred, where relevant or appropriate. Only introduced species or local varieties whose impacts on the ecosystem and genetic integrity of indigenous species and local varieties have been assessed and whether negative impacts can be avoided or mitigated will be used”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.2.7: Adequate or appropriate forest management practices such as afforestation or deforestation with species and provenances of trees adapted to the site or the use of maintenance, harvesting or transport techniques that minimize or reduce damage to the soil and / or trees, should be applied”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.2.8: Oil spill during forest management operations should be avoided. In the event of an accidental spill, corrective measures should be taken as soon as possible in order to minimize the negative impact on the environment”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.2.9: Anarchic deposits of non-organic waste and debris must be avoided. Such waste and refuse must be collected and stored in well-defined locations and then disposed of in strict compliance with relevant environmental standards”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.1.3: Used oils are recovered and recycled by an approved body”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.1.4: Chemical contamination by the forest operator of trophic chains and aquatic ecosystems is prohibited”.</p>
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Conclusion: Conformity

Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement. It requires to ensure natural regeneration capacity (2.4) and the purpose of the artificial regeneration is to compensate the natural regeneration and to improve ecological connectivity and biodiversity. For reforestation and afforestation activities it requires use on local species and provenances.

The FM standard also includes requirements for waste management, chemical contamination and oil disposal (2.5.2.8, 2.5.2.9, 2.5.1.3, 2.5.1.4).

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.8	FM Standard ^[2]
5.2.8 The use of pesticides shall be minimised and appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures preferred.	“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.4.1: The use of pesticides will be minimized / limited to appropriate alternatives such as other biological measurements / methods”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.9	FM Standard ^[2]
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.	“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.4.2: WHO pesticides of types A1 and 1B and other highly or highly toxic pesticides shall be banned”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.10	FM Standard ^[2]
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>SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.4.3: Pesticides such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and all pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited;</p> <p>Note: “pesticides banned by international agreements” are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2001, as amended.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The wording of the FM Standard is identical with PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.9.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.11	FM Standard ^[2]
5.2.11 The use of pesticides shall follow the instructions given by the pesticide producer and be implemented with proper equipment and training.	“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.4.4: The use of pesticides shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and implemented after adequate training and with appropriate equipment for operators”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.2.12	FM Standard ^[2]
5.2.12 Where fertilisers are used, they shall be applied in a controlled manner and with due consideration for the environment.	“INDICATOR 2.5.5: When fertilizers are used, this shall be done in a controlled manner and taking into account potential impacts on the forest ecosystem and the environment”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.3.1	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.3.1 Forest management planning shall aim to maintain the capability of forests to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.4.4: Forest management has as one of its specific objectives to maintain the capacity of forests to produce a range of timber and non-timber forest products on a sustainable basis”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.3.2: Rotation and Forest Possibility (Harvest Rate) are clearly established and are consistent with sustained production”.</p> <p>“CRITERIA 1.5: Within the forest management unit, the exploitation of non-timber forest products is carried out on a sustainable basis, in consultation with the main stakeholders”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires sustainable production as a primary management objective (1.2.4.4) and includes requirements for sustainable exploitation of timber (1.3.2) as well as non-timber products (1.5).</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.3.2	FM Standard ^[2]
<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.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.4.5: Forest management has as one of its specific objectives the achievement of sound economic performance, taking into account available market studies and opportunities to find new markets and economic activities related to all goods and relevant forest services”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires sound economic performance as one of primary management objectives (1.2.4.5)</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.3.3	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.3.3 Forest management plans or their equivalents shall take into account the different uses or functions of the managed forest area. Forest management planning shall make use of those policy instruments set up to support the production of commercial and non-commercial forest goods and services.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.5.1: Inventory and mapping of forest resources will be developed and maintained. They will be adapted to national and local conditions and in accordance with the themes described or addressed in the management plan”.</p> <p>SUB-INDICATOR 1.4.4.4: Forest management operations should take account of all socio-economic functions, especially the recreational function and the aesthetic dimension of forests, preserving, for example, varied forests, and safeguarding the attractiveness of forests.</p>

	Trees, groves and other features such as colors, flowers and fruits.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard includes provisions relating to forest inventory and mapping that identifies areas with different uses and functions (e.g. conservation purposes). Various socio-economic functions are taken into considerations (1.4.4.4).</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.3.4	FM Standard ^[2]
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.	“SUB-INDICATOR 1.4.1.1: In the silvicultural program, forest management practices shall maintain / conserve and improve forest resources and encourage diversified production of goods and services in the long term”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.3.5	FM Standard ^[2]
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.	<p>“CRITERIA 2.4: The natural regeneration capacity of the forest is assured, and artificial regeneration compensating activities are carried out to improve and restore ecological connectivity”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.4.1: The conditions of natural regeneration are met and the processes of this regeneration continue”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.4.3: Artificial regeneration activities in the forest unit will be carried out under special circumstances and with a view to improving the forest ecosystem”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.2.7: Adequate or appropriate forest management practices such as afforestation or deforestation with species and provenances of trees adapted to the site or the use of maintenance, harvesting or transport techniques that Minimize or minimize damage to the soil and / or trees”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.3.2: Rotation and Forest Possibility (Harvest Rate) are clearly established and are consistent with sustained production”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.3.4: The wastage of the resource is minimized at all stages of production and processing”.</p> <p>“Sub-indicators 1.3.4.1-1.3.4.11 require minimisation of impacts on forest resources, trees (1.3.4.1), soil (1.3.4.4), water resources (1.3.4.6) and forest services (1.3.4.11) and</p>

	requires mitigation of negative impacts and relating compensation mechanism (1.3.4.11)".
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard includes requirements that ensure productive and regeneration capacity (2.4) and minimise damage/negative impacts on trees, forest resources, water and soil (2.5.2.7, 1.3.4).</p> <p>It should be noted that “tending” is rarely used in the management on natural tropical forests.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.3.6	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.3.6 Harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood forest products shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 1.3.2: Rotation and Forest Possibility (Harvest Rate) are clearly established and are consistent with sustained production”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.2.1: The Possibility must correspond to a harvest rate of wood products (and possibly non-wood products) that is sustainable or sustainable over the long term”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.2.2: The calculations of forest possibility and rotation are verifiable from the planning or management documents”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.2.3: The rotation is based on growth rates, minimum administrative operating indicators and data from the management inventory”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.2.4: The management plan sets out prospects beyond the first rotation”.</p> <p>“CRITERIA 1.5: Within the forest management unit, the exploitation of non-timber forest products is carried out on a sustainable basis, in consultation with the main stakeholders”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.5.1: Non-timber forest products whose uses are known are identified and identified”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.5.2: Where this is the responsibility of the forest manager and is acquired in forest management, the exploitation of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, will be regulated, monitored and controlled”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard ensure sustainable exploitation of timber and non-timber forest products.</p> <p>Although the standard is not explicitly referring to the “nutrition off-take”, the nutrition balance is ensured by the silvicultural method of individual trees harvesting, harvest rate and rotation period.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.3.7	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“CRITERIA 1.5: Within the forest management unit, the exploitation of non-timber forest products is carried out on a sustainable basis, in consultation with the main stakeholders”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.5.1: Non-timber forest products whose uses are known are identified and identified”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.5.2: Where this is the responsibility of the forest manager and is acquired in forest management, the exploitation of non-wood forest products, including hunting and fishing, will be regulated, monitored and controlled”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard ensures that the exploitation of non-timber forest products is regulated, monitored and controlled.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.3.8	FM Standard ^[2] and its operationalization manual ^[11]
<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>SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.9.2: The main road network is planned for the duration of the UFE or five-year block.</p> <p>SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.4.6: Forest management practices will minimize direct damage to water resources (road construction, forestry maintenance, wood processing in forest parks).</p> <p>SUB-INDICATOR 2.2.1.4: Infrastructure dimensions (primary and secondary tracks, quarries, woodlots, logging roads) are minimized.</p> <p>INDICATOR 2.5.6: The construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure should be carried out in strict compliance with relevant standards, so as to limit the exposure of bare soil, avoid the introduction of soil into Waterways and to preserve the natural level and function of river courses and beds.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires planning of forest infrastructure (1.2.9.2) as well as minimising its impact on the environment (1.3.4.6, 2.2.1.4, 2.5.6).</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.1	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>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.</p>	<p>“CRITERION 1.2: The forest management unit is managed with clear objectives and clearly established from a sustainable management perspective”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.4.1: Forest management has as one of its specific objectives the maintenance, preservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the ecosystem, species, and genetic levels, and where possible or appropriate, diversity of the landscape”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard includes the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity amongst the primary objectives of forest management.</p>	

