

**URUGUAYAN FOREST CERTIFICATION SCHEME**

**PEFC URUGUAY**

**Montevideo  
December, 2009**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The PEFC Council (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999 in Europe to promote Sustainable Forest Management through the organization and coordination of certifications extended by independent third parties which are approved by the PEFC Council. The PEFC provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that they are promoting the sustainable management of forests.

To achieve its goals, PEFC establishes the contents and conditions under which the certifying organizations are able to use the PEFC logo. PEFC also promotes national and international standards of certification, supporting initiatives and promoting its activities through academic events.

The PEFC URUGUAY Association is recognized as a national referent of the worldwide promotion of forestry sustainability, setting the basis of a participative process to enhance the national potential in the use, maintenance, enrichment and preservation of the Uruguayan forestry resources.

It is in the vision of the founders of the PEFC URUGUAY for the Association to become leader in the national and international process of consolidation of forest sustainability, promoting and supporting a process of change in the productive practices combining the economical growth with conservation and improvement of the resources.

PEFC - Uruguay is open to participation by all those with interests in sustainable forest management, as well as owners and managers of public and private forestlands and any state or association of forest producers, industrialists, traders, consumers, professional colleges and NGOs.

From the outset, the *Sociedad de Productores Forestales* of Uruguay (Society of Forest Producers, SFP) has worked to develop the Uruguayan Sustainable Forest Management Certification Scheme.

Development of the new Uruguayan Forest Certification Scheme was divided into two parts - the first dealt with the organizational structure of the certification scheme while the second part dealt with the UNIT (Instituto Uruguayo de Normas Técnicas) Standards for Sustainable Forest Management, which were drafted, reviewed and newly approved by the UNIT's Standardization Technical Committee, and PEFC Uruguay assumes as part of the Scheme.

At present, PEFC Uruguay has fifteen members that represent forestry producers, industry and private advisors. The institution was created in recent times and new applicants are being considered as full members. As soon as PEFC Uruguay was created, statutes were submitted to the Ministry of Education, for its official recognition. Ministry of Education is still analyzing the documentation submitted.

## **2. DOCUMENTARY BASES**

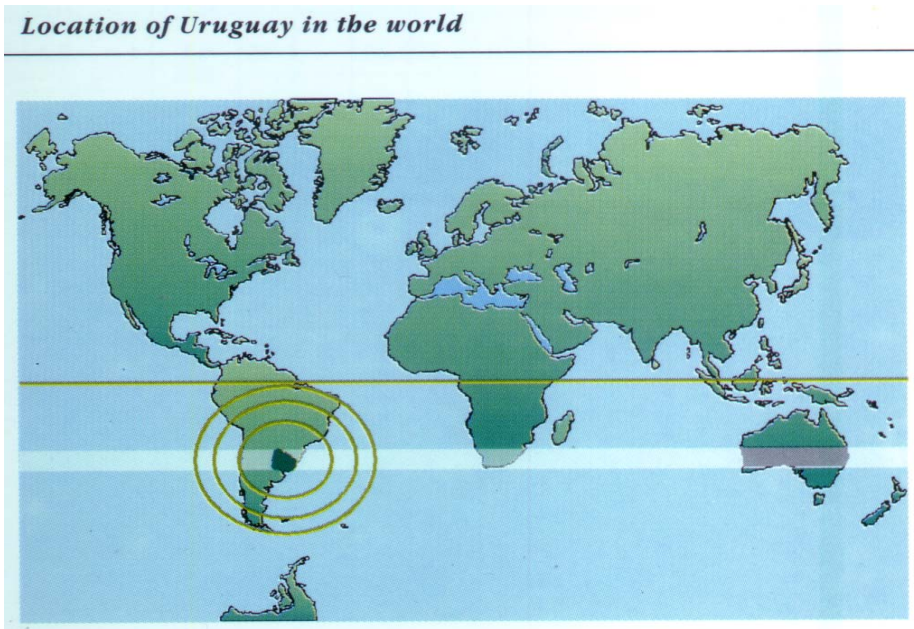
The Uruguayan Forest Certification Scheme is based on the current version of the PEFC Council's framework Technical Document and its corresponding Annexes.

