

# PEFC™ and FSC®



## Promoting Sustainable Forest Management Globally



# PEFC and FSC



## Why forests matter

- Forest are home to 2 out of 3 living species
- 1.6 billion people (1 in 5) in the world rely on forest resources for their livelihoods
- 350 million of these people live directly around forests
- Sustainable forest management makes a difference.



# PEFC and FSC



12-15 million hectares of forest are lost every year

## Two key causes of deforestation:

- Conversion - wood fibre, palm & soy plus infrastructure
- Degradation - fires, illegal & unsustainable logging, fuel wood harvesting and climate change.

## This results in:

- Reduced biodiversity
- Release of Greenhouse Gas emissions
- Disruption of water cycles
- Increased soil erosion & run off
- Impacts on local communities.

**Certification offers a potential solution to safeguard forests**  
**PEFC and FSC are the two global certification schemes.**



# PEFC and FSC



PEFC and FSC – two global sustainable forest management certification schemes

What are the similarities?  
What are the differences?



# PEFC and FSC



**PEFC and FSC share the same objective - safeguarding the world's forests by certifying them to credible, independently verified standards of responsible forest management which means:**

- conserving the natural habitats of plants and animals
- protecting old growth forests
- respecting the rights of forestry workers
- respecting the rights of local communities
- conserving the forest for future generations
- providing a market incentive for responsible forest management

**More and more forest owners are opting for certification to demonstrate responsible forestry - they can choose either PEFC or FSC.**

# PEFC and FSC



## Why two schemes?

Competition between the two global sustainable forest management schemes encourages **continuous improvement, ensures cost effectiveness**, delivers efficiency and prevents a monopoly forming.

The principle of free competition, provided by two competing global schemes, ensures that the interests of all stakeholders **(at local, national and global level)** are best protected.

# PEFC and FSC



## Origins

- PEFC was established in 1999 in Luxembourg by an alliance of **small and family forest owners** from France, Austria, Germany and Finland
- FSC was established in 1994 in Mexico by conservation organisations such as Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and WWF and some UK retailers
- FSC's initial focus was on tropical forests and large areas of mainly state owned forest
- PEFC's focus was on European private forest lands/small forest management units. Its group certification model was designed to make certification more affordable.

**Now both schemes are used by forests of all types around the world.**

# PEFC and FSC



## Governance and Decision Making

PEFC- stakeholders are involved in standard setting(at both national and global level) and the endorsement of SFM national schemes. Decisions are taken by consensus. Stakeholders are drawn from the 9 groups identified in the United Nations [Agenda 21](#) on Sustainable Development and the PEFC International Board reflects this.

FSC decision making is conducted at their General Assembly which is held every three years. They operate a 3 chamber system where stakeholders are assigned to the **economic**, **social** or **environmental** chambers. Forest owners are assigned to the economic chamber.



# PEFC and FSC



## Standard Setting

Both PEFC and FSC take account of social, economic and environmental aspects in their standards. PEFC takes a **bottom up** approach while FSC's is more **top down**.

- PEFC's [Sustainability Benchmarks](#) are based on globally defined and accepted guidelines and criteria
- FSC's [Principles and Criteria](#) are set by FSC International at their General Assembly
- Independent certification bodies conduct audits for both schemes. In the case of PEFC, these certification bodies are accredited by the relevant national accreditation body e.g. [United Kingdom Accreditation Service](#) – UKAS. For FSC, certification bodies are accredited by [Accreditation Services International \(ASI\)](#) – a subsidiary company of FSC
- Accreditation – PEFC - national accreditation bodies are members of the [International Accreditation Forum \(IAF\)](#). ASI is a member of [ISEAL](#)

# PEFC and FSC



## Chain of Custody and Using the Labels

Both FSC and PEFC operate a Chain of Custody process that traces material through the supply chain from the forest to the end-use in a robust and transparent way

PEFC recognises two labels for use on certified products: the **Certified** and **Recycled** labels

In order to qualify to use either of the labels, at least **70%** of the material has to be **certified** or **recycled**

Certified companies receive access to PEFC's on-line logo generator and **do not need prior approval to use the PEFC label.**



# PEFC and FSC



**With only 11% of the world's forests certified to any scheme, companies trading in forest products can show their support sustainable for forest management by:**

- Asking suppliers for certified products
- Checking if they are Chain of Custody certified
- Developing an inclusive forest products procurement policy which gives preference to certified and recycled products
- Asking certified suppliers to apply the PEFC/FSC label to provide customers with assurances of your responsible sourcing.

# PEFC and FSC



## I already specify one label – why do I need two?

- Such policies discriminate against a forest owner's legitimate choice and hinders the growth of sustainable forest management globally.
- The majority of the world's certified forests are certified to the PEFC standard – particularly the private and smallholder forests.
- Of the combined total of **498 million** hectares of certified forests – **69 million** are dual certified to both PEFC and FSC. Dual certification increases costs for the forest owner which will be passed on down the supply chain
- Policies which specify only one SFM scheme can result in additional carbon miles. This is bad for the environment and adds cost into the supply chain

**Monopolies are bad for business, consumers and society**

# PEFC and FSC



## Where can I find further information?

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FOREST  
MANAGEMENT AROUND THE WORLD



PEFC & FSC

PEFC publishes a brochure explaining the differences and similarities between the PEFC™ and FSC® programmes. A PDF version can be downloaded from the PEFC UK website - [www.pefc.co.uk/publications](http://www.pefc.co.uk/publications)  
To request a hard copy e-mail; [info@pefc.co.uk](mailto:info@pefc.co.uk)

Visit [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org) or [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)

