

Review Article

PEFC Certification: A New Standard for Sustainable Management

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Abstract

The new PEFC certification standard maintains adherence to the established principles of sustainable development certification, ensuring consistency with the framework that has guided forest certification for many years. This continuity provides stability and reliability, as the standard does not introduce fundamental changes to the certification process. Forest managers, owners, and industry stakeholders can continue to rely on this established framework that guarantees credibility and international recognition. This continuity preserves stakeholder confidence in the system, while maintaining the transparency and rigor that certification has always embodied. At the same time, the revised standard constitutes a significant evolution. It strengthens the certification framework by placing increased emphasis on the multifunctionality of forests, recognizing the diverse ecological, social, and economic benefits that forests provide. Beyond wood production, forests serve essential functions in maintaining biodiversity, protecting water resources, regulating soil quality, and making substantial contributions to climate change mitigation through carbon storage. They also offer spaces for recreation, cultural value, and community well-being, rendering them indispensable to society. By explicitly integrating these multiple functions into the certification requirements, the new PEFC standard reflects a more holistic understanding of forests as complex ecosystems. This shift ensures that certification remains relevant in addressing current environmental and societal challenges, while aligning with the expectations of citizens, consumers, and stakeholders worldwide. Thus, the standard balances continuity, stability, and progress, reinforcing its role as a reliable instrument for sustainable forest management.

Keywords

Sustainable Development, Certification by an Independent Body, Trademark License, Forest Law, Forest

1. Introduction

Following the major environmental conferences at the end of the 20th century, organizations representing forest owners in six European countries (France, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Sweden, and Finland) created a certification system in 1999 called the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The regional entity of PEFC France now

brings together around 79,500 owners and covers 5.6 million hectares. It is divided into three colleges: the college of forest owners, the college of companies, and the college of forest users and environmental protection associations. This certification aims to offer an alternative adapted to the specific characteristics and fragmentation of French and European forests,

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to support owners in the changing challenges related to the multifunctionality of forests, and to promote and guarantee sustainable forest management through a label.

Every five years, the rules for sustainable forest management are reviewed by a forum composed of a group of stakeholders and experts involved in forestry in France. This fourth version of the certification aims to improve the previous one and to better take into account the changing economic, environmental, and societal issues related to forests. The new issues considered to have justified a modernization of the standard are the legal texts that came into force following the new version¹, the new international standards², and the inherent increase in climate risks.

The new PEFC certification standard, validated on April 27 and May 10, 2023, by the PEFC Forum³ and the extraordinary general meeting of PEFC France on March 26, 2025, came into force on the same day for a transition period lasting until September 25, 2026. It continues to promote sustainable forest management, while adapting to crucial contemporary issues such as fighting forest fires. Regular revision of the standards ensures that certification remains relevant to sustainable development issues.

Certification is defined in Article L. 433-3 of the Consumer Code as the conformity of a product or process with a predefined standard. It may also apply to an organization. The inspection must necessarily be carried out by a third-party body recognized for its independence from the manufacturer. The legal definition of certification does not exclude variations in approach [1]. Although not specifically mentioned in the Intellectual Property Code, certification sometimes takes the form of a trademark [2]. In this case, PEFC certification is twofold and covers the entire forestry chain, including forest management and wood processing companies. Certification is issued by an independent body recognized by the PEFC structure.

For a certification to be considered sustainable, it must contribute to the convergence of the three pillars of sustainable development as defined at the Rio convention during Earth Summit [3]. Certification relating to sustainable forest management goes beyond environmental issues alone to address socio-economic issues. PEFC certification complies with the definition of sustainable development certification.

In this article, we will examine the new PEFC standard as a tool for sustainable forest management. The first part will attempt to provide some answers by explaining the legal structure of the certification process (I). The second part will seek to provide further answers by explaining the requirements imposed on forest owners (II).

2. The Legal Structure of the Certification Process

In terms of how it works, the PEFC system would meet the definition of certification [4]. Generally, certification takes the form of a collective mark or guarantee mark registered in accordance with European regulations [5]. The non-individual mark guarantees the quality promoted by the certification. Thus, the first part will attempt to define how the PEFC system is a certification and then discuss its contribution to sustainable development.

