

Appendix 2: Additional interpretation and requirements for tropical natural forests

Enquiry Draft (ED) 1 (28th September 2011)

Mandatory

Scope

This Appendix and PEFC ST 1003:2010 shall apply for the PEFC assessment of forest management standards which are used for the certification of natural tropical forests.

Introduction

The overarching principles for sustainable forest management are similar across all types of forest. However, the complexity of tropical natural forests combined with their environmental and socio-economic importance at local, national and international levels underscores the need for additional interpretation of requirements. The biological diversity present in tropical natural forests calls for adapted silvicultural measures different than those in temperate or boreal forest types. Moreover, tropical forests are often home to forest dwelling people whose needs and rights need to be considered by the forest manager. Despite these inherent complexities and values, regions that possess tropical forests often have limited resources allocated to administration, training and research related to forest management. Furthermore, forest products and services utilised for local use may be as, or even more, important than the production from commercial forestry operations.

While seeking to harmonise its meta-standards across all global forests, PEFC recognises that ITTO documentation remains useful and relevant in identifying the issues and emphasizes that have been widely accepted in tropical forests. This Appendix seeks to address identified topics of specific relevance in the tropics, which are not explicitly reflected in PEFC ST 1003:2010. Its interpretations and requirements are additional to the requirements laid out in PEFC ST 1003:2010.

Note for the reviewer of the Enquiry Draft: The following table of interpretations and specific requirements must be reviewed in conjunction with PEFC's Metastandard for all types of forest, PEFC ST 1003:2010. The basis for these interpretations and/or requirements listed in the table below is to ensure that important requirements specified in ATO/ITTO standard (the reference document for PEFC's previous metastandard for tropical natural forests) not explicitly in the metastandard PEFC ST 1003:2010 are explicitly addressed. These interpretations and specific requirements are additional to, and do not replace, the requirements of metastandard PEFC ST 1003:2010.

Requirement	Interpretation for tropical natural forest
<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>The wide range of economic, ecological, cultural and social values of the forest resources shall be identified in consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities living in and around the forest. During forest management planning, special attention shall be given to understanding the interaction between forest resource use of commercial operations and indigenous peoples and local communities living in and around the forest.</p>
<p>5.1.3: Inventory and mapping of forest resources shall be established and maintained, adequate to the local and national conditions, and in correspondence with the topics described in this document.</p>	<p>Forest resource inventories shall include assessments and/or studies that consider the full range of forest values as identified in consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities living in and around the forest. This full range of values shall be considered in the publicly available summary of the forest management plan (see 5.1.6)</p>

<p>5.1.4 Management plans or their equivalents, appropriate to the size and use of the forest area, shall be elaborated and periodically updated. They shall be based on legislation as well as existing land use plans, and adequately cover the forest resources.</p>	<p>The limits of the forest management area and different subdivisions should be clearly defined, in accordance with the management constraints identified during the assessments and/or studies and in accordance with the adopted objectives.</p>
<p>5.1.5 Management plans or their equivalents shall include at least a description of the current condition of the forest management unit, long-term objectives; and the average annual allowable cut, including its justification and, where relevant, the annually allowable exploitation of non-timber forest products.</p>	<p>Maps showing the relevant factors for the management of the forest area (subdivisions, resources distribution, village settlements, etc.) shall be prepared and available.</p> <p>The justification of the annual allowable cut shall include a statement of the cutting cycle and of the minimum diameter for the exploitation for each species that can be harvested during the management exercise.</p> <p>Specific measures for wildlife management shall be included in the management plans or their equivalents.</p>
<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>2 options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No additional interpretation required for tropical forests 2) Monitoring of forest resources should lead to the identification of any undue negative impacts from forest operations and the mitigation of those impacts in the future.
<p>5.1.8 Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned.</p>	<p>The forest management document or relating documentation shall set the operating modalities and the rights and obligations of the forest manager and sub-contractors operating in the forest management unit.</p> <p>The forest management shall seek to reach agreement with stakeholders on their respective responsibilities necessary to achieve the objectives of the Forest Management Plan.</p> <p>Modalities of access to natural resources, within national and regional legal frameworks, shall also be clearly defined.</p>

<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>	<p>Option 1: No interpretation.</p> <p>Option 2: For the purposes of this Appendix disturbed natural forests with sufficient integrity to still provide values, services and functions characteristic to an undisturbed primary forest, shall be considered as "primary forests."</p>
<p>5.2.8: The use of pesticides shall be minimised and appropriate silvicultural alternatives and other biological measures preferred. :</p>	<p>The use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols.</p>
<p>5.3.5 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>	<p>Reduced impact logging techniques shall be utilised where appropriate.</p>
<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>The sustainable rate of harvesting should be defined by the cutting cycle and a minimum diameter for each harvested species which ensure the economic and ecological sustainability of forest resources.</p> <p>Special attention should be given to maximizing recovery rates and the identification of opportunities for additional utilisation through collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities</p> <p>In case of tropical natural forests, timber harvesting shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) exclude protected and endangered tree species b) allow other forms of sustainable utilization of multi-purpose tree species; c) protect a minimum of seed-bearing trees in order to ensure natural regeneration capacity, maintain the natural structure of the forest and the pattern of species' distribution.

<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>Forest management planning shall consider specific measures to minimize the pressure on fauna due to the forest management activities and related infrastructure.</p>
<p>5.4.3 Protected and endangered plant and animal species shall not be exploited for commercial purposes. Where necessary, measures shall be taken for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.</p>	<p>“Protected” and “endangered” are defined by applicable legislation. Exception to this requirement is permitted when in compliance with CITES.</p>
<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>Forest management shall consider ways to reduce negative impacts and optimize positive impacts of road infrastructure planning, construction, and management and adequately consider and address issues related to long term forest management and community use and access.</p>
<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>Forest Management shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that health services are available to its employees and their families; b) Avoid negative impacts of any forest activities' on the health of indigenous peoples and local communities and contribute to their improvement; c) Contribute, in accordance with the national framework, to the basic education and skill development of indigenous peoples, local communities and workers present in the forest management area. d) Give preference to local employment to enhance the benefit to indigenous peoples and local communities.
<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>Forest management shall recognize and respect ownership inherent in traditional knowledge and techniques. Forest management shall compensate indigenous peoples and local communities for the commercial utilisation of traditional knowledge and skills. The compensation shall be agreed between forest management and indigenous peoples and local communities.</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.	Adequate protection shall include monitoring
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