



PEFC news

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PEFC acts on new Strategy

With the new strategy adopted by the PEFC at its General Assembly recently, the process of implementation has now started. PEFC expects to have transferred its international office to the World Trade Center in Geneva, Switzerland, by mid May, and is in the process of recruiting new communications, development and administration staff.



Editorial
by Ben Gunneberg
Secretary General

The office will allow PEFC to be nearer to key stakeholders and partners and its new internationally accessible location will make it much easier for stakeholders to meet and work with PEFC.

At the same time we have initiated several reviews. The first is a governance review to be conducted by a review panel, including external consultants and stakeholders which will propose improvements and alterations to the present governance structure (see later article). The Royal Institute of International Affairs (otherwise known as Chatham House) has been commissioned to produce a public report on social criteria in timber procurement policies. Work on the development of PEFC's new communications strategy and implementation plan will start with the appointment of the new Head of Communications, and the Board has also been active in the production of several position papers. These include positions on Carbon and Forest certification, Conversions and the new WWF Paper Scorecard.



As a start to its review and revision of the documentation, to make the rules and standards easier to understand and implement without diluting their rigour, PEFC will start with the revision of both its international Chain of Custody standard and also its logo usage rules. PEFC members, customers as well as other stakeholders will be provided with the opportunity to provide their experiences and opinions as a part of the consultation. In addition requirements for certification bodies being developed together with the International Accreditation Body will be finalised.

PEFC will run its training session for national secretaries in Sweden in May and the General Assembly will be held in Australia in October.

(Continued on page 2)

PEFC Council Global Statistics

Countries	Endorsed certified forest area (ha)	Number of CoC certificates
Australia	7 813 160	20
Austria	3 960 200	248
Belgium	259 527	110
Brazil	973 830	5
Canada	75 396 676	95
Chile	1 700 284	14
China	0	8
Czech Republic	1 849 754	222
Denmark	207 101	20
Finland	20 719 735	114
France	4 230 482	1 010
Germany	7 299 254	574
Hungary	0	3
India	0	1
Indonesia	0	1
Ireland	0	6
Italy	653 942	82
Japan	0	50
Latvia	0	3
Luxembourg	25 869	8
Malaysia	0	1
Morocco	0	1
Netherlands	0	53
New Zealand	0	2
Norway	7 537 102	11
PEFC Council	0	0
Philippines	0	1
Portugal	0	8
SFI (USA & Canada)	61 012 280	39
Slovak Republic	1 171 385	6
Spain	1 075 744	120
Sweden	7 408 118	87
Switzerland	410 544	231
UK	0	579
Total	203 704 988	3 733

The data above is updated regularly and is available on the **PEFC Statistics Interactive Database** at www.pefc.org (29 February 2008).

(Continued from page 1)

Finally we are pleased to announce that the new Polish and Estonian forest certification schemes have successfully completed their rigorous assessment process and been endorsed by the PEFC Council, bringing to 25 the number of national schemes now recognised. In addition the Belgian, Danish, UK, and Swiss schemes have just successfully completed their five yearly revision and re-endorsement. The full assessment reports on all these schemes are available on the website and include the mandatory Panel of Experts peer review comments published in full.

Ben Gunneberg

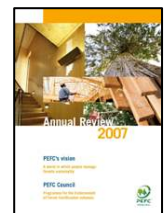
PEFC Council Annual Review 2007

The PEFC Council Annual Review 2007 is now available. The Annual Review shows PEFC's developments and achievements in the past year and can be downloaded at www.pefc.org > Documentation > Reports.

Guidance on the "Project" Chain of Custody

PEFC UK Ltd. in co-operation with the PEFC Council developed a guidance document which provides an interpretation of the PEFC Chain of Custody standard for the purposes of site and a time specific projects. Examples of a project could include a building such as a stadium or an office building, etc.

The guidance is applicable worldwide and can be downloaded at www.pefc.org > Documentation > PEFC Technical Documentation > Annex 4.



PEFC Governance Review – comments invited online

As part of its strategy, PEFC has committed itself to reviewing and restructuring the organisation in terms of governance, to improve its operational effectiveness and the way it is perceived externally. To this effect, the PEFC Council recently launched a global Governance Review, directed by an international panel of experts, the majority of whom are independent of PEFC, and with support from the Z/Yen Group.