<p>5.4.2 Forest management planning, inventory and mapping of forest resources shall identify, protect and/or conserve ecologically important forest areas containing significant concentrations of:</p> <p>a) protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems such as riparian areas and wetland biotopes;</p> <p>b) areas containing endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists;</p> <p>c) endangered or protected genetic <i>in situ</i> resources; and taking into account; 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>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.5.2: The inventory and mapping (cartography) of forest resources will identify, protect and / or conserve ecologically important forest areas containing significant concentrations of:</p> <p>(a) Representative, protected and rare forest ecosystems; Or sensitive areas such as riparian areas and wetland biotopes;</p> <p>(b) Areas containing habitats and endemic species or endangered species as defined in the recognized list of references;</p> <p>(c) Protected or threatened in situ genetic resources;</p> <p>(d) nationally significant large landscape areas with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.”</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.5.3: The ecologically important forest areas identify must be excluded from logging”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.3.3.1: Sensitive areas determined during ecological diagnosis are included in ecologically important forests areas”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.3.3.2: There is a map of the various ecologically important forest areas and pockets of non-harvestable forests”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires to identify and protect/preserve ecologically important forest areas (1.2.5.2) whose definition and wording is identical with PEFC ST 1001. Those areas shall be identified, mapped and protected by their exclusion from harvesting operation.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.3	FM Standard ^[2]
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.	“SUB-INDICATOR 2.3.3.5: Protected animal and plant species will not be exploited for commercial purposes and measures will be taken to protect them and, where relevant, to increase their populations”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard prohibits commercialisation of protected species.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.4	FM Standard ^[2]
5.4.4 Forest management shall ensure successful regeneration through natural regeneration or, where not appropriate, planting that is adequate to ensure the quantity and quality of the forest resources.	<p>“CRITERIA 2.4: The natural regeneration capacity of the forest is assured, and artificial regeneration compensating activities are carried out to improve and restore ecological connectivity”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.4.1: The conditions of natural regeneration are met and the processes of this regeneration continue”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.4.3: Artificial regeneration activities in the forest unit will be carried out under special circumstances and with a view to improving the forest ecosystem”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.4.4: Forest management shall ensure successful regeneration through natural regeneration and will be planned and implemented on the basis of relevant techniques and tools”.</p> <p>Each of the presented “indicators” also include sub-indicators with further detailed requirements.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard is based on natural regeneration of forests. The artificial regeneration is only considered to complement the natural regeneration in order to improve the forest ecosystem.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.5	FM Standard ^[2]
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,	<p>“CRITERIA 2.4: The natural regeneration capacity of the forest is assured, and artificial regeneration compensating activities are carried out to improve and restore ecological connectivity”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.4.3: Artificial regeneration activities in the forest unit will be carried out</p>

<p>and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimised.</p>	<p>under special circumstances and with a view to improving the forest ecosystem”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.4.3.1: For afforestation and reforestation, indigenous species and local varieties well adapted to site conditions will be preferred, where relevant or appropriate. Only introduced species or local varieties whose impacts on the ecosystem and genetic integrity of indigenous species and local varieties have been assessed and whether negative impacts can be avoided or mitigated will be used”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires natural regeneration as principal technique of forest regeneration (2.4). An artificial regeneration is considered as an exceptional measure with the objective of the forest ecosystem improvement (2.4.3). The conditions for the artificial regeneration or afforestation are identical with the PEFC requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.6	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.4.6 Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.4.3.2: Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity will be encouraged or promoted”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The text of the FM Standard is identical with PEFC ST 1003.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.7	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.4.7 Genetically-modified trees shall not be used.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.4.3.3: Genetically modified trees will not be used”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.8	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.4.8 Forest management practices shall, where appropriate, promote a diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures such as uneven-aged stands and the diversity of species such as mixed stands. Where appropriate, the practices shall also aim to maintain and restore landscape diversity.</p>	<p>“CRITERIA 2.4: The natural regeneration capacity of the forest is assured, and artificial regeneration compensating activities are carried out to improve and restore ecological connectivity”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.4.1: The conditions of natural regeneration are met and the processes of this regeneration continue”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.4.1.1: Phenological rhythms and mechanisms of dissemination are not disturbed”.</p>

	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.4.1.2: The number of seed producers guarantees the sustainability of the forest”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.4.1.3: There is a good distribution of species managed by size classes”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.4.4.1: Practices related to forest management should promote, where appropriate, a diversity of both vertical and horizontal structures such as forests of different ages and diversity of species such as Mixed forests”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires natural regeneration as principal technique of forest regeneration (2.4). Several measures are required to ensure continuous regeneration are described under 2.4.1 and related sub-indicators that, in principle, deliver horizontally and vertically structured stands with a diversity of species. Sub-indicator 2.4.4.1 than includes additional requirement that is identical with the PEFC requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.9	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.4.9 Traditional management systems that have created valuable ecosystems, such as coppice, on appropriate sites shall be supported, when economically feasible.</p>	<p>The standard does not have a specific requirement for a traditional management system.</p> <p>However, the FM Standard requires natural regeneration as principal technique of forest regeneration (2.4). Several measures are required to ensure continuous regeneration are described under 2.4.1 and related sub-indicators that, in principle, deliver horizontally and vertically structured stands with a diversity of species. Sub-indicator 2.4.4.1 than includes additional requirement that is identical with the PEFC requirement.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM is based on selective cutting while ensuring regeneration capacity of forests and its structure. This can be considered as a traditional management system in Cameroon.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.10	FM Standard ^[2]
<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.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.4.4.2: Maintenance and harvesting operations shall be conducted in such a way that they do not permanently damage ecosystems. Where practicable practical measures will be taken to improve and preserve biological diversity”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.3.4.1: Wood harvesting techniques shall minimize direct or indirect damage to the forest, for example by avoiding</p>