2.1. Certification Organized as a “System”

PEFC certification has specific features in terms of how authorization to use its label is organized. Obtaining the certificate does not automatically grant the forest owner or company authorization to use its logo. The latter must join PEFC and sign a license agreement to use the label. Thus, the use of the PEFC logo takes place in two stages: first, the preliminary certification process, followed by exploitation made possible by a license agreement.

2.1.1. The Preliminary Certification Process

PEFC certification meets the criteria for certification, as it is conditional on compliance with a set of standards that are monitored by an independent verification body. In its previous version, the standard specified the definition of the certifying body, which guarantees impartiality⁴ [6]. In France, in order to carry out its mission, a verification body must first be accredited by the French Accreditation Committee (COFRAC)⁵ [7]. COFRAC sets out specific requirements that must be met in order to be accredited to certify the chain of custody in accordance with the PEFC standard [8].

The organization is also PEFC-certified. The verification body conducts a document audit followed by an on-site audit, lasting at least half a day, either initially or for the purpose of renewing certification. The new standard requires the certified owner to carry out a self-assessment beforehand, in order to raise awareness and promote the application of good practices. Although considered relevant in terms of the development of self-regulation practices [9], in order to develop education around sustainable forestry practices, the vague wording of the standard raises concerns that an insufficient number of owners will be subject to it.

The certification obtained is valid for five years, with random on-site surveillance audits. A renewal audit is scheduled two to three months before the certificate expires. Logically,

¹ For instance, Decree No. 2022-527 of April 12, 2022, enacted pursuant to Article L. 110-4 of the Environmental Code and defining the concept of strong protection and the terms and conditions for implementing such strong protection, is mentioned in the new reference framework.

² For instance, the ISO 633:2019 standard on cork is mentioned in the reference document.

³ The PEFC Forum is a multi-stakeholder body comprising 117 stakeholders, whose objective is to carry out work to develop the PEFC standard.

⁴ “Chain of custody certification is carried out by an impartial third party in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 “Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services”.

⁵ The Consumer Code provides for the same provision in Article L. 433-4.

failure to comply with the standards could result in the certificate being shortened, particularly after various critical deviations have been observed. However, obtaining the certificate is not the only factor determining authorization to use the PEFC designation.

2.1.2. Use Under a Trademark License Agreement

The PEFC certification system is organized around a collective trademark and a number of trademark licenses. A collective mark is defined in Article L. 715-6 of the Intellectual Property Code (CPI) as “a mark designated as such when it is registered and used to distinguish the products or services of persons authorized to use it under its rules of use.” The collective mark is registered by a group, and its use is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in a usage regulation that must be registered with the mark (Art. L. 715-7 CPI). A license agreement is an agreement whereby the owner of a trademark authorizes a third party to use the sign in exchange for a fee. The conclusion of a license agreement does not appear to be prohibited for collective trademarks⁶. The suspension or withdrawal of certification has the same consequence for the trademark license agreement. The sign attached to the certification must be registered as a trademark, in accordance with Article L. 433-7 of the Consumer Code. While PEFC certification is logically a collective trademark since it serves a collective interest [10], its use is subject to a right of use granted by trademark license. Two categories of trademark license are possible. The national PEFC structure issues trademark organization license to its regional delegations so that they can grant sub-licenses for use to companies, institutions, or other people.

Chain of custody certification entitles the holder to a license to use the PEFC trademark. Licenses are inseparable from certification, as contracts have the same validity period as certification. Similarly, withdrawal of certification results in suspension of the right to use the trademark or termination of the contract. Licenses are granted free of charge within the territory of jurisdiction. When the PEFC label is used, it must be accompanied by the license number. The words “PEFC certified without recycled materials” appear on a product when 70% of the raw materials from the forest are certified. The words “PEFC certified with recycled materials” appear if 70% of the production is PEFC certified or made from recycled materials. The label reads “PEFC recycled” when the product is made exclusively from recycled materials. Finally, the last label is “100% PEFC Origin” when the product is made exclusively from PEFC-certified raw materials [11]. The granting of authorization to use the PEFC label through a license agreement ensures that the various labels are managed appropriately, without incurring additional costs for users of the brand. PEFC is part of a system of interactions between the various stakeholders, enabling support for sustainable forestry, which is

also demonstrated by the provision for a transition period in the standard. At the end of the transition period, all checks will be carried out in accordance with the new standard.