The Uruguayan Forest Certification Scheme describes the requisites for the certification of forest stands and the traceability of related industries operating in Uruguayan territory. The Scheme comprises the organizational structure of the Uruguayan Technical Document as well as the UNIT standards for Sustainable Forest Management, which are attached as part of the Scheme (Regulation Appendixes).

At the same time, through its general and internal procedures approved by the General Assembly, PEFC Uruguay details the rules for different areas of the Scheme, such as the procedure applied for the PEFC trademark, guidelines for recognition of training entities, etc. Apart from the requisites explicitly laid down in the Scheme, entities applying for certification have to fulfill the laws, regulations, programs of state and regional policies that may be applicable to them, including those concerning basic worker agreements for the forest sector, as well as those that have any direct relationship or impact on the criteria for Sustainable Forest Management or on the traceability of forest-based resources. Any apparent violation of the legislation shall be considered during the auditing and certification processes.

### 3. STATUS OF THE URUGUYAN FORESTRY SECTOR

The Republic of Uruguay is located in the south of South America, bordering with Argentina to the west and with Brazil to the northeast. Its total surface is 18 million hectares, from which 86.6% can be used for agriculture, livestock and forestry production.



Uruguay is located on the same latitude as the main forestry undertakings of the world. It is in the same climatic zone as Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South of Brazil and Chile and shares the same geological rock base as South Africa.

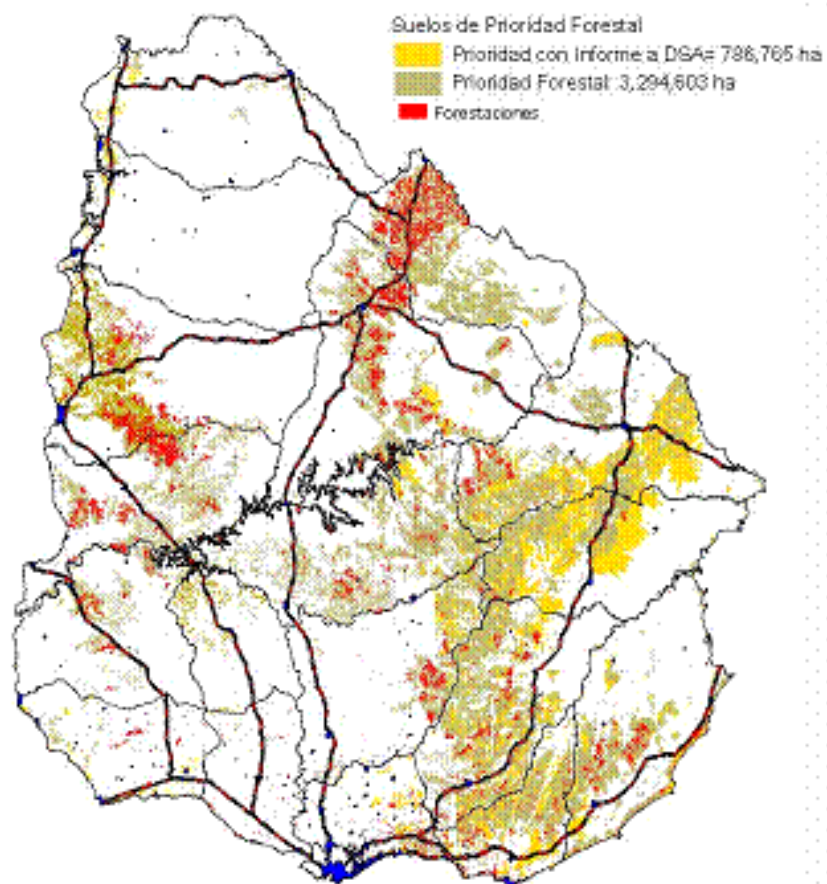
Uruguay has traditionally been a livestock producing country, but the Forestry Law N° 15.939 (28/12/87) has promoted an important addition in forest plantations, increasing from 25.000 hectares in 1987 to more than 800.000 by the end of 2008. For promoting the forestry sector, Law No. 15.939 has considered two mechanisms acting in parallel:

- a.-** Protecting the native forest, prohibiting the use and destruction of the natural forests;
- b.-** Promoting new plantations with selected species and supporting related industries, in order to add value to the harvested wood.

