

## CENTER OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

### Description of PEFC Lithuania Forest Certification System

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## Introduction to Lithuanian Forest Certification System

This document is describing the content of the PEFC Lithuanian Forest Certification System.

Guiding principles of forest management in Lithuania are Forest Europe criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management as the with the Benchmark standard of PEFC 1003:2018, as well as the existing legal framework related to forest management in the country.

The approach of PEFC to allow incorporation of country specifics in the national forest certification systems in compliance with global benchmarks for SFM of PEFC, as well as the existing legal framework related to forest management in the country was accepted by the broad range of stakeholders.

Lithuanian Forest Certification System (LFCS) complies with the legislation governing forest management and nature protection, the ownership structure, the forest management planning system, the methodology of forestry data collection and processing and with other documents applicable in Lithuania.

### Contents

Lithuanian Forest Certification System (LFCS) includes the following documents:

- **PEFC LT 2024** Description of PEFC Lithuanian Forest Certification System
- **PEFC LT 1002:2023**, Standard setting and revision procedures
- **PEFC LT 1003:2024**, PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Standard of Lithuania
- **PEFC LT 1001:2024**, Certification and accreditation procedures
- **PEFC LT 2002:2024**, Notification of Certification Bodies for Chain of Custody and Forest Management Certification
- **PEFC LT 1002:2023**, Group Forest Management Certification Rules and Procedures
- **PEFC LT 1005:2024**, Issuance of PEFC trademarks license procedures
- **PEFC ST 2001:2024**, PEFC Trademark Rules - Requirements
- **PEFC ST 2002:2024**, Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements
- **PEFC ST 2003:2024**, Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard

### 1. Objective of the Lithuanian Forest Certification System (LFCS)

The LFCS objective is to contribute to overall development and contribution of the forestry sector in the country to comply with the global efforts for mitigation of climate changes, nature conservation, maintenance of forest ecosystem services and community development.

## **2. Process of creation of the Lithuanian Forest Certification System**

Lithuanian Forest and land Owners Association (SB) as initiator of Lithuanian PEFC process started development of Forest Certification System for Lithuania (LFCS) in 2022. This System includes national standard for sustainable forest management (SFM) according to PEFC. The purpose of the standard is to promote the sustainable development and management of Lithuanian forests using forest certification, focusing the owners' attention on the economic, ecological, social and cultural aspects of forest management.

## **3. Methods for certification of sustainable forest management according to the Lithuanian Forest Certification System**

The guiding principle in forest certification are: non-discrimination, cost efficiency and voluntary participation.

The Lithuanian Forest Certification System allows for two certification methods:

1. Individual and
2. Group

In view of the above methods, the following may apply for a certificate:

1. Authorised group representative and
2. Forest owner or authorised forest manager.

## **4. Participants in Forest Management Certification and/or Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products Certification**

Pursuant to the requirements of the LFCS the following bodies or individuals participate in the scheme:

- The NGB's that participate in the LFCS;
- Accreditation body;
- Certification body;
- Applicant for certificate.

### The NGB's from the LFCS

There is Sustainable Forest Management Centre in Lithuania (NGB) that is PEFC authorized body and is contributing in the management of the LFCS.

### Accreditation body, certification body and auditors

The accreditation and certification procedures are described in detail in PEFC LT 1003:2024.

Certification body is an independent body accredited by the National Accreditation for auditing on the Implementation of PEFC Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC LT 1003:2024) and/or Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products - Requirements (PEFC ST 2002:2020).

The requirements for auditors of Sustainable Forest Management and/or Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products are given in PEFC LT 1003:2024 and PEFC ST 2003:2020.

Applicant for a certificate

In view of the method of certification of sustainable forest management, the applicants may be an authorised group representative or forest owner or an authorised forest manager.

The requirements to be met by the applicant for Sustainable Forest Management are given in PEFC LT 1003:2024