The PEFC certification system is part of a process of standardizing sustainable forest management. First, the PEFC standard is based on several norms and standards, although the new version of the standard tends to bring all PEFC standards together in a single document. In addition, the standard cites various norms⁷. Finally, other labels, such as the collective label “Bois des Alpes,” require in their standards prior certification under the PEFC or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system for the entire production process [12].

2.2. A Sustainable Certification “System”

The PEFC certification system has historically been focused on sustainability, not limited to environmental issues. The new PEFC system standard continues this approach by establishing sustainability requirements compatible with the three pillars of sustainable development. The certification considers mechanisms for protecting sustainability issues, in particular the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations in 2015 [13]. Organizations seeking certification must demonstrate compliance with workers' rights and working conditions that do not endanger their health or safety. They must also exercise due diligence to ensure that their raw materials do not come from “controversial sources.” The due diligence requirement is the main change to the standard and is in line with European regulations. The first regulation on this [14], which prohibited the placing on the market of illegally harvested timber, has been supplemented by a recent new regulation [15]. This new regulation promotes “due diligence” [16] as an obligation incumbent on operators (Art. 4). Sustainable development can only be achieved through increased vigilance on the part of economic operators. In line with its support approach, the PEFC standard makes operators accountable through the obligation of due diligence. The PEFC certification system sets out environmental requirements. In particular, the new standard prohibits clear-cutting without forest renewal within five years. However, some associations consider the framework to be insufficient.

The law does not regulate the level of requirements expected of a certification procedure. The law regulates compliance with the reference framework without questioning its rigor. The Consumer Code specifies, in Article L. 433-3, that the standard is a technical document certifying compliance with certain characteristics without specifying their nature. Thus, there is no legal mechanism to support the claim that certification contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. The lack of precision calls into question the scientific validity of the standards. The PEFC standard makes virtually no mention

⁶ The conclusion of a trademark license agreement is covered in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of June 14, 2017, on the European Union trademark, also known as the EUTM.

⁷ ISO 14020 environmental labels and declarations; ISO/IEC 14021 environmental marking and declarations; ISO/IEC 17065 conformity assessment; ISO 19011 guidelines for auditing management systems.

of scientific validity, except to specify that no genetically modified trees may be used in the absence of scientific data on them. The validation of the standard is further facilitated by the involvement of stakeholders in the development of a new standard and transparency in the provision of information. In particular, the achievement of the SDGs by the PEFC standard is specified.

PEFC certification and sustainable development goals

The standard only mentions SDGs in its introduction. However, certification plays a significant role in achieving them. Regular revision of the standard allows for adaptation to the SDGs. PEFC communicates its role in achieving the SDGs: “PEFC sustainable forest management certification plays a key role in achieving these goals by acting at the local and international levels through the definition and application of sustainable forest management rules” [17].

Table 1. PEFC & Sustainable Development Goals - Comprehensive Summary.

Category	Aspect	Key Information
PEFC Overview	Status	World leader in forest certification
	Certified Area	Over 300 million hectares of forests
	Criteria	Global sustainability and PEFC durability standards
	Website	www.pefc.org or www.pefc-france.org
SDG 1 - No Poverty	Community Support	Forests generate income for indigenous populations
SDG 3 - Good Health	Air Quality & Well-being	Forests purify air and contribute to health
SDG 6 - Clean Water	Water Resource Protection	Forests protect watersheds
SDG 7 - Clean Energy	Sustainable Biomass	Forests provide 70 billion tons of food per year
SDG 8 - Decent Work	Sustainable Employment	4.2 million jobs created by the forest sector
SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities	Sustainable Construction Materials	Certified wood for construction
SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption	Product Certification	Guarantee of responsible origin of forest products
SDG 13 - Climate Action	Carbon Sequestration	Forests absorb nearly 2.6 billion tons of CO ₂ annually
SDG 15 - Life on Land	Forest Biodiversity	80% of animal and plant species live in forests
SDG 17 - Partnerships	International Collaboration	Cooperation between stakeholders
	CO ₂ Absorption	2.6 billion tons per year
	Biodiversity	80% of species live in forests
	Urban Population	70% by 2050
Environmental Data	Deforestation Prevention	60% of forests certified according to PEFC requirements
	Food Production	70 billion tons per year
	Climate Change	Sustainable forest management for carbon sequestration
	Deforestation	Certification ensuring responsible management
Key Challenges	Biodiversity Loss	Protection of forest ecosystems
	Rural Poverty	Support for forest-dependent communities
	Urbanization	Supply of sustainable construction materials
	Process	Validation of responsible forest use
PEFC Certification	Requirements	Improvement of forest enterprise competitiveness
	Benefits	Access to international and local markets
	Traceability	Tracking from forest to final product
	Impact	Contribution to all UN SDGs

Category	Aspect	Key Information
Additional Data	Partnership	PEFC is a partner for SDG implementation
	Standards	PEFC standards based on internationally recognized principles
	Transparency	Continuous improvement and transparency
	Forestry Companies	Must contribute to environmental improvement
	Responsibility	PEFC helps companies and consumers make responsible choices

Note: This table is derived from an infographic produced by PEFC France.