	<p>damage to forest or undisturbed trees and trees”.</p> <p>Additional sub-indicators to 1.3.4 require minimization of impacts on soil, water resources and trees.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.4.2.1: Forest management plans or their equivalents should specify ways and means to minimize the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard has multiple requirements that are focused on minimisation of impacts and damages caused by harvesting operations.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.11	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.4.11 Infrastructure shall be planned and constructed in a way that minimises damage to ecosystems, especially to rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetic reserves, and that takes threatened or other key species – in particular their migration patterns – into consideration.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.2.6: The infrastructure will be planned and constructed in such a way that it mitigates damage to ecosystems, particularly representative, sensitive or rare ecosystems and genetic reserves, and taking into account threatened or essential species”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.4.1.5: Secondary vegetation continuously colonizes abandoned runways and roads”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard includes requirements focused on minimisation of damages caused by planning and construction the forest infrastructure.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.12	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.4.12 With due regard to 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>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.3.4: With due regard to management objectives, measures shall be taken to to balance the pressure of animal populations in erosive areas, grazing on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard regulates the pressure of animal populations as well as the grazing”.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.4.13	FM Standard ^[2]
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.	“INDICATOR 2.3.6: Deadwood fallen or standing, hollow trees, old groves and species of rare or special trees will be left in quantity and in a distribution necessary to safeguard biodiversity, taking into account the effect Potential for the health and stability of forests and surrounding ecosystems”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard includes an identical requirement as PEFC ST 1003.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.5.1	FM Standard ^[2]
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.	“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.4.6: Forest management has as one of its specific objectives the preservation and enhancement of the protective functions of forests for society, such as protection of infrastructure, protection of soils from erosion, and Protection of water resources”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.5.2	FM Standard ^[2]
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.	INDICATOR 2.3.2: Areas that fulfill specific protective functions recognized by society will be recorded and mapped and forest management plans or their equivalents will have to take full account of these areas.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard includes the same wording as PEFC ST 1003.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.5.3	FM Standard ^[2]
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.	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.2.1: Logging and its infrastructure minimize impacts on sensitive areas of the terrain (bottom bottoms, riversides, steep slopes)”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.5.3: Water and soil restoration programs are implemented as needed”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.3.2: All sites where disturbing erosion or other forms of significant</p>

	<p>degradation of water and soil are found are rehabilitated”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.3.3 Special attention shall shall be given to silviculture operations on sensitive soils and erosion zones and in areas where operations can lead to excessive soil erosion to watercourses. Inappropriate techniques such as deep plowing and the use of unsuitable machinery shall shall be avoided in such areas”</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.3.4: Special measures shall be taken to mitigate the impact of animal population pressure in erosive areas, grazing on forest regeneration and growth as well as on biodiversity”</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: There is a grammar error in the wording “shall shall”.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.5.4	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>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.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.1.5: Particular attention shall be paid to forest management practices in forest regions with protective functions of water to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inadequate use of chemicals and other harmful substances or inadequate practices of silviculture that adversely affect water quality shall be avoided”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.5.5	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.2.2: Infrastructure erosion is minimized”</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.2.5: The implementation of the necessary infrastructure for operational purposes is optimized according to the topography of the site and the location of the resource”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.2.6: The infrastructure will be planned and constructed in such a way that it mitigates damage to ecosystems, particularly representative, sensitive or rare ecosystems and genetic reserves, and taking into account threatened or essential species”.</p>

	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.5.3.1: Old infrastructure in use is brought into compliance and maintained on a regular basis”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.5.6: The construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure should be carried out in strict compliance with relevant standards, so as to limit the exposure of bare soil, avoid the introduction of soil into Waterways and to preserve the natural level and function of river courses and beds”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard includes multiple requirements focused on planning, construction and maintenance of infrastructure and minimisation of its negative impacts on the environment.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.1	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.4.3: Forest management has as one of its specific objectives to preserve or increase the extent of forests and other wooded areas and improve the quality of economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources, including soil and water”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.1.2.1: Forest management is planned on the basis of a specific socio-economic study to evaluate options for maximizing the positive impacts of forest management on the local economy. This study will necessarily examine new economic opportunities related to the socio-economic functions of forests”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.1.1.4: forest management is planned on the basis of a specific study on the rights of occupation and land use by the indigenous populations bordering the forest”.</p> <p>“CRITERIA 3.4: Sharing the benefits of the forest is considered satisfactory by all parties involved”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.4.1: The local populations present on the management unit and bordering on it benefit from a part of the income generated by the exploitation in accordance with the regulations in force”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.4.2: Communities living in or near the harvested area have priority in terms of employment, training with equal competence and availability”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.4.3: Depending on the size and impact of its forest operations at the local level, the forest manager contributes to the development of a local economic fabric”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p>	

Justification: The FM Standard includes multiple requirements relating to socio-economic functions of forests. It includes the socio-economic functions amongst the primary objectives of forest management (1.2.4.3); it requires a socio-economic study (1.1.2.1, 1.1.1.4) and specifies contribution to local economy. Other socio-economic functions of forests are in detail specified under Criterion 3.

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.2	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.6.2 Forest management shall promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent to the forest management area.</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 3.4.5: Forest management should promote the long-term health and well-being of communities / populations living in and near forest management areas”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.4.5.1: The forest manager has a mechanism to support the health system to the benefit of the communities bordering the forest unit”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.4.5.2: the forest manager has a mechanism to support the educational system for the benefit of the communities bordering the forest unit”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.4.5.3: The forest manager has a financial mechanism for the benefit of the communities bordering the forest unit to support the quality of health and education services”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard includes requirements relating to the long-term health and well-being of communities that satisfy the PEFC requirements.</p> <p>Observation: Indicator 3.4.5 uses the wording “should” that does not indicate a mandatory requirement. However, this has not resulted in a non-conformity as other related sub-indicators can be considered as of mandatory nature.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.3	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.6.3 Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant forest area. Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.2.8.4: Specific clauses relating to land tenure and land use rights requirements by indigenous peoples bordering the forest are clearly defined in the Terms of Reference of the Management Convention/Agreement signed between the State and forestry concessionaire”.</p> <p>“CRITERION 3.1: In the case of pygmy indigenous peoples in the forest management unit, forest management shall not threaten, restrict, or disrupt, directly or indirectly, their legal rights; And their rights to the use and management of their lands, territories and resources must be recognized and respected”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.2.1: The legal and customary rights of local populations to the ownership, use and management of their land and resources</p>

	<p>within the forest unit are clearly defined, recognized and enforced”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.2.2: Property rights and lease provisions will be clearly defined and related documents established in relation to the forest areas concerned in the forest unit. These documents constitute annexes to the Specifications signed between the State and the forest concessionaire”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirements. It requires clear definition of property and lease rights (3.2.2) as well as rights of indigenous people (1.2.8.4, 3.1) and local populations (3.2.1).</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.4	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>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 of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon without the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of the rights, including the provision of compensation where applicable. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved or is in dispute there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such 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>“CRITERION 3.1: In the case of pygmy indigenous peoples in the forest management unit, forest management shall not threaten, restrict, or disrupt, directly or indirectly, their legal rights; And their rights to the use and management of their lands, territories and resources must be recognized and respected”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.1.1: Pygmy indigenous peoples within or adjacent to the forest management unit are located, identified and enumerated”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.1.2: Concerns, interests, legal and customary rights of Pygmy indigenous peoples within the FMU are identified on a consensual basis and integrated into the management plan”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.1.3: The legal and customary rights of Pygmy indigenous peoples in the management of their lands and resources are formally recognized and respected”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.1.4: Specific mechanisms appropriate to the habits and customs of Pygmy indigenous peoples should exist, enabling them to participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of forest management activities and in the decision-making process”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.1.5: Potential negative impacts of forestry activities on Pygmy indigenous peoples' resources should be identified, identified and documented, and compensation measures should be foreseen on a consensual basis”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.1.6: Sites of particular cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to Pygmy indigenous peoples must be clearly identified in consultation with these peoples and</p>