### *Forest Sources*

Uruguay is one of the few countries in the world that lays its forestry development exclusively on the production of renewable forestry plantations, with sound ecological production, thereby attending the increasing demand for wood from sustainable production.

There has been a technical subdivision of the national territory, considering soil quality, distance to ports and required infrastructure for the development of competitive forestry ventures. With the latest definitions, the country has more than 3 million hectares classified as “forest priority soils” (see following map). There is an additional 700.000 hectares that can be used for forestry, depending on the structure of the project. Plantations on soils classified as “Forest Priority Soils” can be tax exonerated which in turn acts as a promoter for tree plantations.



Since 1987 Uruguay's forest plantations have increased at a very high rate, principally with rapid growth species both for pulpwood and sawn wood. Of the forest plantations surface, 70% corresponds to eucalyptus and 30% to pines (2008).

The most used species are *Eucalyptus grandis*, *Eucalyptus globulus* ssp. *globulus*, *Eucalyptus globulus* ssp. *maidenii*, *Pinus elliottii* and *Pinus taeda*.

The following table shows the plantation tendency from 1990 to 2008 for the two species more utilized: eucalyptus and pine.

**Accumulated area with forest plantations (ha)**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2008</b>
Eucalyptus	28.381	190.007	429.539	469.432	569.367
Pines	13.309	34.994	138.992	175.898	235.292
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41.690</b>	<b>225.001</b>	<b>568.531</b>	<b>645.330</b>	<b>804.659*</b>

\* Officially estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Department.

In less than 20 years time, forested area increased almost 20 folds, endorsing Uruguay as an example of fast forestry developed country in South America.

### **Forest Products: Exports and Markets**

Several international companies have invested in Uruguay to develop forest plantations, as well as related industries. Some of the referred companies represent the most important industries in the world, leading the different industrial processes: pulp, plywood, sawn wood, MDF, etc.

Until mid 90's, exports of forestry products were basically negligible. As a consequence of that, commercial balance (exports minus imports) was permanently negative. During the mid 90's, the country begins a very strong program to sell overseas, based on round wood (basically eucalyptus) and some sawn wood (essentially pine). At the beginning, eucalyptus round wood was the most important single article within the national package for export. More recently, chips started to play an important role as wood product export, basically to some countries in Asia. The country started to export eucalyptus chips in 2003 (262 thousand cubic meters) and, by year 2008, the exported volume increased significantly.

From the economical point of view, exports have raised annually for the last 20 years, with increasing growth rates. At the end of the last decade, more elaborated products started to be exported: paper and cardboard. These two items represented between 35 and 50% of the total export of forest products (between 1997 and 2002). Paper and cardboard kept a constant value between 30 and 40 million dollars of exports per year without large fluctuations.