The panel, chaired by Lord Jamie Lindsay of UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service), includes Björn Andrén of Holmen Skog AB, John Dee of Planet Ark, Hans Drielsma of Forestry Tasmania, Dr. Maharaj Muthoo of the Hari Environment & Development Society and formerly FSC Executive Director, Frederick O'Regan of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and Dirk Teegelbeekers of PEFC Deutschland e.V.

Building upon the unanimous adoption of PEFC's Strategic Plan in October 2007, the Governance Review will focus on a number of important areas:

- Making the PEFC organisation more effective;
- Ensuring that PEFC's rules and standards are simple and easy to understand, implement and operate;
- Improving external perceptions of PEFC's governance;
- Ensuring that PEFC robustly implements and continuously monitors its own requirements at all levels;
- Ensuring "buy-in" from PEFC's existing stakeholders;
- Removing obstacles to dialogue with environmental non-government organisations (ENGOs).

Panel members first met in February and two further meetings are planned. External and internal stakeholder views will be sought by the Panel, via supporting consultants Z/Yen using a questionnaire available at www.pefc.org with your comments sought by 31 March. This will be complemented by a series of detailed interviews of key stakeholders and together this will provide the necessary information to allow the Panel to present its findings and recommendations to PEFC to consider and action. PEFC

anticipates the completion of the Governance Review by late spring/early summer of this year.



*PEFC labelled product
© PEFC Spain*

Peer Review up and running

A unique feature of PEFC's governance structure is the mandatory peer review of assessment reports on national forest certification schemes seeking endorsement or re-endorsement by the PEFC Council which has been in force for over a year now. This is undertaken by a Panel of Experts and provides an extra level of scrutiny, transparency and accountability which is unique in forestry certification.

The Panel of Experts is appointed by the PEFC Council Executive Committee from applications received and the composition aims to represent a broad range of interests including:

- Forestry
- Certification and accreditation processes
- NGOs (including social and environmental interests)
- Market access

Following detailed initial testing of the new arrangements, the PEFC has made appropriate changes to ensure greater transparency in reporting of the Panel of Experts members' individual views and the Assessment Consultant's considered responses.

New interim principles have been developed to ensure complete transparency in the reporting of each individual panel member's view and of the consultant's response. Examples of this total transparency can be found in the assessment reports of the schemes which have just been endorsed this month. In the spirit of improving its operations and making them more effective, the role of the Panel of Experts in also being examined in the ongoing major governance review of the PEFC Council.

Names and short resumes of current Panel of Experts members are available at www.pefc.org About PEFC > Who's who > Panel of Experts and more will be added in due course.

PEFC periodically provides training for panellists and will use the feedback provided in assessments to improve PEFC's documentation and rules.

PEFC commissions Social Criteria study

As a contribution to the ongoing debate on social criteria in forest certification and timber procurement policies, PEFC has commissioned the Royal Institute of International Affairs (otherwise known as Chatham House) to review the information currently available and publish a report on the current situation. The report will not make any recommendations. Rather it will provide stakeholders with, amongst others, an analysis of social criteria already covered in procurement policies both inside and outside the EU, including what they relate to (e.g. worker's and indigenous peoples rights, health and safety, benefits to local communities, complaints and



Sami forest worker

disputes resolution and participation and consultation etc). It will also provide a summary of what international standards and processes the criteria are based on. It will also consider the situation of procurement schemes implicitly based on certification scheme

criteria. In addition there will be an analysis of the interaction of social criteria with, amongst others, WTO procurement rules. The report will also examine the relevant lessons that can be drawn from other product sectors where social issues are relevant to procurement, labelling or certification schemes (e.g. food, textiles etc). Finally the report will provide an analysis of the issues thrown up by the adoption of social criteria, including political issues, such as national sovereignty, and practical issues relating to their implementation and measurement and the actual or expected impacts, especially on developing countries, particularly those participating in EU-FLEGT VPAs (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreements).



Traditional forest work in Chile

It was planned to have consultation on the issues with a wide cross-section of stakeholders at a bespoke workshop. However as the Danish Government is organising a workshop on public procurement and illegal logging with Chatham House, they have kindly agreed to allow Chatham House to use this occasion to present a first draft of the PEFC commissioned study for feedback and discussion as part of their workshop. This workshop will take place on the 7th and 8th April in Copenhagen, Denmark.