	<p>must be recognized and protected by forest managers”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.2.2.2: Management of forestry activities will be conducted taking into account the established framework of traditional, customary and legal rights as defined in ILO 169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.2.2.3: The rights of indigenous peoples may not be infringed without the free, prior and informed consent of the right holders, including the provision relating to compensation where applicable”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Compliance</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard recognises the rights of indigenous peoples. It requires compliance with ILO 169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (3.2.2.2) and requires the free, prior and informed consent (3.2.2.3). A special attention is given to Pygmy people (3.1).</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.5	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“INDICATOR 3.4.4: Adequate public access to forests for recreation or entertainment and in optimum safety conditions will be taken into account by the forest manager”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.6	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“INDICATOR 3.1.6: Sites of particular cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to Pygmy indigenous peoples must be clearly identified in consultation with these peoples and must be recognized and protected by forest managers”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.2.1.4: Places of particular interest to [local] populations are clearly identified and incorporated into the forest management document”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.2.7: Sites with recognized specific historical, cultural and spiritual significance are protected and managed to reflect the importance of the site”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.2.7.1: Sites with specific historical, cultural and spiritual significance recognized for forest-related communities are</p>

	<p>identified and indicated on the forest unit's forest maps".</p> <p>"SUB-INDICATOR 3.2.7.2: Modalities for access by communities on the forest unit to sites with recognized historical, cultural and spiritual significance are clearly defined and respected".</p> <p>"INDICATOR 3.2.8: areas of vital importance to meeting the basic needs of local people (e.g. health, livelihoods) will be protected and managed in ways that take into account their importance to forest riparian communities".</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires protection of sites with cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance (3.2.7) to Pygmy people (3.1.6) and to local populations (3.2.1.4). The FM Standard also requires protection of areas important for meeting the basic rights of local populations (3.2.8).</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.7	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.6.7 Forest management operations shall take into account all socio-economic functions, especially the recreational function and aesthetic values of forests by maintaining for example varied forest structures, and by encouraging attractive trees, groves and other features such as colours, flowers and fruits. However, this shall be done in a way and to an extent that does not lead to serious negative effects on forest resources, and forest land.</p>	<p>"SUB-INDICATOR 1.4.4.4: Forest management operations should take account of all socio-economic functions, especially the recreational function and the aesthetic dimension of forests, preserving, for example, varied forests, and safeguarding the attractiveness of forests. Trees, groves and other features such as colors, flowers and fruits; as well as their positive impact on human health".</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the PEFC requirement as uses an identical language.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.8	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>"SUB-INDICATOR 1.4.5.1: A staff training and development program exists and is being implemented".</p> <p>"SUB-INDICATOR 1.4.5.2: Forest managers, subcontractors, employees should be provided with sufficient information and encouraged to have up-to-date data/knowledge through continuous training on sustainable forest management".</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard satisfies the requirement.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.9	FM Standard ^[2]
<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>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.2.1.3: Local people participate in forestry operations on their territory or resources”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.2.1.5: Traditional knowledge and values are respected and taken into account in forest management”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.2.1.6: Village communities are involved in protection and management activities”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires involvement of local people and communities for forest management (3.2.1.3, 3.2.1.6) and usage of traditional knowledge.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.10	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>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.</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 3.3.1: The forest manager contributes to the establishment of permanent forums for consultation and negotiation with local populations”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.3.2: Mechanisms for dialogue and conflict / dispute resolution within and among stakeholders, especially between the forest manager and the indigenous / local / indigenous communities, are operational”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.3.4: an effective communication and consultation system with local populations and other stakeholders in sustainable forest management, on forest management implementation programs, is established and operational under the responsibility of The forest manager”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires to establish a permanent forum (3.3.1) and effective system (3.3.4) for communication and consultation with local people and stakeholders (3.3.2). The FM Standard also requires a mechanism for dispute resolution (3.3.2).</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.11	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.6.11 Forestry work shall be planned, organised and performed in a manner that enables health and accident risks to be identified and all reasonable measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks. Workers shall be informed about the risks involved with their work and about preventive measures.</p>	<p>“INDICATOR 3.5.1: Preventive measures are taken by the concessionaire to minimize occupational risks and diseases related to forestry activities”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.1: the forest concession holder implements forest management on the basis of a health, safety and environment management (SSE management) plan within the forest unit”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.2: The working conditions are in conformity with the legal, regulatory and conventional provisions in force”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.3: There are internal regulations, memoranda, and hygiene and safety standards that are widely disseminated to employees”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.4: Appropriate safety equipment is distributed and carried by employees to different workstations”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.5: Employees regularly carry out medical examinations in accordance with the regulations in force”</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.6: Working conditions will have to be secure and guidelines and training on safe working practices will be given to all those to whom a task will be assigned in logging operations”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.7: Silviculture will be planned, organized and practiced so that accidental and health risks are identified and all reasonable measures are taken to protect workers from occupational hazards”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.8: Workers shall be informed of the risks involved in carrying out their tasks and also of preventive measures”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.2.5.4: An effective emergency care program must be in place, including first aid training for workers and the provision of readily accessible rescue kits”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.2.5: There must be a written emergency management plan in the event of a serious accident suffered by a forestry worker or subcontractor, including a provision for rapid evacuation to a medical facility with Appropriate equipment”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.2.6: In the case of work-related accidents, the manager must demonstrate the availability of measures to cover all associated costs, including the costs associated with compensation for the sequelae</p>

	and convalescence of the worker in accordance with Applicable national and / or international regulations”.
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Conclusion: Conformity

Justification: The FM Standard includes multiple requirements focused on identification of health and safety risks (3.5.1), preventive (3.5.1) and emergency measures (3.5.2.4-3.5.2.6).

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.12	FM Standard ^[2] and its operationalization manual ^[11]
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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.

INDICATOR 3.5.1: Preventive measures are taken by the concessionaire to minimize occupational risks and diseases related to forestry activities”.

“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.1: the forest concession holder implements forest management on the basis of a health, safety and environment management (SSE management) plan within the forest unit”.

“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.2: The working conditions are in conformity with the legal, regulatory and conventional provisions in force”.

“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.3: There are internal regulations, memoranda, and hygiene and safety standards that are widely disseminated to employees”.

“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.4: Appropriate safety equipment is distributed and carried by employees to different workstations”.

“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.5: Employees regularly carry out medical examinations in accordance with the regulations in force”

“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.6: Working conditions will have to be secure and guidelines and training on safe working practices will be given to all those to whom a task will be assigned in logging operations”.

“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.7: Silviculture will be planned, organized and practiced so that accidental and health risks are identified and all reasonable measures are taken to protect workers from occupational hazards”.

“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.8: Workers should be informed of the risks involved in carrying out their tasks and also of preventive measures”.

Conclusion: Conformity

Justification: The FM Standard includes requirements relating to safe working conditions (3.5.1), guidance and training (3.5.1.6).

