



Promoting sustainable forest management

PEFC Council
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Africa going for PEFC

The first ever African national standard, the Pan African Forest Certification System PAFC Gabon, has been submitted to the PEFC Council for international endorsement. Before the first Okoume timber logs, one of Gabon's most important tropical timber species, can be sold with the PEFC label, independent consultants will assess the Gabonese system against PEFC's benchmark requirements. Part of the assessment is a public consultation period, during which all interested individuals and organisations can comment on the PAFC Gabon system.

Mrs Rose Ondo, President of PAFC Gabon said: "Gabon has more than 10 million hectares of commercial forests offering a wide range of African tropical hardwoods. We are confident that with a PEFC endorsement we will be able to meet the existing and fast growing demand for certified tropical timbers."

In addition, the first ever PEFC Chain of Custody certification in Africa was awarded only recently to the timber processing company Medidis in Morocco, underlining the growing importance of forest certification in Africa.

"The public consultation on the Gabonese system starts today and its complete documentation is available at our website www.pefc.org", said Mr Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General of the PEFC Council. "I invite everyone to send comments directly to the assessor FORM International, by 19 February 2007."

ENDS

[For more information please contact:](#)

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press release



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Editors Notes

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 193 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.