



Promoting sustainable forest management

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1 March 2006  
Luxembourg

## Swedish and Norwegian forest certification systems re-endorsed by PEFC

More than 15 million hectares of forests in Norway and Sweden continue to be managed sustainably under the stringent standards of the international PEFC forest certification system. The PEFC Council today re-endorsed the certification systems in both countries, following an independent assessment of the systems by external consultants. The Norwegian “Living Forests Standards” is re-endorsed by the PEFC council until 2008 and the “Swedish Forest Certification Scheme” until 2011.

The Norwegian system was re-endorsed on the condition that the accreditation for the Chain of Custody wood tracking system will be based on ISO Guide 65 (Product certification) within six months following the re-endorsement. The Swedish system was re-endorsed without any further conditions. “PEFC has all its endorsed certification system reviewed every five years before re-endorsement”, explained Mr Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General of the PEFC Council. “This allows all the experience gained in the field, the latest scientific research and any other elements relating to sustainability to be reviewed and integrated into the revised systems. It also ensures that new requirements added to PEFC’s international documentation during that time, are fully implemented at national level.”

The assessments of the two systems involved an international public consultation period, during which the general public had the opportunity to comment on the systems. The full assessment reports on which the PEFC Council members now based their decision to re-endorse the systems, are publicly available at the PEFC Council website at [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org).

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press release



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## Editors Notes

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### Forest Certification

Forest certification is a process, which provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that the wood used in the products comes from sustainably managed forests. Sustainably managed forests are those whose management implements performance standards based on internationally agreed environmental, social and economical requirements.

### PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes)

PEFC is a framework for the mutual recognition of credible national or regional forest certification schemes that have been developed based on internationally recognised requirements for sustainable forest management. Since its launch in 1999, PEFC has become the largest forest certification umbrella organisation covering national schemes from all over the world, delivering hundreds of millions of tonnes of wood to the processing industry and then onto the market place from over 187 million hectares of certified forests. PEFC has strong grass roots support from many stakeholders including the forestry sector, governments, trade associations, trade unions and non-governmental organisations.

press release