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.13	FM Standard ^[2]
5.6.13 Forest management shall comply with fundamental ILO conventions.	<p>“INDICATOR 3.2.4: Labor regulations are enforced”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.2: The working conditions are in conformity with the legal, regulatory and conventional provisions in force”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard makes reference to legal, regulatory and conventional provisions. As Cameroon ratified all eight fundamental ILO Conventions (http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11200:0::NO::P11200_COUNTRY_ID:103038).</p> <p>As such it is expected that Cameroon implemented all eight ILO Conventions into its legal system and that all the Conventions are therefore “in force” and that this legislation will be evaluated as a part of the certification process.</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.6.14	FM Standard ^[2] and its operationalization manual ^[11]
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.	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.6.2.1: Monitoring results, research and new scientific and technical data are incorporated into the development document as part of the revisions”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 2.1.3: Periodic synthesis of new scientific and technical data is carried out in collaboration with research institutions”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.1.3.1: The updating of the five-year management plans will be based, inter alia, on the results of scientific research, on the basis of a relevant scientific research plan planned and implemented within the forestry unit”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.1.3.2: The forest manager must contribute to the research and data collection activities necessary for the sustainable management of the forest unit”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.1.3.3: The forest manager should support research activities carried out by other organizations on issues of sustainable forest management”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard includes multiple requirements referring to research activities. It requires a forest manager to contribute to the research (2.1.3.2), to contribute to the research (2.1.3.3) and use research and scientific data in planning and management activities (1.6.2.1, 2.1.3.1).</p>	

PEFC ST 1003, 5.7.1	FM Standard ^[2]
<p>5.7.1 Forest management shall comply with legislation applicable to forest management issues including forest management practices; nature and environmental protection; protected and endangered species; property, tenure and land-use rights for indigenous people; health, labour and safety issues; and the payment of royalties and taxes.</p>	<p>“CRITERION 1.1: Forest management must comply with all laws in force in the countries where it is carried out and with all international treaties to which it is a signatory”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.1.1: Forest management must respect all local and national laws and meet all administrative requirements”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 1.1.1.1: Forest management is planned on the basis of the technical requirements for forest management, as set out in national regulatory texts. These requirements should take into account the important role of silviculture in sustainable forest management”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 1.1.2: The economic evaluation of forest management shall take into account the payment of all applicable taxes, fees or other charges prescribed by law”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.3.4.1: National and international regulations on the protection, hunting and marketing of animal species or parts of animal species are known and respected”</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.3.5.2: The use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and according to internationally recognized scientific protocols”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.1.2: Concerns, interests, legal and customary rights of Pygmy indigenous peoples within the FMU are identified on a consensual basis and integrated into the management plan”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.2.1: The legal and customary rights of local populations to the ownership, use and management of their land and resources within the forest unit are clearly defined, recognized and enforced”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.2.1.1: Forest law provisions on rights of use and ownership are known and enforced”.</p> <p>“INDICATOR 3.2.4: Labor regulations are enforced”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 3.5.1.2: The working conditions are in conformity with the legal, regulatory and conventional provisions in force”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p>	

Justification: The FM Standard includes a generic requirement for compliance with all national and local laws (1.1). In addition, it includes reference to specific to legal compliance concerning forest management regulations (1.1.1.1), payment of fees and taxes (1.1.2), forest conversion (1.2.10.1), animals protection and hunting (2.3.4.1), biological agents (2.3.5.2), indigenous peoples rights (3.1.2), legal rights of local populations (3.2.1), ownership and tenure rights (3.2.1.1), labour regulations (3.2.4) and health and safety regulations (3.5.1.2).

Observation: The FM Standard satisfies the PEFC requirements although it is not specific on areas of legislation that forest management shall comply with, in particular nature protection and conservation.

PEFC ST 1003, 5.7.2	FM Standard ^[2] and its operationalization manual ^[11]
<p>5.7.2 Forest management shall provide for adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.</p>	<p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.2.3.1: Adequate forest protection measures will be planned and implemented, particularly with regard to illegal logging activities”.</p> <p>“SUB-INDICATOR 2.2.3.2: Adequate forest protection measures will be planned and implemented, particularly with regard to arson and other illegal activities (poaching, artisanal mining, etc.)”.</p> <p>SUB-INDICATOR 2.2.3.3: Adequate forest protection measures will be planned and implemented, particularly with regard to illegal farming and land uses by forest-based communities.”</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The FM Standard requires protection of forests against illegal activities, including logging (2.2.3.1), poaching, mining (2.2.3.2) and illegal farming (2.2.3.3).</p>	

8.5 Assessment of chain of custody requirements

Basic assumptions for the assessment of chain of custody requirements

- PEFC national schemes are expected to adopt the PEFC International chain of custody standard (PEFC ST 2002) for the purposes of PEFC claims; following the “adoption” approach, the scheme owner is not allowed to make any changes or modifications to the standard.
- PEFC national schemes are allowed to develop a national chain of custody standard. In this case, the standard will be assessed against PEFC ST 2002 and its endorsement will require compliance with PEFC ST 2002.
- Any modification of the PEFC ST 2002 results in the national chain of custody standard.

The applicant has submitted for evaluation and PEFC endorsement a document called “Chain of Control of Forest and Wood Products - PAFC Cameroon Requirements”^[3] (2 pages) that includes the following statement: *“PAFC Cameroun have decided to adopt PEFC Council CoC standard PEFC ST 2002:2013”*.

Conformity

PAFC Cameroon has adopted the PEFC International chain of custody standard.

8.6 Requirements for certification bodies

8.6.1 Requirements for chain of custody certification bodies

Basic assumptions for the assessment of requirements for CoC certification bodies

- PEFC national schemes that allow usage of the PEFC International CoC standard (PEFC ST 2002) are expected to also adopt the PEFC International requirements for CoC certification bodies (PEFC ST 2003). National schemes are not allowed to modify PEFC ST 2003 or to develop additional national requirements for certification bodies operating CoC certification against PEFC ST 2002.
- PEFC national schemes are allowed to develop national requirements for certification bodies operating certification against a national chain of custody standard. In this case, the standard will be assessed against PEFC ST 2003 and its endorsement will require compliance with PEFC ST 2003.

As PAFC Cameroon adopted the PEFC International chain of custody standard (PEFC ST 2002), it is understood that PAFC Cameroon shall also adopt the PEFC International requirements for chain of custody certification bodies (PEFC ST 2003).

PAFC Cameroon has submitted a document of its scheme^[5] that in a chapter “Fore note” includes a statement that “*PAFC Cameroon has decided to adopt the PEFC Council CoC standard PEFC ST 2003:2012 as its system’s requirements for certification bodies conducting chain of custody certification*”.

The PAFC Cameroon conforms to the PEFC requirements through the mandatory reference to PEFC ST 2003 as the sole requirements for chain of custody certification bodies.

8.6.2 Assessment of requirements for forest management certification bodies

8.6.2.1 Introduction and summary

Coverage and scope of requirements

The requirements for certification bodies for forest management certification are covered by a document called “Requirements for Sustainable Forest Management Certifying and Accrediting Bodies^[4]” (Requirements for FM CBs and ABs).

The requirements for notification of certification bodies are covered by a document called “PAFC Cameroon notification procedures^[7]”.

Certification and accreditation framework

Requirements for FM CBs and ABs^[4] document makes a reference to ISO 17021 and through this reference considers the forest management certification as “management system” certification. The document makes a reference to accreditation by COFRAC (the French national accreditation body) or a national accreditation body that is a member of EA and/or IAF. The document requires “accredited” certification and accreditation logo to be placed on a certification document.

Assessment conclusion

The scheme’s requirements for certification bodies, their accreditation and notification **comply** with Annex 6 of the PEFC Technical Document.