PEFC UK hosts high profile Westminster dinner

In February, PEFC UK sponsored a dinner in the Palace of Westminster at the House of Lords. The 120 guests at the dinner, hosted by former UK Forestry Minister and current Chairman of United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) Lord Lindsay, were drawn from a wide range of stakeholders including publishers, construction companies, retailers, trade associations, house builders and certifiers.



The keynote speaker was the Rt. Hon. John Gummer MP, former Secretary of State for the Environment, an experienced international negotiator respected in both the business and environmental communities. Indeed, the NGO community has described him as *“the best Environment Secretary we have ever had”*.



Lord Linday,
Rt. Hon. John
Gummer MP
and Peter
Latham

Mr Gummer gave a well received and heart felt speech asserting that timber traders who supply uncertified products should be *“ashamed of themselves”* and called on global forest certification schemes to work together to increase the amount of certified forest rather than arguing about the differences between the respective schemes, likening such arguments to *“differences between the Baptists and strict Baptists ... to anyone else it’s not important”*.

Members of the national PEFC entities from Sweden, Norway, Germany and France and the PEFC Council participated at the event.

Chicago Carbon Exchange (CCX) endorses PEFC

The Chicago Carbon Exchange (CCX) has endorsed PEFC as evidence of sustainable forest management under its rules for forest carbon sequestration projects.

The Chicago Carbon Exchange (CCX) is a legally binding integrated trading system to reduce emissions of major greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, with offset projects worldwide. Under CCX’s protocol for sustainably managed forests there must be evidence of sustainable forest management of all managed forest land through approved certification schemes, which includes PEFC endorsed standards.

Xerox chooses PEFC

As part of its long-standing commitment to preserve biodiversity through responsible forest management and to provide customers with "greener" paper choices, Xerox Corporation, the world's leading document management technology and services enterprise, earned Chain of Custody certification from both the PEFC and FSC. *“As one of the largest global suppliers of cut-sheet paper, we’re now offering our customers the assurance of the highest environmental standards provided by these leading environmental organizations,”* said Steve Simpson, Vice President and General Manager, Xerox Paper and Supplies Business Unit.



The Guardian uses PEFC paper

In their latest Sustainability report, “The Guardian”, “The Observer” and “Guardian Unlimited” state that perhaps their greatest potential for affecting the environment is through their paper purchasing. In the same light their vision states that *“sustainability will be at the heart of our procurement processes, as we recognise that our suppliers represent a key part of our operational impact.”*

Therefore “The Guardian” installed a new central procurement team to make sure that all of their suppliers comply with the necessary conditions for keeping them sustainable. A paper procurement policy has been published recently:

Concerning the use of virgin paper, their paper purchasing policy says: *“Put in place procedures to ensure, as far as possible, that fibre is not derived from illegal sources or from uncertified forests in areas of high conservation value. Increase the proportion, where possible, of paper that comes from credibly certified, well-managed forests - this will currently include certification under any of the following schemes: FSC, PEFC, FFCS, SFI, CSA, UKWAS, although we will review this list annually.”*

New Position Papers

The following position papers have recently been, or are about to be, published on the PEFC website at www.pefc.org > Documentation > Position Papers.

Carbon and Forest Certification

PEFC believes that any credible mechanism of carbon credit trading must recognise and reward the carbon sink created by forests managed in a sustainable manner as demonstrated through their independent credible certification. To this effect PEFC calls on all key decision makers to recognise that:

1. Forestry represents an important climate change mitigation potential;
2. Only sustainably managed forests should qualify for carbon credits or any other payments relating to afforestation, reduction of deforestation; forest management (maintaining or increasing stand-level or landscape level carbon density) or increasing off-site carbon stocks in wood based products;
3. Sustainable forest management must be demonstrated through credible certification like PEFC.

The PEFC is committed to working with others in the international community to design carbon trading facilities and other mechanism which motivate and reward people who manage their forest sustainably as a significant contribution to climate change mitigation.



WWF Paper Scorecard - room for improvement

WWF published its WWF Paper Scorecard at the end of last year. PEFC Council has welcomed WWF's acknowledgement that "several schemes have made contributions to improving forest management". However this is not reflected in the scorecard, and an opportunity to make the scorecard a really useful tool has been missed primarily on two counts.