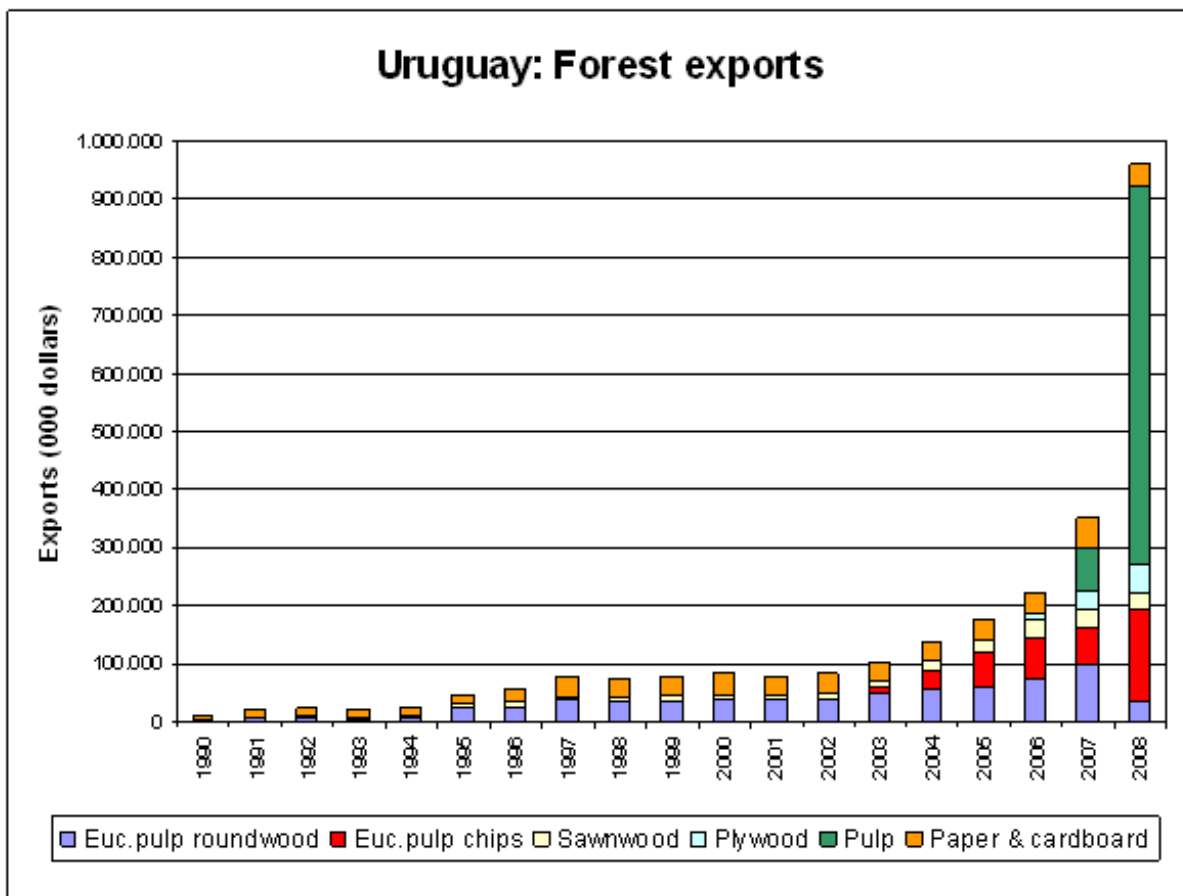
During year 2006, export of forestry products overpasses 220 million dollars, being almost 20 times the amount exported in 1990. During mid 90's paper and cardboard and round wood represented more than 80 percent of the total exports. By year 2006, chips for pulpwood and sawn wood almost reached the same export value than round wood and paper-cardboard, with these last two items showing a very stable value.



In 2005 and 2006 two plywood plants were installed in Uruguay with the basic objective of providing materials for the construction industry in the United States. By 2008, these plants exported for more than 46 million dollars in spite of the crisis of that industry in the U.S. In 2007 the U.S. absorbed more than 48% of the total exports while the following year just imported a little less than 15% of the total exports of this product (almost seven million dollars in total).

At the end of year 2007 Pulp Plant Botnia began to produce cellulose in a new plant. That year the company exported for a little more than 70 million dollars and, for the entire 2008, the total amount exported reached a peak over 650 million dollars, representing more than 65% of the total forest products exported.

Next figure shows the total forestry products exports (in US\$) and the tendency along the last 19 years.



In terms of markets, in 2004 America and Europe represented 85% of the total exports, while Asia represented approximately 10 percent. In 2008, Asia increased in relative importance, reaching 22% of the total exports, basically due to eucalyptus chips. Europe increased its relative importance to reach above 68% as forestry export destiny of Uruguayan products, basically due to pulp exports.

### **Forest sector development: some impacts**

The development of the forestry sector has produced a significant increase in terms of hand labour occupied. In 1989, the forestry sector occupied, permanently, around 4.000 people, while this amount increases to more than 11.600 persons in 2008, exclusively dedicated to field activities: planting, tree management and harvesting. Considering the number of hectares per permanent worker, the forestry sector is one of the most intensive producing activities within the agriculture sector: 69 hectares per permanent worker (2008).

An important aspect to be mentioned is that forestry has promoted different zones within the country without economic alternatives for their people. The forestry sector has provoked an important increase in hand labour demand in geographical areas with limited economic possibilities for their people as a consequence of the more extensive production system based on cow-calf and sheep-lamb operations in those areas (soils in those areas have important limitations for other agriculture activities, but are suitable for forest plantations). As a result of that, new jobs were created, with increasing qualification requirements and much better salaries, and promoting associated activities for improving the different communities: better health programs, language schools, road and house infrastructures, better communications, etc. Other advantages must be mentioned: small farmers can contract grazing for their herds under the trees increasing the size of their operations, small companies are also developed for honey and mushrooms, etc.