Observations (not resulting in non-conformities with the PEFC requirements)

Normative references

The document does not include a normative references chapter that would provide exact identification of referenced documents, their full title and year. The approach chosen by PAFC Cameroon (e.g. ISO 17021) creates a doubt on which version of the document is referenced and required.

Concerning the references to ISO 17021, the CB's compliance with ISO 17021 is evaluated by an accreditation body, a member of EA/IAF and this organisation will always use the latest version taking into account transitions period decided by EA/IAF.

Concerning the references to ISO 19011, following ISO approach "undated" references should result in application of the latest version.

Identification of PAFC Cameroon documentation

PAFC Cameroon does not define reference numbers for its documentation. This creates difficulties in referencing individual documents of the scheme. It should be noted that the document uses different term such as "PAFC Cameroon standard", national forest management standard", etc. Together with the absence of the "normative References" chapter, this results in references being vague and ambiguous.

Detail of requirements for auditors

The requirements for auditors are defined in very general way and do not include any performance or measurable criteria. Specific competencies of auditors, education, working experience, auditing experience, etc. are missing.

Inappropriate wording

The wording of chapter 3.4 requiring that "the gap between two surveillance audits must be 12 months" is not correct as:

- the surveillance audits also follow certification and re-certification audits. In this case the gap between surveillance audits will exceed 12 months, respectively this requirement could not be applied for the first surveillance audit after the certification audit.
- the periodicity is usually defined as a maximum periodicity. It is very unlikely that the period between two audits would be exactly 12 months (11 months would not satisfy the PAFC Cameroon requirement).

8.6.2.2 Detailed assessment

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
<p>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?</p>	<p>Chapter 1: [CBs] “have not taken part in the standard setting or revision process as a governing or decision-making body” [CBs] “have not taken part in Forest Management Unit forest management”</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
<p>Does the scheme documentation require that certification body for forest management certification shall fulfil requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65?</p>	<p>Chapter 1: “PAFC Cameroon forest management Certifying Bodies must fulfil the requirements of the international standard ISO 17021 together with the requirements outlined in this document”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement. Observation: The document does not include normative references that would provide exact identification of referenced documents, their full title and year. The approach chosen by PAFC Cameroon creates a doubt on which version of ISO 17021 is required. On the other hand, the CB’s compliance with ISO 17021 is evaluated by an accreditation body, member of EA/IAF and this organisation will always use the latest version taking into account transitions period decided by EA/IAF.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
<p>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?</p>	<p>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 Cameroon standard, delivered either by PAFC Cameroon or by experts appointed by PAFC Cameroon. In addition: - each member of the audit team must have a knowledge of the PAFC Cameroon standard;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - each member of the audit team must have a knowledge of the PAFC Cameroon certification system; - one member of the audit team must have experience and/or technical knowledge of forest management that covers all environmental, economic and social elements; - one member of the audit team must have experience and/or technical knowledge of forest management”. <p>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>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The competency of the certification body is mainly linked with the competencies of the CBs auditors. The document^[4] requires that the auditors shall have knowledge of the FM Standard, forest management and its environmental, economic and social elements.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
<p>Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have a good understanding of the national PEFC system against which they carry out forest management or C-o-C certifications?</p>	<p>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> <p>Chapter 2.2.3</p> <p>“Each member of the audit team must have a knowledge of the PAFC Cameroon certification system”.</p> <p>“Each member of the audit team must have completed a training day on the PAFC Cameroon standard, delivered either by PAFC Cameroon or by experts appointed by PAFC Cameroon”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] requires knowledge of the PAFC Cameroon forest certification system.</p> <p>Observation: It should be noted that the document uses different term such as “PAFC Cameroon standard”, national forest management standard”, etc. The document (and the whole scheme) does not properly identify individual documents and does not include a “normative references” chapter. This results in references being vague and ambiguous.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 3.2	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
<p>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 certification?</p>	<p>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>Each member of the audit team must have completed a training day on the PAFC Cameroon standard, delivered either by PAFC Cameroon or by experts appointed by PAFC Cameroon.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - each member of the audit team must have a knowledge of the PAFC Cameroon 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>The experience and qualifications stated above may be held by the same person.</p> <p>Auditors must fulfil the requirements of ISO 19011 in respect of management system and environmental management auditing”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The requirements for auditors are defined in very general way and do not include any performance or measurable criteria. Specific competencies of auditors, education, working experience, auditing experience, etc. are missing.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 3.2	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
<p>Does the scheme documentation require that the auditors must fulfil the general criteria of ISO 19011 for Quality Management Systems auditors or for Environmental Management Systems auditors?</p>	<p>Chapter 2.2.3</p> <p>“Auditors must fulfil the requirements of ISO 19011 in respect of management system and environmental management auditing”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p> <p>Observation: The document does not include normative references that would provide exact identification of referenced documents, their full title and year. The approach chosen by PAFC Cameroon creates a doubt on which version of ISO 19011 is required. Following the ISO approach, the latest version of an undated document should be used.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 3.2	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does the scheme documentation include additional qualification requirements for auditors carrying out forest management audits?	Observation: The requirements for auditors are defined in very general way and do not include any performance or measurable criteria. Specific competencies of auditors, education, working experience, auditing experience, etc. are missing. The only additional requirement is a mandatory training for auditors (2.2.3). However, even this document does not state periodicity of such a training.
Conclusion: Not mandatory requirement	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 3.2	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies shall have established internal procedures for forest management certification?	Chapter 3.2.2 "Certification bodies must establish audit procedures compatible with the requirements specified in ISO 19011".
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p> <p>The document only requires procedures for auditing that is only one phase of the overall certification process. However, the conformity has been assigned because the written procedures for the whole certification process are required by ISO 17021 that is referenced by the document.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 4	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does the scheme documentation require that applied certification procedures for forest management certification shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements defined in ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65?	Chapter 1: "PAFC Cameroon forest management Certifying Bodies must fulfil the requirements of the international standard ISO 17021 together with the requirements outlined in this document".
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 4	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does the scheme documentation require that applied auditing procedures shall fulfil or be compatible with the requirements of ISO 19011?	Chapter 3.2.2 “Certification bodies must establish audit procedures compatible with the requirements specified in ISO 19011”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 4	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does the scheme documentation require that certification body shall inform the relevant PEFC National Governing Body about all issued forest management and chain of custody certificates and changes concerning the validity and scope of these certificates?	Chapter 1 “In addition, the certifying body will inform PAFC Cameroon about all issued forest management and chain of custody certificates and shall notify the list of those holding sustainable forest management certification to PAFC Cameroon, together with any changes to the dates or scope of these certificates”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] requires the certification body to inform PAFC Cameroon about all issued certificates and related changes.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 4	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
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?	Chapter 1 “Finally, the certifying body is responsible for checking correct use of both PAFC Cameroon and PEFC trademarks by the certified forest manager”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 4	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does a maximum period for surveillance audits defined by the scheme documentation not exceed more than one year?	Chapter 1: “PAFC Cameroon forest management Certifying Bodies must fulfil the requirements of the international standard ISO 17021 together with the requirements outlined in this document”. Chapter 3.4