1. It does not recognize market realities in that a major part of the score card's emphasis is in differentiating within the 10% of the world's best managed forests, rather than focussing on the 90% of forest land not certified to any system.
2. The score card does not differentiate between certified and non-certified wood other than FSC. In other words certified forests products from internationally recognised third-party credible forest certification systems are treated the same as non-certified forest products that could potentially be from illegal and/or unsustainable sources.



PEFC Council is convinced that the market and consumers need and deserve a useful and practical tool, and PEFC has therefore written to WWF to offer to engage in an open dialogue to address these and other points made in the position paper to improve the score card.

Conversions

This paper gives an overview of the concerns, perceptions and reactions surrounding "Conversions". PEFC is mindful of the sensitivity of this issue and is committed to devoting as much time as is necessary to undertake a detailed examination of the issue and to work with members and key stakeholders to develop a relevant action plan.

Assessment of 7 national forest certification systems

7 forest certification systems are currently undergoing the PEFC endorsement process.

The PEFC Council has received applications for the endorsement of two **Russian** forest certification systems. One is currently in the process of signing the evaluation contract and the start of the assessment process for this system will be announced in the near future. The assessment of the second system has already started and the public consultation period is currently ongoing as part of the endorsement process.

The assessment and public consultation period has started for **Latvia** and is expected to start soon for **Chile** and **Spain**. All interested parties are invited to send comments during the usual two months public consultation period.

The assessment of the **ATFS (USA)** continues and when completed the assessment reports will be published on the PEFC Council website. The **Gabonese** system assessment has been interrupted and will continue when revised documentation is submitted.

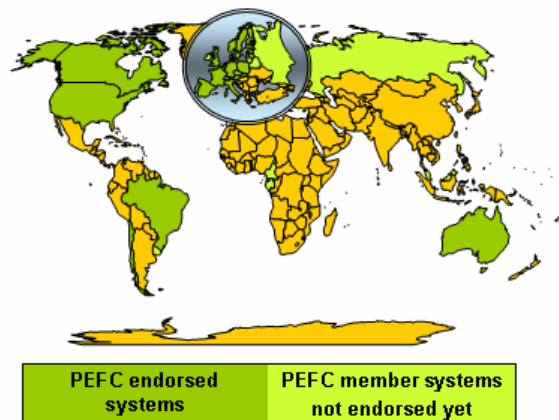
The forest certification system of **Estonia** and **Poland** have recently been endorsed and the systems of **Belgium**, **Denmark**, **Switzerland** and the **UK** have all been re-endorsed by PEFC.

As of 28th February 2008, the current **Latvian** Forest Certification Scheme is no longer endorsed by the PEFC Council and Forest Management Certificates issued against it cannot be considered as PEFC recognised. The Latvian Forest Certification Scheme was endorsed on 20th July 2001 and received two extensions for the endorsement validity in compliance with the PEFC Council documentation until 28th February 2008. Please note that Chain of Custody certificates issued by PEFC notified accredited certification bodies against the PEFC international Chain of Custody standard (Annex 4 of the PEFC

Council Technical Document) are still considered as PEFC recognised. The PEFC Latvian Forest Certification Scheme is currently undergoing its re-endorsement process and subject to a successful completion of this process, the PEFC Council will be able to reinstate the endorsement status.

Detailed information on all systems in the process of being assessed including their complete documentation is available at www.pefc.org > Members & Schemes.

PEFC Council International



Revision of the PEFC international Chain of Custody standard

The PEFC Council is going to launch a revision of the PEFC international Chain of Custody standard. The current standard was adopted in 2004 and it is expected that a new version of the standard will be delivered in 2009. During the first year the PEFC Council will analyse the usage of the current standard, its weaknesses and limitations as well as the companies and market needs and expectations. The second stage run in 2009 will then be focused on drafting and consulting the new version of the standard.

The PEFC Council will work closely with its members as well as with other stakeholders to ensure that the revision will deliver a consensual solution accommodating the companies' needs and at the same time ensuring credibility and truthfulness of PEFC claims.