Another important advantage derived from forestry is related to the increasing demand for female hand labour. Under the extensive cattle and sheep production system detailed previously, little possibilities are created for women. However, an important amount of new jobs are available with forestry in those geographical areas: tree nurseries, machinery drivers, administration, etc. At the same time, related occupations are created and most of them are being

developed by women: bank and credit institutions, private academies for teaching new technologies such as computer, sport fitness, etc.

Foreign investment in the forest sector is one of the important impacts for the entire society. During the 70's and early 80's, first investments in plantations were basically coming from national farmers, based on some promotion programs developed by the central government. After the promotion law was approved (law No. 15.993), national and international companies were responsible for the actual development of the forestry sector. Investments focused on developing new plantations, trying to define the most efficient technological package throughout the combination of the different tree species according to the diversity of our soils. International companies played an important role in bringing in, and adapting too, very well known technology in other countries. Soon after, more international companies started to invest, producing a rapid increment in forested area.

With the new century, investments were basically focused on industry. Sawmills and chip plants were the first wood processing plants where investments were located on. Afterwards, a small cellulose and paper factory was rebuilt according to international regulations for environmental protection. Finally, a brand new cellulose plant with the latest technology was built up with international funds leading by Botnia in 2007.

The following table summarizes the tendency in certain important indicators for the 1988-2008 period:

	1988	2003	2008
Total planted area (ha)	26,000	645,000	800,000
Exports (in 000 US\$ dollars)	13,191	108.110	959,151
Exports minus imports (US\$)	- 10,182	+ 63.654	+ 750,000
Real investments (in 000 US\$ dollars)	34.181	553.308	2.400.000
Inversion items (%)			
• Plantations – Forest management	56 %	70 %	33 %
• Industry	-	19 %	59 %
• Equipment	44 %	11 %	>7 %
Employees in plantations (N° of workers)		4.155	11.635 (*)
Forest surface / permanent employee		155	69
Industry: Permanent employees			2.000

(\*) Official data from the Central Social Security Office

Uruguay's forest products are very competitive due to a combination of several factors listed below:

- More than 3 million hectares of soils for forest production are available with legal incentives by the central government.
- High forest yields (18-20 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/year in pines and 20-25 m<sup>3</sup>/ha/year in eucalypts as average for the different areas.
- Competitive land prices.
- Smooth landscape which benefits harvest.
- The biggest road system/surface in South America.
- Qualified labour force.
- Legal system that protects private investors.
- More than seventy percent of the area occupied by forest plantation is certified with FSC (381.862 hectares) and ISO 14001 (258.000 hectares).
- Availability of national certification rules that are in process for being recognized by PEFC

### **Incentives for Foreign Investors**

In the aim of increasing national economic growth, Uruguay has carried out various measures that favour foreign investment, including the following:

- Uruguay grants equal treatment for national and foreign investors.
- There is no limit for the foreign capital participation in partnerships.
- There are no restrictions for the repatriation of capital nor earnings.
- The import/export regime is free, counting on mechanisms such as the system of temporary admission (basically for the importation of inputs for producing goods that will then be exported).

- Uruguay encourages private sector participation in activities previously carried out by the State: electric generation; private and public association mixed capital railroad system; road maintenance; port private operation, among others.

Very important international companies have developed forest plantations in Uruguay: Botnia, Ence, Weyerhaeuser, Stora Enso, Arauco, among others. They first invested in planting trees and, in several occasions, those companies bought plantations already done by private owners. In a second stage, investments are being made in the industrial sector. As a matter of example, two plywood plants have been built (private investors from Chile and Weyerhaeuser) that started to export at the end of year 2005 and mid 2006 respectively. A new pulp plant (Botnia) started to produce by the end of 2007. This current year, two international companies (Stora Enso and Arauco) bought the majority of the Ence plantations in Uruguay (Ence only kept thirty thousand hectares of planted eucalyptus). Stora Enso and Arauco funded a new company which in turn is preparing the required documentation to build up a new cellulose plant. Those documents have to be submitted to the National Environmental Agency for approval, before construction starts. Non official pronouncement indicates that the new company's objective is to start building the plant in a short period.