	“The gap between two surveillance audits must be 12 months”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement by the mandatory reference to ISO 17021 that clearly requires annual periodicity of surveillance audits.</p> <p>Observation: The wording of chapter 3.4 requiring that “the gap between two surveillance audits must be 12 months” is not correct as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the surveillance audits also follow certification and re-certification audits. In this case the gap between surveillance audits will exceed 12 months, respectively this requirement could not be applied for the first surveillance audit after the certification audit. - the periodicity is usually defined as a maximum periodicity. It is very unlikely that the period between two audits would be exactly 12 months (11 months would not satisfy the PAFC Cameroon requirement). 	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 4	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does a maximum period for assessment audit not exceed five years for forest management certifications?	Chapter 3.4 “A renewal audit shall take place every three years”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 4	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does the scheme documentation include requirements for public availability of certification report summaries?	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. The summary should be made publicly available within a month after the Committee for safeguarding impartiality was held”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] requires the findings of the certification report to be public and to be available within a month of the certification body’s Committee for safeguarding impartiality meeting.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 4	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does the scheme documentation include requirements for usage of information from external parties as the audit evidence?	Chapter 1 “Moreover, the certifying body shall take all necessary measures to ensure consultation of external interested parties during the audit”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 4	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does the scheme documentation include additional requirements for certification procedures?	The document includes additional requirements relating to the certification process, e.g. committee for safeguarding impartiality, criteria for the length of audits.
<p>Conclusion: Not mandatory requirement</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 5	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does the scheme documentation require that certification bodies carrying out forest management certification shall be accredited by a national accreditation body?	Chapter 1 [CBs] “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 Cameroon standard”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 5	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
Does the scheme documentation require that an accredited certificate shall bear an accreditation symbol of the relevant accreditation body?	Chapter 3.3. [The certification documents must include:] “the accrediting body's logo (this logo must be used in accordance with the accrediting body's current regulations) making it clear that this is an accredited certification”.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification The document^[4] satisfies the requirement.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 5	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
<p>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?</p>	<p>Chapter 1</p> <p>[CBs] “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 Cameroon standard”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement. It should be noted that membership in EA/IAF ensures compliance with ISO 17011 and this is a part of the EA/IAF membership memorandum.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 5	Requirements for FM CBs and ABs ^[4]
<p>Does the scheme documentation require that certification body undertake forest management as “accredited certification” based on ISO 17021 or ISO Guide 65 and the relevant forest management or chain of custody standard(s) shall be covered by the accreditation scope?</p>	<p>Chapter 1:</p> <p>“PAFC Cameroon forest management Certifying Bodies must fulfil the requirements of the international standard ISO 17021 together with the requirements outlined in this document”.</p> <p>Chapter 3.3.</p> <p>[The certification documents must include:] “the accrediting body's logo (this logo must be used in accordance with the accrediting body's current regulations) making it clear that this is an accredited certification”.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The document^[4] satisfies the requirement. Placing an accreditation body's logo on the certificate indicates and guarantees that the certification has been carried out as “accredited” certification.</p>	

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 5	PAFC Cameroon notification procedures ^[4]
<p>Does the scheme documentation include a mechanism for PEFC notification of certification bodies?</p>	<p>PAFC Cameroon has notification procedures that cover notification of certification bodies operating.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The scheme satisfies the requirement⁷.</p>	

⁷ The assessment is only focused on the whether or not the scheme requires the certification body to be notified. The content of notification procedures and their compliance with PEFC GD 1004 is not covered by the scope of this assessment.

Annex 6 of the PEFC TD, 5	PAFC Cameroon notification procedures ^[4]
Are the procedures for the notification of certification bodies non-discriminatory?	Conditions for issuance of the notification only requires to be (i) a legal entity, (ii) to agree to be registered, (iii) valid accreditation and (iv) to pay a notification fee.
<p>Conclusion: Conformity</p> <p>Justification: The notification procedures do not include requirements that could be considered as “discriminatory”⁸.</p>	

⁸ The assessment is only focused on the whether or not the procedures are discriminatory. The content of notification procedures and their compliance with PEF CGD 1004 is not covered by the scope of this assessment.

Annex 1: Stakeholders representation in the consensus building body

PAFC Forum

PAFC Forum was considered by PAFC Cameroon as the consensus building body. PAFC Forum had neither a fixed structure nor predefined representation of stakeholders' categories. It was organised as a one-off meeting in the beginning and at the end of the process.

Records and evidence submitted by PAFC Cameroon did not allow to analyse representation of stakeholder categories in the PAFC Forum. The following printout is the list of participants from the meeting of 27-28 March 2014.

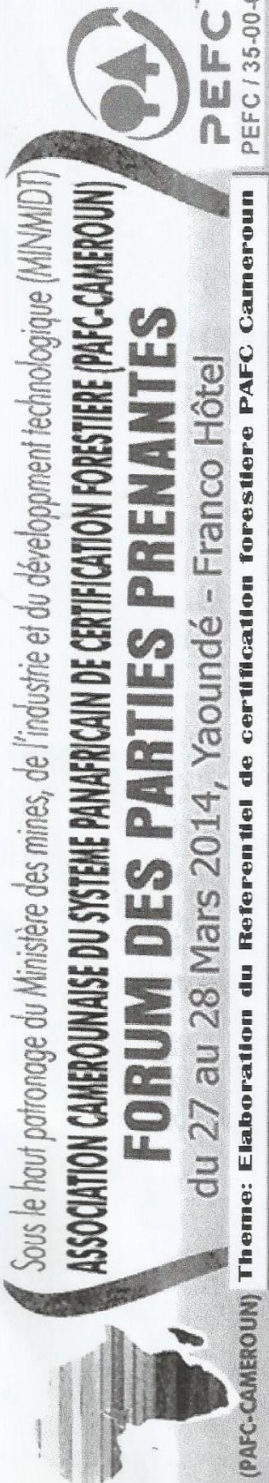
Sous le haut patronage du Ministère des mines, de l'industrie et du développement technologique (MINMIDT)

ASSOCIATION CAMEROUNAISE DU SYSTEME PANAFRICAIN DE CERTIFICATION FORESTIERE (PAFC-CAMEROUN)

FORUM DES PARTIES PRENANTES

du 27 au 28 Mars 2014, Yaoundé - Franco Hôtel

PAFC-CAMEROUN Theme: Elaboration du Referentiel de certification forestiere PAFC Cameroon PEFC / 35-00-01



Journée du 27 Mars 2014

FEUILLE DE PRESENCE

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33	Jenne Burel OGYA'A ATON ou	OPED	743 72 24 3 / 99 08 08 17	opetubio@yahoo.fr	
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35	MAKPEKANG Marc Ruchepin	AD	77 53 10 11	altam@yahoo.fr	
36	Bimeli Stanislas	MINADEL COMMUNITY	77 56 66 04	pramulda@gmail.com	
37	GRUNT NINLA MFOUDU	Journa liste/promoteur	78 16 68 24 / 96 18 56 62	taubertdcl@yahoo.fr	
38	ALBERT NIMBER DAMBO	Consultant en communication	96 78 85 44	patrice3004@yahoo.fr	
39	PATRICE BELLE	MINRESI	71 51 42 72	projetoh@yahoo.fr	
40	NDJETOH Pierre	Cam-Eco	77 44 08 31 / 95 47 73 64	marketingonjod@gmail.com	
41	NGO NKO NDJOCK R				

les 27 et 28 Mars 2014 à Yaoundé

Forum des parties prenantes

PAFC-Cameroun

Feuille de présence 2

Specialised Technical Committee

In addition to the PAFC Forum, PAFC Cameroon also established the Specialised Technical Committee that consisted of experts and was supposed to provide expertise to the PAFC Cameroon's Executive Committee and to the PEFC Forum.