Thus, the PEFC certification system is a relevant tool for working towards the achievement of the SDGs, although the verification mechanisms are incomplete. The new standard follows the same logic, without revolutionizing the way the certification procedure works. The most interesting aspect of the certification logic is the requirement for owners wishing to renew their certification to carry out self-monitoring. This approach is relevant because it raises awareness among operators without sidelining the verification body. Sustainable development objectives are essential in the analysis of PEFC certification. They are reflected in the new standard through requirements that incorporate new aspects of forest multifunctionality. These requirements will enable forest owners to evolve their practices to ensure increasingly sustainable management.

3. Forest Management Certification Requirements

The PEFC standard aims to support as many owners and areas as possible in a sustainable forest certification process. To achieve this, it is necessary for the new standard to maintain the support of forest owners in order to be sustainable over time. It must also support them in changing their practices so that forest properties incorporate new components into their sustainable management approach.

3.1. Sustainability over Time

PEFC certification was created on the initiative of forest owners as a tool for promoting wood and supporting them in their efforts to achieve greater sustainability. Forest owners are required to change their practices without the new requirements causing disruption to the management of their plots. Indeed, forest plot management is always a long-term endeavor. The new PEFC standard does not break with this logic, as certain obligations remain in place: they enshrine the management model desired by PEFC in the long term. Other requirements have been strengthened to further develop the management practices initiated by the previous certification standard.

3.1.1. A Long-Term Management

To support forest owners in moving toward more sustainable management, PEFC certification has chosen to maintain some of its guidelines. This makes it easier for forestry professionals to accept the new changes. Two examples highlight this desire not to completely break with the spirit of the previous standard. First certification enables the owner to be involved in management through training and contractual agreements. Indeed, the new standard maintains the obligation for forest owners to refer to PEFC obligations in their contracts. They must also undergo training, keep themselves informed, and participate in courses designed to effectively implement PEFC requirements. Second, certification continues to use the legal mechanisms at the heart of forest management: sustainable management documents (SMDs). These are the Simple Management Plan (PSG), the Standard Management Regulations (RTG) and the Code of Good Forestry Practice (CBPS) (Forest Code [new], Art. L. 124-1 para. 1). Although there are various means—tax incentives or public investment aid—to encourage owners to use these documents, the constraints are mainly based on the development of an SMP. In fact, a person must manage their woods and forests in accordance with the latter when they own a property consisting of either "a single forest plot with an area equal to or greater than 20 hectares, or a group of forest plots with a total area equal to or greater than 20 hectares belonging to the same owner, located in the same geographical area defined by decree" (Forest Code [new], Art. L. 312-1). With regard to the new PEFC standard, it maintains a more restrictive obligation than the legal regime for certified owners, who must adopt one of the sustainable management documents when their property comprises 10 hectares in a single block.

By maintaining certain obligations, the new PEFC certification standard provides necessary continuity with the old one. However, the evolution of certification is also an opportunity for it to strengthen some of its requirements in order to support owners in moving towards more sustainable management.

3.1.2. Stricter Requirements

The use of phytosanitary products in French forests is already prohibited in public forests and restricted in private forests. For the latter, certain new Regional Forest Management Plans (SRGS) already require owners to adopt alternative practices to the use of these products and limit their use to rare exceptions. This is the case, for example, when there is a particularly serious risk, when no other solution is possible, or when the risks significantly affect timber production. It is through the DGDs established in accordance with the SRGS (Forest Code [new], Art. 122-3) that the owner must comply with these obligations when using plant protection products. From now on, if they adhere to PEFC, the constraints will be reinforced. Indeed, the old standard was limited to prohibiting the use of these products near a watercourse, a water catchment area, or the habitat of a remarkable species. For the rest, use was limited to situations where the vitality and future of objective species was compromised, to the needs of forest fire defense (DFCI), to logs in certain circumstances, etc. The new standard goes further by prohibiting the use of synthetic herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides except, by way of exception, in documented cases and in the presence of an infection or proven risk. The new standard also reinforces the limitations on the use of these products on logs and the use of fertilizers and soil amendments to situations that are exhaustively listed. These restrictions are now reinforced through PEFC certification, and the use of chemicals is limited to health requirements, which are increasing with global warming.

