

PEFC Turkey Forest Certification System – development report

Introduction

Based on existing good cooperation of the Association for Sustainable Forest Management, Forest Products and Services Certification (SOYDER) with authorized department at the national level, NGOs and academia in the Türkiye and having in mind traditional market connections, the fundamentals for creation of the PEFC Turkey National system were established in 2021. The PEFC Turkey Sustainable Forest certification system offers a holistic approach to forest stewardship, balancing environmental conservation, social equity, and economic viability. By promoting responsible forest management practices, including biodiversity conservation and community engagement, This system ensures the long-term health of forests while supporting local livelihoods. Certification under this system provides access to markets that prioritize sustainability, fostering confidence among stakeholders and driving continuous improvement in forest management practices.

Scope of the standard

The Türkiye national system will be applicable in only the territory of Türkiye.

All documentation of the system will be valid for all stakeholders in the country. This system will be compatible with all international and national rules, standards, and regulations for the forest managers and owners in the country.

The process

PEFC Turkey has agreed the need of this system in Turken and started to develop suitable system documentation for establishment of a National Forest System. Today, the full PEFC Turkey system documentation was developed and all of the processes were finalized.

Proposal for standard development

At beginning of the process, the first document that was developed was Proposal for standard development. The text of the document was shared with all stakeholders and once the content was accepted then it was translated.

Standard setting and revision procedures

For the purpose of developing PEFC Turkey system, the Standard setting and revision procedures was one of the basic documents to be developed. This document was announced on the web pages of the NGB prior to beginning of the process and it was defining all formal steps and procedure for the process, not only for CBs, but for all interested stakeholders as well.

Stakeholders mapping

One of the basic steps in drafting the national standard is stakeholders mapping. The purpose of that step is to provide opportunity for all interested stakeholders to participate in the standard development, including key, affected and disadvantaged stakeholders. The mapping of the stakeholders was implemented according to requirements of the PEFC-TR-PR-1001:2021, Standard setting procedures.

The stakeholders mapping in Türkiye has identified at total 28 stakeholders which . The mapping process has included division of stakeholders in seven the major groups: forest owners (1 representative), business and industry (5 representatives) , NGOs (6 representatives), scientific community (4 representatives), workers and labour union (4 representatives) and institutions and managers of protected areas (4 representatives).The last group (other) was represented by 4 Ministries

Announcement of the process and invitation to stakeholders

After preparation of stakeholders mapping document, the announcement of the process and invitation to stakeholders was executed according to requirements of the PEFC-TR-PR-1001:2021, Standard setting procedures.

All identified stakeholders were invited to join the process by direct email communication on 25.01.2022 and phone calls. In addition to that, on the same day there was announcement in public (web page of the NGB).

Forest owners

Republic of Turkey General Directorate of Forestry

Business and industry

- TORID(Turkish Forestry Industry and Businessmen Association)
- UAB (Turkish Timber Association)
- TOBB(The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey) Turkish Forest Products Council
- AKOD (Mediterranean Wood and Forest Products Producers Association)
- All EPAL Pallet Manufacturers Quality Association

NGOs

- TAK-VA (The Agricultural Development Foundation)
- ÇEKUD (Turkish Environmental Organizations Association)
- Tohum Education, Culture and Nature Association
- OGEM-VAK (The Foundation for Improving Forestry and Supporting Forest Fires Services)
- The Nature Conservation Centre
- Association of Foresters for a Green Turkey

Scientific community

- Faculty of Forestry Isparta University of Applied Sciences
- Faculty of Forestry, Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa
- Faculty of Forestry, Bartın University
- Faculty of Forestry, Cankırı Karatekin University

Workers and labour union

- ORKOOP (The Central Union Of Turkish Forestry Cooperatives)
- TOÇ BİR-SEN-Union of Agriculture-Forestry Workers Union
- Öz Orman-İş Trade Union
- The Union of Municipalities of Turkey (TBB)

Institutions and managers of protected areas

- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry General Directorate of Water Management
- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change General Directorate for Protection of Natural Assets
- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Directorate General of Environmental Management Department of Climate Change and Adaptation

Other

- Presidency of Strategy and Budget
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security (Turkey)
- Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change
- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Trade

The process in the work group – drafting the content of the National SFM standard

The process of drafting the standard has officially started on 29.05.2023. seven meetings of WG were conducted until 14.09.2023. The first six meeting was made online and the last one organized in-person in Ankara OGM Campus. The process of consensus building was lasting, until the last member of the workgroup has voted positive for acceptance of the draft National SFM standard. Updated versions of standard shared with the WG participants via WhatsApp Group which includes all working group members. Zoom records for all sessions exists.

Public consultation

The process of public consultation on the content of the draft National SFM standard was launched on 26.09.2023. The Council for SFM has sent email invitations to all identified stakeholders in the stakeholders mapping. The invitation was also announced on the web page of the NGB. For the process, the NGB has provided contact on 2 emails and one mobile phone to interested stakeholders. The public consultation was lasting until 29.12.2023 and no objections or any other comments or complaints were received.

Second public consultation

The second public consultation was announced on 04.03.2024 the website of the Association <https://www.pefcturkiye.org/pefct%C3%BCrki-yestandartlari> and information sent to all participants via Email the same day.

Field testing

The field testing was arranged on 25-28.02.2024 in General Directorate of Forestry Bolu Regional Directorate of Forestry and Aladağ Forest Processing Chief.

<https://www.ogm.gov.tr/boluobm/haberler/pefc-turkiye-soy-kriter-ve-gosterge-seti-toplantisi-bolu-da-yapildi>

Acceptance of the SFM standard by the NGB

In Türkiye there were no objections, comments or complaints on the draft national SFM standard either after the first public hearing from 26.09.2023 or after the second public hearing on 04.03.2024.

The Working Group for the development of the PEFC standard proposed to the SFM Council in SOYDER the adoption of the standard. Acceptance was officially confirmed by the decision of the Council on 04.04.2024.