PEFC Council

To: Mr Ben Gunneberg

World Trade Center 1

10 Route de l’Aeroport

CH-215 GENEVA

SWITZERLAND

6 October 2017

Dear Mr Gunneberg,

**Request for assessment**

The South African Forestry Assurance Scheme (SAFAS) is pleased to submit the SAFAS Certification System, which was accepted by our National Governing Body on the 5 October 2017. We hereby formally request that the Scheme be assessed against the Sustainability Benchmark of PEFC for endorsement.

The majority of tree plantations in South Africa have been certified against the FSC system. However, about 25% of the commercial timber resource is managed by family forestry and community operations. The majority of these operations have not achieved certification due to the costs and complexity of working with the FSC system.

The PEFC system offers specific consideration to the unique needs of small and family forest owners while also being relevant to large landowners. SAFAS sees this as an opportunity to make certification accessible to all scales of forestry in South Africa and thus improve management of the timber resource.

The SAFAS standard was developed using the South African Government’s Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Standards (PCIS) as a basis for producing an auditable standard that can be used for certification.

I trust that we have included\* all required documentation and look forward to the Council’s response.

Yours Faithfully

Craig Norris

Chairman

\*SAFAS scheme documentation

\*Summary of standard setting process

\*Completed PEFC Council minimum requirement checklist

\*Reference documents to the checklist