The old standard only required consideration of areas of high landscape sensitivity without providing any specific details on this concept. The new standard is more restrictive, as it requires these areas to be identified, taken into account, and respected. To achieve this, it provides definitions of landscape, landscape sensitivity, and areas of high landscape sensitivity. This new version also prohibits land clearing. This vague definition of areas of high landscape sensitivity raises concerns among forest owners' representatives about the emergence of conflicts that rural lawyers can easily imagine.

Finally, the new standard has reinforced the requirements for species diversification and the conservation of dead trees. For example, it is now necessary to establish or maintain species diversification, whereas the old standard only required it to be encouraged.

Although certain obligations are reinforced by the new standard, it appears to maintain a core set of requirements aimed at building long-term trust among property owners. However, it must evolve to ensure that consumers' concerns about constantly changing social and environmental issues are better taken into account.

3.2. The Era of Sustainability

The new PEFC certification standard ultimately goes beyond a logic of continuity to demand greater consideration of new issues related to forests. It imposes new requirements on

forest owners but must sometimes strike a balance to ensure more sustainable management for all stakeholders.

3.2.1. New Requirements

To achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, French forests are at the heart of the national low-carbon strategy (SNBC). They absorbed 15% of the country's CO₂ emissions each year, but a report by the National Institute of Geographic and Forest Information [18] highlights the telling figures of the effects of global warming on French forests. The carbon sink for the period 2013-2021 averaged 40 million tons per year, down by a third compared to the previous decade. The reasons for this are mainly linked to health crises (spruce bark beetles, ash dieback, chestnut decline, etc.), episodes of severe droughts, and heat waves. The work of the Assises de la Forêt et du Bois [19] had already provided guidelines to enable forests to maintain their carbon sink. These guidelines included increased forest monitoring, the development of a low-carbon label, the protection of forests against the risk of fire, the development of tree species for the future in the face of climate change, etc.

While the previous version of the PEFC standard made no reference to carbon, the new version introduces this concept with the requirement to ensure the forest's capacity to store and sequester it. To achieve this, the owner must use regeneration, maintenance, and harvesting techniques that protect the forest ecosystem. They must also preserve future stems and coppice forests, and set harvesting levels and rates to ensure the sustainability of the forests.

The new PEFC standard also encourages owners to learn about new markets for environmental services such as carbon sequestration. As part of forest health monitoring, the certified person must inform the relevant authorities when pests or pathogens appear. The new standard helps to better prevent the risk of fire by integrating properties into the DFCI service network. Finally, natural forest evolution is recognized when it is justified by its ability to sequester and store carbon and maintain the quality of forest resources.

The new PEFC standard is also changing with regard to soil protection. Stump removal and the harvesting of small wood less than 7 cm in diameter are now prohibited in order to control the impact of interventions on the soil. The only exceptions are in justified and documented situations or where there are regulatory constraints. The new certification requirements reflect an evolution in sustainable forest management. The social aspect of sustainable management seems to play an important role in these developments, as societal debates on clear-cutting appear in the new standard, mirroring the free evolution of society. PEFC is trying to balance its new requirements with the various challenges of forest multifunctionality.

3.2.2. Balancing Positions

While pressure surrounding clear-cutting has never been stronger [20], the new reference framework attempts to strike a

balance and introduces certain limitations. In general, the harvested area is estimated using the adjacent areas not replanted by the same owner. All clear-cuts must be reforested with a future stand within five years. As a rule, when clear-cutting is planned in high protection areas [21] in riparian forests except in cases of ecological restoration, in areas with slopes greater than 30% or of high landscape sensitivity, it must comply with a threshold of less than 2 hectares. Outside these situations, clear-cutting must comply with a threshold of 5 hectares. This threshold may be restricted by SRGS, SRA, or DRA. However, outside high protection areas and riparian forests for stand conversions, the threshold is set at 10 hectares. This is also the case, without any area limit this time, for poplar plantations and single-species conifer plantations, in the absence of associated hardwood cutting and when the cutting is planned in a DGD.

