

Public announcement of the process of development of a PEFC standard for Lithuania

Following international commitments for sustainable use of natural resources initiated at the Rio 1992 summit; society's increasing concerns about negative effects caused by climate change; environmental protection requirements; having the purpose of applying the criteria for sustainable forest management and management (SFM) which were accepted at the Ministerial Conference on Forest Protection in Europe (MCPFE) in Lisbon 1998, Lithuanian Forest and land Owners Association (FOAL) announces the beginning of the process for the development of criteria and indicators for SFM according to PEFC requirements.

Lithuanian Forest and land Owners Association as initiator of Lithuanian PEFC process is starting forest certification system for Lithuania, in which it will be included national standard for sustainable forest management (SFM) according to PEFC and it will comply with the Benchmark standard of PEFC 1003:2018, as well as the existing legal framework related to forest management in the country.

The process of adopting standard will go through several stages:

- Preparing the list of stakeholders
- Public announcement of the process
- Invitation for interested stakeholders to engage in the process
- Defining the composition of the working group
- Working sessions for discussion on the proposed draft Standard for SFM
- First public consultation on the content of the draft Standard for SMF in the duration of 60 days and revision of received comments and suggestions
- Consensus building on the content of the SFM Standard within the framework of the work group
- Acceptance of the final version of the SFM Standard by the PEFC National governance body

The overall process of adopting the SFM standard, until its submission for approval at the PEFC Council, is expected in January 2024. The process of checks and consultations by the PEFC Council until the endorsement of the regional standard are expected to be completed in April of 2025.

The preparation of the standard will be a public process and will take place according to the rules and procedures described in the document Standards Development and Revision Procedures. The document is available on the Forest and Land Owners Association of Lithuania website (www.forest.lt) chapter "Forest Certification", part "PEFC standard development documentation".

Questions and comments related to the content of Standards Development and Revision Procedures or in relation to the process itself can be submitted electronically to email: pefc@forest.lt.

For this purpose, FOAL for SFM invites stakeholders to get involved in the process of developing national standard for SFM through nominating their representatives in the working group. The nominations of representatives of Working Group members are accepted until 10.07.2023.

The composition of the Working Group for SFM is approved by the FOAL, based on received nominations and professional profiles of the nominated persons, in accordance with procedure 4.4 and 5.2.2 of the Standards Development and Revision Procedures.

The Working Group is expected to work on the adoption of the draft Standards for SFM during July and August. The meetings are planned to be held on a working day lasting for several hours. The content of the standard itself can actually be discussed and adopted in 3-6 meetings. Meetings will be organized until the content of the working standard is adopted at the Working Group.

For more information: pefc@forest.lt or phone +370 686 11384.