#### **4. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PEFC URUGUAY**

PEFC Uruguay presents the following organizational structure:

**General Assembly**

**Directory Commission**

**Fiscal Commission**

**Secretariat**

**Commission for Settlement of Disagreements**

##### **General Assembly**

The General Assembly is the sovereign body of the institution. It is constituted by all the associates with the right to participate and adopts all decisions of social interest according to the statutory, legal and regulatory norms if applicable, as well as the norms of the institution. The General Assembly can approve the internal regulations that estimates appropriate for the functioning, organization and other aspects of the institution, with the vote of the majority of present members.

The General Assembly meets annually within the 60 (sixty) consecutive days after the closure of the business year and will deals with the annual memory and balance, the election of the representatives of the organization and any other matter included in the minutes.

The General Assembly meets any time by decision of the Directory Commission or initiative of the Fiscal Commission or as a request placed by 10% (ten percent) of the associates that are part of the Assembly. When the meeting is called by the Fiscal Commission or the 10% of the associates, the Directory Commission calls the meeting within the 8 (eight) days following the request and no after the 30 (thirty) days of the request.

##### **Directory Commission**

The direction and administration of the Association is responsibility of a Directory Commission integrated by 3 (three), 5 (five) or 7 (seven) titular members who last 2 (two) years in their position and can be reelected for up to 2 (two) more periods.

The Directory Commission has the faculties of direction, administration and disposition, taking care of juridical matters and all decisions aiming the compliance with the social goals and resolutions of the General Assembly.

The Directory Commission is responsible of:

- a) Delineate the policies and strategies to be developed by the Association.
- b) Approve the Annual Memory and Balance before submitting it for the approval of the General Assembly
- c) To determine and approve the annual budget before submitting it for the approval of the General Assembly.
- d) To establish the contributions of the associates.

The legal representation of the Association relays on its President, who can delegate special mandates to other members.

The Directory Commission regulates its own functioning, according to the general norms of its statutes. The Commission meets once a month, making decisions by simple majority. Any two members of the Commission can call a meeting if the President fails to do so. The Directory Commission can, under its responsibility, create one or more sub-commissions for its representation.

### **Fiscal Commission**

The Fiscal Commission is integrated by 3 (three) titular members, for the period of 2 (two) years and are elected according the statutes. The members of the Fiscal Commission cannot be members of the Directory Commission simultaneously, and can be reelected for two more periods.

The duties of the Fiscal Commission are:

- a) to request to the Directory Commission to call for an Extraordinary General Assembly or to call it directly in case of need.
- b) to control the social funds and their investments.

- c) to inspect the accounting registers and other aspects of the institution functioning.
- d) to verify the annual balance which should be approved or modified before its submission to the General Assembly.
- e) to advise the Directory Commission when required
- f) to comply with any inspection or control function required by the General Assembly.

### **Secretariat**

The **Secretariat** is an administrative department of the Uruguayan Forest Certification Scheme. It is led by a Secretary General, whose appointment and responsibilities are allocated in the statutes of the PEFC - Uruguay Association. The Secretariat shall receive the register of Forest Management and Chain of Custody certifications from accredited and authorized certification entities, recognized training entities and from those pupils that have passed the theoretical training required of forest auditors.

The Secretariat also serves as depository of official internal and external regulations, texts and communications; it is responsible for drafting the minutes of sessions held in the General Assembly, Directory and Fiscal Commission.

### **Commission for Settlement of Disagreements.**

The commission for the Settlement of Disagreements is a body entitled to take care of those disagreements that are not resolved within the procedures of the Certification of Forest Management or Chain of Custody.

The members of the commission of Settlement of Disagreements are independent and impartial and are appointed **ad hoc** by PEFC Uruguay.

The commission is integrated by a representative of the forests owners, a representative of the forest services companies working in the area in question and a representative of the social organizations of the area. In complex cases, an expert in the topic of disagreement is appointed to advice the commission, but has no right to vote. In every case, the president of the commission will be named by the commission members.

The procedure for the settling arguments or disagreements is detailed in the **General Document DG 06, Settlement of Disagreement**, of the PEFC Uruguayan scheme..



## 5. CERTIFICATION APPLICATION LEVELS

The Uruguayan National Forest Certification Scheme has the same levels of application for forest certification as those laid down in the PEFC Council's Technical Document.