This new development could open the door to those calling for a ban on clear-cutting in forests. However, PEFC certification, which must take social, environmental, and economic expectations into account, should succeed in maintaining a balance in the requirements of its new standard. We will see whether, in practice, the thresholds and exceptions chosen will ensure the economic balance of forest properties. The risk for PEFC is that owners will leave the certification scheme. In the new PEFC standard, the conversion of forests through forest plantations is prohibited. However, in areas subject to strict, conversion may only be carried out with the explicit authorization of the management authority. In other areas, conversion by planting may take place in certain types of stands, provided that a preliminary assessment is carried out to justify the difficulties encountered by the forest and the relevance of the conversion in relation to the various alternatives. The stands likely to be converted are those that are degraded, declining, poor, vulnerable, those subject to experimental measures, and seed orchards. Forest owners must comply with the definition of these different types of stands provided by the standard in order to identify the plots that will need to be transformed to cope with climate change. Once again, PEFC strikes a balance between the different aspects of the multifunctionality of forests. The transformation of stands struggling with climate change, through more suitable planting, must take into account the environmental and social impacts of such a change while ensuring the economic future of forest plots.

4. Conclusion

The PEFC forest certification standard is revised every five years to adapt its requirements to new expectations related to the multifunctionality of forests. This new version, while not revolutionary, seems to take into account the progress of social and environmental expectations. Indeed, the greater consideration given to forest carbon sinks, soil protection, landscapes, fire risk, and forest renewal are all evidence that the certification scheme wishes to improve on these two pillars of sustainable development. However, far from being a radical change for forest owners, the new standard seems to maintain

a balance between the economic, social, and environmental aspects of forestry. Without losing the support of forest owners, this new standard would enable them to move towards greater sustainability without neglecting the imperative of economic value creation from the wood produced.

Major changes to the new PEFC certification standard

New definitions have been added to the standard. These include concepts such as: clear cutting; remarkable species; habitat and remarkable habitat; relevant stakeholder; landscape; degraded, declining, poor, vulnerable stand; plantation; forest owner; high ecological value forest area.

Restrictions on the use of plant protection products have been tightened. Synthetic herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides may only be used in exceptional cases, with documented evidence and in the presence of an infection or proven risk. The new standard also tightens restrictions on the use of these products on logs and the use of fertilizers and soil improvers to a limited number of situations.

The new standard takes greater account of landscapes, as it requires these areas to be identified, taken into consideration, and respected. This new version also prohibits land clearing.

It includes references to environmental services markets such as carbon sequestration, forest monitoring for health risks, and the incorporation of properties into the DFCI service plan. In this way, the new standard aims to strengthen the forest's capacity to store and sequester more CO₂.

The removal of stumps and the harvesting of small wood less than 7 cm in diameter are now prohibited in order to control the impact of interventions on the soil.

Clear-cutting is now regulated by surface area thresholds based on geographical areas linked to their environmental or social qualities.

It is now necessary to establish or maintain species diversification, whereas the previous standard only required it to be encouraged.

The transformation of certain types of stands through forest planting is regulated, in particular by a preliminary diagnosis to justify the difficulties encountered by the forest and the relevance of the transformation in relation to the various alternatives.

Abbreviations

PEFC	Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
CPI	Intellectual Property Code
COFRAC	French Accreditation Committee
PSG	Simple Management Plan
RTG	Standard Management Regulations
SMDs	Sustainable Management Documents
CBPS	Code of Good Forestry Practice
SRGS	Regional Forest Management Plans
DFCI	Needs of Forest Fire Defense
SNBC	National Low-Carbon Strategy

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Biography



Xavier Fauque is a doctoral student in private law at the University of Poitiers (France), specializing in agricultural and forestry law. His thesis focuses on forestry contracts. He also serves on the board of directors of forêt-sphère, the network of young French foresters.



Lisa Pinamonti is a Doctor of private law at the University of Poitiers, (France), specializing in intellectual property law. Her thesis, which she will defend shortly, focuses on labeling signs and sustainable development. At the same time, she is a temporary teaching and research assistant at the University of

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Research Field

Lisa Pinamonti: Sustainable development, Intellectual property law, Trademark law

Xavier Fauque: Agricultural and forestry law, Contract law