Revision of the PEFC Logo Usage Rules

The PEFC Council has decided to comprehensively revise the PEFC Logo Usage Rules which are currently defined in Annex 5 of the PEFC Council Technical Document. The revision process should be completed in time for the new rules to be adopted at the next General Assembly 2008 in Canberra, Australia in October.



PEFC labelled product

The revision should deliver an appropriate response to the current and future market circumstances as well as to customer and consumer expectations and needs, whilst at the same time, ensuring that the usage of the PEFC Logo and relating claims remain truthful, credible and clear.

The revision will be organised in two stages. In spring 2008, the PEFC Council will analyse the current rules together with market expectations while the second stage, run in summer 2008, will be focused on drafting and consulting of the new rules. During the both stages, the PEFC members and other stakeholders will have opportunity to participate in and contribute to the process.

New PEFC Council Minimum Requirements Checklist

The PEFC Council Board recently approved the revised PEFC Council Minimum Requirements Checklist (GL2/2008) which incorporates changes to the PEFC Council documentation (Technical Document and Annexes) which were adopted at the General Assembly. The objectives of the guideline are to assist bodies, which develop or revise their forest certification schemes and prepare for PEFC Council endorsement. They also facilitate the

assessment of the compliance of a national forest certification scheme against the PEFC Council requirements as part of the endorsement and mutual recognition process. A new version of the checklist (GL2/2008) is available at www.pefc.org > Documentation > PEFC Technical Documentation.

New communications manager at PEFC Belgium

Mrs Mieke Vercrujssse joins the team of PEFC Belgium as Communications Manager. She is in charge of the Belgian PEFC communications strategy. One of her tasks is to increase communication on PEFC in the region of Flanders, situated in the north of Belgium.

Mieke studied sciences of communications at the Brussels Free University and worked 5 years as a journalist before joining PEFC. She can be contacted at +32 2 227 56 57 and m.vercrujssse@pefc.be.



PEFC Council National Secretaries' meeting

The PEFC Council's National Secretaries meeting will take place this year from 29th to 31st May 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden. This yearly meeting is the opportunity for the Secretary Generals from the various PEFC member countries to exchange experiences and views, initiate new common activities, harmonise their communication activities and receive training on the latest changes in PEFC certification that will be implemented at national level.



Reports from the PEFC National Governing Bodies

In the following section PEFC member systems, both endorsed and those working towards endorsement, have the opportunity to present a brief report on the current state of play in their country. The views expressed here are the views of the members and do not necessarily reflect the views of the PEFC Council.

BELGIUM



PEFC certified products as prizes in contest

Visitors of this year's "Bois & Habitat" fair will have the opportunity to participate in PEFC Belgium's contest and win PEFC certified products such as a sauna, garden furniture, etc. The 10th edition of the fair takes place from the 11-14 March 2008 in Namur and welcomes every year over 40 000 visitors. Information on the fair and the contest can be found at www.pefc.be and www.bois-habitat.com.



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BRAZIL



Authorities gather at seminar in Rio de Janeiro

Authorities and representatives of government bodies, the private sector and non-government organizations recently gathered for a Cerflor Forest Certification seminar organized by the Rio de Janeiro Federation of Industries (Firjan) and Inmetro.

Inmetro Director of Quality, Alfredo Lobo pointed out the role of the media as an instrument to inform and communicate about the practice of

forest stewardship. The Chairman of PEFC Council, Michel Clark and the head of the European Accreditation (EA), Lorenzo Thione presented a global map with the certified forest area and its growths. Mr Thione praised the Brazilian forest certification model as well as the importance of initiatives such as this seminar to promote forest certification.

Both the Rio de Janeiro State Secretary of Economic Development, Energy, Industry and Services, Mr Julio Bueno and a representative of the State Secretary for the Environment, Mr Carlos Minc attended the seminar.

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CANADA



PEFC Canada updates its website

www.pefccanada.org is being updated. Useful documents that will be available on the revised website include French translations of PEFC Annex 4 (Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements), PEFC Annex 5 (PEFC Logo Use Rules) and PEFC Annex 6 (Certification and Accreditation Procedures). Reporting forms for certification bodies issuing PEFC and CSA certificates in Canada for forest management as well as information on Chain of Custody certificates will also be available for download on the website.