Forest Certification consists of two clearly differentiated parts:

**Forest Management Certification:** is that in which the forest management carried out on the forests of the applicant entity is the object of an audit by an independent third party to certify that such management is performed in accordance with the standards of Sustainable Forest Management and all relevant legislation.

The applicant entity may be group or individual. In the case of a group applicant entity, forest managers voluntarily participate and pledge in writing to fulfill the requirements of the Certificate.

**Chain of Custody Certification:** is that in which the traceability of forest-based raw materials and their derivatives is the object of audit throughout the different transformation processes up until the final certified end product, which is authorized to bear the PEFC logo and registered trademark.

The applicant entity may be individual or the representative of a series of installations, known as multisite or multiple certification.

Audited companies pledge in writing and voluntarily to fulfill the requirements of certification.

### ***5.1. INDIVIDUAL FOREST CERTIFICATION***

Individual forest certification is possible when such certification is requested explicitly by a person or legal entity, who will act as Applicant Entity, for forest areas that the applicant manages and voluntarily wishes to include in the process. It is recommended that the Applicant Entity for Individual Forest Certification includes all forests that the entity manages in the certificate.

## **Entitlements**

1. To obtain the Individual Certificate for Sustainable Forest Management regarding the forests that the entity has committed to the process, issued by the Certifying Entity once the certification process has been successfully completed.

2. To present before the PEFC – Uruguay Arbitration Commission any claims relating to the certification process or how the scheme works.

## **Duties**

1. To pledge expressly to fulfill the obligations imposed by the Uruguayan Forest Certification Scheme.

2. When husbandry work in the forests covered by certification are performed by third parties, to demand that such tasks are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Uruguayan Forest Certification Scheme.

3. To make available to the Certifying Entity whatever documents or facilities may be required for the execution of the Certification Audits.

4. To apply to PEFC – Uruguay, once the Individual Certificate has been obtained, for official license to use the PEFC logo and trademark.

5. To take responsibility for the correct use of the Certificate and of the license to use the PEFC logo and trademark.

## ***5.2. GROUP FOREST CERTIFICATION***

Group Forest Certification requires forest managers interested in the process to form a group through a legally constituted Association, which shall be designated as the Applicant Entity. Alternatively, the person/s who shall act as the Applicant Entity may be decided through legally documented agreement.

The requirements for group certification are detailed in the **General Document 07, Requirements for Group Certification**, of the Uruguayan PEFC Scheme.

### **5.3. CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION**

Chain of Custody Certification represents the subsequent stage to Forest Management Certification in which the monitoring and traceability of forest products and derivatives is guaranteed throughout the different phases of the production process and subsequent marketing.

The Uruguayan Forest Certification Scheme, as far as Chain of Custody Certification is concerned, takes on and assumes all the provisions of the PEFC Council's Technical Document, especially the **specific Annex and its corresponding appendixes**.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Those entities applying for Forest Management Certification must draw up a Forest Management System, which should include the administration structure, action planning, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources, controls and reviews available to determine and execute the policy defined by the Applicant Entity, which shall declare the intentions, overall objectives and principles of action regarding the forest management to be implemented in forests and/or the chain of custody methodology to be implemented.

A forest management system shall be a series of documents comprising, at least, the control procedure for members and the management plans for management units. The development of the corresponding management system therefore can be established in a similar way to the design of environmental management systems, such as ISO standard 14001, Environmental Management Systems; or the provisions of ISO 9001 Quality Assurance Systems. In the case of Chain of Custody certification, the Applicant Entity should develop a management system in accordance with the terms of the **specific PEFC Annex and its corresponding appendixes**.

## **6. CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE**

For Forest Management and/or Chain of Custody certification, the certifying entities, certification process and accreditation shall fulfill all indications with regard to the technical documentation required by the PEFC scheme, as well as the corresponding Annexes.