Prof. Isaac BINZI, Former Secretary General of the National Polytechnic School of Yaoundé, Forestry expert and in strategic planning, institutional and financial setup.

Dr. Patrice BINGOMBE LOGO, Socio-Anthropologist (CERAD)

Samuel EBIA NDONGO, General Engineer of Water and Forests, Former Director of Forests (MINFOF)

Anicet MINSOUMA BODO, General Engineer of Water and Forests, Former Director of the Center for the Promotion of Wood Professions (MINFOF)

Narcisse MBARGA, General Engineer of Water and Forests, Technical Framework at the General Direction of ANAFOR

Agnès EBANGA, Agricultural Engineer Socio-economist, Technical Framework at the Cooperation Department (MINFOF)

Hedwige NIENTIE LAHBON, Ecologist-Environmentalist (EEDEV Consulting Sarl)

Jeanne Nicaise AZO'O, Water and Forest Engineer, Expert in Forest Management.

Annex 2: Comments from the PEFC Council’s international consultation

The PEFC Council organised an international public consultation on the PAFC Cameroon scheme during the period between 12 May 2017 and 9 July 2017.

No comments were received during this public consultation.

Annex 3: Stakeholders survey questionnaire

TJConsulting, Luxembourg

Stakeholders' questionnaire

Assessment of the PAFC Cameroon forest certification scheme
against the requirements of the PEFC Council

1 August 2017

Background

The PAFC Cameroon scheme was submitted for endorsement by the PEFC Council.

The PEFC Council has selected TJConsulting to carry out the assessment of the scheme against the PEFC Council requirements. The scheme assessment also includes consideration of stakeholders' comments and views presented within the international consultation announced by the PEFC Council at its website (www.pefc.org) and **this questionnaire that was directly distributed to stakeholders relevant to sustainable forest management in Cameroon.**

TJConsulting would like to encourage all relevant stakeholders to provide information that will contribute as a valuable input necessary for the credible and impartial assessment of the scheme.

Stakeholders are free and encouraged to further distribute the questionnaire to another stakeholders in Cameroon.

Objective

This questionnaire aims at obtaining and considering stakeholders comments and views relating to the development of the PAFC Cameroon forest certification scheme, its openness, transparency, stakeholders participation and consensus building elements.

The questions used in this questionnaire are based on PEFC requirements included in PEFC ST 1001:2010 (Standard setting procedures – Requirements).

The questionnaire shall be returned to TJConsulting (tymrak@tj-consult.com) by **31 August 2017**. In case of an additional time needed, please contact Mr Tymrak directly.

Questionnaire

1. Contact details

Name of the organisation:
 Stakeholder group:
 E-mail:

2. Have you noticed a public announcement relating to the start of the development of the scheme and invitation of stakeholders to participate?

- Yes No
- at the scheme owner website
 - by a press release
 - at public magazine and media
 - by direct mailing

Note:

3. Did you have access to the standard setting procedures/ rules of the scheme owner?⁹

- Yes No

Note: Yes

4. Have you been invited to nominate your representative to a working group/committee responsible for the development of the standard(s)?¹⁰

- Yes No
- by general invitation at the website, in media, etc.
 - by direct mailing or other communication
 - We have made a nomination that was
 - accepted
 - rejected

Note:

⁹ A written document containing organisation and procedures of the standard setting/revision process.

¹⁰ PEFC requires that the standardisation body shall establish a working group/committee with responsibilities for the development of a standard(s) and consensus building that is (i) accessible to stakeholders; (ii) has balance representation of stakeholders decision making and (iii) includes stakeholders with expertise in the subject matter and materially affected stakeholders (PEFC ST 1001:2010, 4.4).

5. Have you noticed the public consultation on a draft forest management standard?

- Yes No
- at the website
- by a press release
- at public magazine and media
- by direct mailing

Note:

6. Have you made comments during the public consultation and have they been considered?

- Yes, we have submitted comments No, we have not submitted comments
- Our comments:
- were considered
- were not considered

Note:

7. Have you submitted any complaint relating to the standard setting/revision process?

- Yes No

Note: [Click here](#) to enter text.

For those stakeholders that had their representative in the working group

8. Has the work of the working group) been organised in an open and transparent way?¹¹

Yes

No

Note:

9. Have stakeholders reached the consensus on the content of the forest management standard?

Yes

No

Note:

Other comments

9. Other comments and views on the development of the PAFC Cameroon forest certification scheme?

¹¹ PEFC Council requires that members of the working group/committee responsible for the development of a standard(s) shall have access to draft documents in a timely manner; shall be given opportunity to participate in its work and submit their comments; their comments shall be considered in a transparent way.

Annex 4: Report from visit to Cameroon

The in-country visit to Cameroon was conducted by Mr. Jaroslav Tymrak during four days from 4 to 7 September 2017.

Objective of the visit

The objective of the visit was:

- Gathering additional information on the standard setting process and verification of the information submitted as a part of the scheme application, mainly through interview of the applicant's office that was responsible for the standard setting and relevant stakeholders' interview;
- Evaluation of organisational relationships and tasks of different bodies involved in the implementation of the scheme; and.
- Clarification of issues and non-conformities identified in the draft interim report.

Programme and timetable of the visit

Date	4 September 2017	5 September 2017	6 September 2017	7 September 2017
Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Itinerary	Meeting with the applicant	Stakeholders meetings	Stakeholders meetings	closing meeting Presentation of visit findings and their consideration and the next steps in the assessment.
		Stakeholders meeting	Stakeholders meeting	

Stakeholders visited and interviewed

Mr. Tymrak met a number of stakeholders relevant to the process of the development of the PAFC Cameroon scheme during the in-country visit of Cameroon.

The main topic of the discussion was the standard setting process and their participation in the process, stakeholders' participation, consensus building, and management of the process.

The meetings also focused on topics relating to the scheme that are relevant and of interest of the particular stakeholder group, including motivations for forest certification, forestry sector in Cameroon and critical forest management issues covered by the scheme's forest management standard.

The applicant (PAFC Cameroon)	Anjembe Reine (President)	National Governing Body
	Pa'ah Patrice (Vice-president)	National Governing Body
	Mbarga Simon (member of the Board)	National Governing Body
	Ouoguia Blendine	National Governing Body (administration)
	Nienie Hedwige	Consultant/expert, a member of the Specialized Technical Committee
	Bindzi Issac	Consultant/expert, a member of the Specialized Technical Committee
	Ebia Ndongo	Consultant/expert, a member of the Specialized Technical Committee
	Meka Patrice	Civil society
Government, administration	Ntoumba Mariette Judith	Ministère des Mines, de l'Industrie et du Développement Technologique (MINMIDT)
	Koung Roger	Ministère des forêts et de la faune
Intergovernmental organisation	Elie Oliver	COMIFAC/PPECF
Industry		Forest industry association

Annex 5: Responses to the PEFC Council's internal review

Number	Chapter	Comment	Assessor's response
1	Requirements for CoC certification bodies	CoC CB Req.: It seems that the CoC CB requirements you received were not the right version. Please find attached the correct document. This should address the NC on CoC CB requirements in your final draft report.	The assessment is updated based on the latest submitted documentation.
2	Requirements for forest management certification bodies	FM CB Req.: The NC's identified for the FM CB should have been addressed in the latest version.	<p>The referenced changes have not been marked in the documentation submitted in July 2019. Therefore, the assessment had not considered them</p> <p>The assessment is updated based on the latest submitted documentation and referenced changes.</p>