



Promoting sustainable forest management

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Revised UK Woodland Assurance Standard going for PEFC endorsement

The PEFC UK certification system, of which the UK Woodland Assurance Standard is part, has been submitted to the PEFC Council for re-endorsement. Its full documentation is available at the PEFC Council website www.pefc.org for public consultation and all interested individuals and stakeholder groups are invited to comment on the system by 20 March 2007.

“PEFC holds public consultations prior to any decision on whether or not to endorse a national forest certification system”, said Mr Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General of the PEFC Council. “This gives all interested and affected organisations as well as individuals the opportunity to voice their views and contribute to the process. The comments received become an important part of the independent assessor’s report, which will be made publicly available and forms the decision basis for or against endorsement of the standard by PEFC.”

ENDS

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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.

press release