PEFC certificates on the rise

2007 was a year of growth for the PEFC endorsed CSA Z809 forest management standard and PEFC Annex 4 Chain of Custody certificates in Canada. December 2006 to December 2007 saw an increase in Chain of Custody certificates from 36 to 90 and approximately 5 million hectares in certified land.

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FRANCE



PEFC France presents film on sustainable forest management

Important actors of the French forest sector recently gathered to discuss sustainable forest management and the PEFC requirements in France. Among them were Michel Dantin, "Sustainable Management" Counsellor to the Minister of Agriculture, Allain Bougrain Dubourg, President of the Birds Protection League, Sébastien Genest, President of France Nature Environnement, Pierre-Olivier Drège, CEO of the Office National des Forêts and Michael Clark, Chairman of the PEFC Council.



A film illustrated different aspects of PEFC and sustainable forest management, as perceived by different actors, and encouraged participants to discuss amongst others:

- The integration of the various roles of the forests, including its landscape aspects, in the sustainable development documents;
- The choice of endemic tree species and species adapted to soil;
- Irregular treatments in the forest;
- Links in the ecological network such as borders, riverbank vegetation, forest corridors and copses;
- Necessary measures for the protection of water resources, soil, legally designated species and areas of outstanding interest;
- Balance between forests and game density;
- Promotion of the PEFC trademark.

Air France prints its magazine on PEFC paper

Air France is now printing its *Air France magazine* on PEFC certified paper. The PEFC logo can be found on one of the first pages of the magazine. By using PEFC paper, the French airline underlines its commitment towards environmental protection and sustainable management.



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GERMANY



First Annual Review by PEFC Germany

PEFC Germany published the most important trends and developments of 2007 in its first Annual Review, among them an increase of 100.000 ha of PEFC certified forests and 97 new Chain of Custody certificates including 36 in the printing sector. These ongoing positive developments underline the status that PEFC gained in the German forest sector over the last years. Ecological awareness of companies and consumers, the public procurement policy of the German government issued in January 2007 and important communication and marketing activities by PEFC Germany and the certified companies contributed to these results. The Annual Review 2007 is available at www.pefc.de.



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ITALY



Results of PEFC commissioned study on impact of chainsaw fuels made public

In the light of the raising awareness of environmental consequences in Italy due to felling operations that are carried out with chainsaws, PEFC Italy commissioned the National Research Council "IVALSA – Trees and Timber Institute" (www.ivalsa.cnr.it/ivalsae.htm) to carry out a field research in order to compare the consumption of traditional and modern fuels and oils, namely alchylate fuels and bio-oils, used in chainsaws. The goal of this research financed by PEFC Italy was to analyse if the use of these products is also economically sustainable and socially acceptable by forest workers enterprises. Two felling field operations were set up in the Alps and Apennines forests, tested on different tree species and using different chainsaw models.



Final results show that the consumption of traditional and modern fuel is similar. At the same time bio-oils last longer than traditional oils. The use of modern products resulted in less damage to chainsaw machines seizure, as the internal gears and mechanisms were found to be in better conditions. The absence of toxic gas emission and the lower impact of oil pollutants to forest soil, together with a comparable if not better economical impact (because of the longer life of the chainsaw machines), bring PEFC Italy to consider these new products in the future revision of the Italian SFM standard.

The results of the study were presented in a public seminar at Fieragricola, the most important agricultural fair in Italy, in February 2008.

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SLOVAK REPUBLIC



All regions in Slovakia now PEFC certified

The last region in Slovakia, covering the western part of the country, received its certificate for sustainable forest management on 19th December 2007. The area of the certified region ZÁPAD is 465 008 ha. In this region, 57 legal entities, representing 66,5 % of the area, committed to manage their forests according to the requirements of the Slovak Forest Certification System, which was endorsed by PEFC in August 2005. Some of the participants in regional certification have already submitted their applications for PEFC logo usage.



Slovakian regions holding a PEFC certificate

The total area of PEFC certified forests in all four regions in Slovakia (STRED, SEVER, VÝCHOD and ZÁPAD) is 1.171375 ha, thus providing PEFC certified industrial roundwood from over 60% of the total forest area to the industry.



Slovakian forested land

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SPAIN



Launch of the “Green Public Procurement Plan”

The Ministry of Presidency of Spain under the proposal of the Ministers of Environment and Finances launched the “Green Public Procurement Plan” recently.