The procedure for obtaining PEFC Forest Management and/or Chain of Custody certification and trademark is detailed through the corresponding general and internal procedures approved by PEFC Uruguay which comprises the following documents:

**List of current Documents of PEFC Uruguay**

<b>DG 01</b>	Current Documents Listing
<b>DG 02</b>	Procedure of elaboration and control of documents
<b>DG 03</b>	Bodies of Forest Certification
<b>DG 04</b>	Criteria for Auditor qualifications
<b>DG 05</b>	Use of PEFC Logo in Uruguay
<b>DG 06</b>	Settlement of Disagreements
<b>DG 07</b>	Requirements for Group Certification

**7. SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARISATION PROCESS**

The National, Regional and International Normalization Organisms use similar methodologies to establish technical norms even though they might have different institutional structure.

UNIT, as the National normalization organism complies with the Code of Good Conduct for the elaboration, adoption and application of the OTC Norms of the OMC.

For each area of specific topic, a Specialized Committee is established within UNIT, integrated, as established by the statute, by the interested parts, in an equilibrated representation of the consumers, producers and members representing general interests, such as research and technological centers, associated professionals, control organisms and others.

The Specialized Committees conform the key stage in the elaboration of the technical norm and they determine the content and feasibility of the norm. Based in the international and regional background about the topic and the experience, tradition and national requirements, they seek the consensus (in the sense given by the ISO Guide 2 and PEFC GL 5/2006) about the requirements to establish that the product or service is, among other things,

safe and apt for its use according to the objective, benefit for the community in general (not for a sector, company or organization in particular).

Once the project is approved by the Specialized Committee, it is submitted for the consideration of the General Committee of Norms, who verifies that everything is according to the elaboration and presentation of technical norms of UNIT (adoption of the Directives of COPANT and ISO).

Next, the Directive Counsel gives the formal approval to the norm and proceeds to its publication.

A year after the norm is submitted to the General Assembly of UNIT and if there are not objection it is considered as a definitive norm.

To constitute the Specialized Committee of Forest Management the following institutions where summoned:

*Ministerio de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca*

*Dirección General Forestal*

*Dirección General de Recursos Naturales Renovables*

*Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social*

*Inspección General del Trabajo y Seguridad Social*

*Ministerio de Vivienda Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente*

*Dirección Nacional de Medio Ambiente*

*Universidad de la República*

*Facultad de Agronomía*

*Departamento de Producción Forestal y Tecnología de la Madera*

*Departamento de Suelos y Aguas, Unidad de Sistemas Ambientales*

*Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria (INIA)*

*Instituto Interamericano de cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)*

*Asociación Rural del Uruguay (ARU)*

*Sociedad de Productores Forestales (SPF)*

*Asociación de Empresas Contratistas Forestales del Uruguay (ASECFUR);*

*Plenario Interdisciplinario de Trabajadores – Confederación Nacional de Trabajadores (PIT – CNT) Asociación Sindical Uruguaya (ASU)*

*Asociación Nacional de ONG (ANOG);*

*Asociación de Ingenieros Agrónomos (AIA),*

*Banco de Seguros del Estado (BSE),*

*Universidad del Trabajo del Uruguay*

*Oficina de Programa para el Agro*

*Administración Nacional de Usinas y Transmisiones Eléctricas (UTE).*

The Specialized Committee of Forest Management began meeting in April 2005 to discuss the national Norms of Sustainable Forest Management. The minutes of the process are summarized in annex 1.

As part of the requirement for the entrance of PEFC Uruguay to PEFC, the documents postulated as part of the national initiatives, UNIT Norms UNIT 1151 and UNIT 1152, were formally submitted to a process of public consultation for 60 days. The UNIT norms could be downloaded from the web page of UNIT at the link: [www.unit.org.uy/GFS](http://www.unit.org.uy/GFS).

The Specialized Committee of Forestry Management was summoned to consider the results of the public consultation.

As validation of the norm in the field, an audit took place by the auditors of the certifying organism Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS), credited by PEFC, on February 18, 2009 (report in annex).

In addition, the Forestry Department of Faculty of Agronomy, elaborated a documentary audit and field audit by undergrad students led by Professor of the Department, lead auditor of Forest Management with experience in CERTFORCHILE (report in annex).

The certification standards and implementation arrangements shall be reviewed every 5 years to take into consideration new scientific knowledge and practical experience for continuous improvement.

PEFC Uruguay will require UNIT to begin the process of revision of the standard every 5 years or whenever PEFC Council revises the general PEFC requirements for the standard setting and implementation.

All considerations for the revisions and changes made will be communicated to PEFC Council by PEFC Uruguay.