It is based, among other regulations, on the Spanish Strategy for Climate Change and Clean Energy and the draft Integrated National Waste Program. This plan will be applied by the Spanish General Administration. The main measures relating to wood and paper mentioned in this plan are:

- Environmental criteria for building upkeep:
 - Use of materials easily recyclable or reusable at the end of their lifecycle.
- Paper and publications:
 - Sustainability criteria based on the European Eco Label for Paper.
 - Sustainability criteria in design or edition of publications before the end of 2010.
 - Reduction of paper publications in Public Administrations of 40% before 2015, giving way to electronic formats.
 - Percentage of 50% of recycled paper in publications before 2010 and 90% before 2015.
 - Training sessions for purchase responsible civil servants.
- Furniture:
 - Virgin wood will not come from illegal logging, genetically modified trees or high environmental value species.
 - The origin of wood needs to be documented by a certificate of sustainable forest management which is an evaluation criterion for office furniture.

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UNITED KINGDOM



BRE EcoHomes upgrades PEFC to top tier

The new national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes *The Code for Sustainable Homes*, was launched in April 2007 and includes PEFC in its top tier. This replaced BRE EcoHomes for new builds in England and Wales, but BRE EcoHomes continues to be used for refurbished housing in England and for new builds in Scotland and Wales.



The BRE EcoHomes dates from April 2006 and originally awarded PEFC certified timber one less point than FSC. However BRE has now issued a new guideline to its assessors which awards PEFC the same number of points in the Responsible Sourcing of Materials section as FSC.

The change in the points awarded for using PEFC-certified timber was announced in a July 2007 PROCESS NOTE from BRE:



“Further to the CPET (Centre Point of Excellence in Timber) review earlier this year PEFC timber now qualifies as Tier 1 in the BREEAM and EcoHomes schemes. This change will take effect from the date of this process note. This change will be noted in an addendum and placed on the extranet shortly. As a result there is currently no scheme that falls within Tier 2 and all other schemes remain in the same tier as before.”

PEFC and LEAF

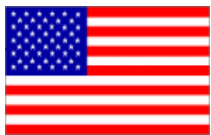
In January, PEFC UK exhibited at LEAF (Leading European Architects Forum) London - an international conference and exhibition for those involved with the architectural environment; architects, planners, contractors, developers and interior designers.

PEFC UK exhibited at this event with the objective of encouraging architects to specify certified timber and explain the key factors driving demand for certified timber in the UK.

As well as stressing the importance of specifying legal and sustainable timber, PEFC was able to ensure that architects knew that they had a choice of certification schemes with which to engage.

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USA



Global companies awarded PEFC Chain of Custody

An increasing number of large and influential companies have achieved PEFC Annex 4 certification in the United States. These include: Glatfelter, a global manufacturer of specialty papers and engineered products; Quebecor World, one of North America's largest printers certified all 54 of its North American printing locations; Central National-Gottesman Inc, a privately owned marketer of pulp and paper; and Xerox Corporation, one of the world's world's leading document management, technology and services enterprise, received Chain of Custody certification for distribution centers across 17 countries.

SFI increases market awareness

2007 was a big year for marketing the SFI and PEFC standards in North America. SFI has been participating in many national and international trade shows, conferences, and meetings. SFI has also been responding quickly to any

misrepresentation of the PEFC-endorsed SFI standard in the media. This is reflected in the increase in PEFC Annex 4 certificates from none at the beginning of 2006 to 27 certificates by mid-February 2008.

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PEFC ASIA PROMOTIONS OFFICE



PEFC at the Seminar for Tackling Illegal Logging

The 2nd International Seminar for Tackling Illegal Logging recently attracted over 200 people in Yokohama, Japan. The organizer, the Japan Federation of Wood Industry Associations and Goho Wood (Council for Promotion of Countermeasures against Illegal Logging), aimed to explain the Japanese Public Procurement Policy to the principal exporters/suppliers and the measures taken by the exporters/suppliers for meeting the requirement set by the Japanese Public Procurement Policy. PEFC Asia Promotions Office participated as an exhibitor together with other Japanese and overseas organisations. Most of the speakers endorsed forest certification including PEFC as a good means of assurance of both legality and sustainability of forest-based products.



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