



PEFC URUGUAY  
FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD 2014  
AMENDMENTS

Código de Documento

DG 11.01

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04/2020

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## 1. Objective

To complement and specify some aspects of the Forest Management Standard,  
**UNIT 1152:2014. Sustainable Forest Management. Criteria and Indicators.**

(Recognized by PEFC Council in November 2018 as part of the Re-endorsement process)

## 2. Background

The Forest Management requirements for the PEFC Uruguay system are stipulated in **UNIT 1152:2014. Sustainable Forest Management. Criteria and Indicators.** Forestry certification in Uruguay only applies to commercial, private plantations, therefore, the Appendix 1: guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of plantation forestry, of the PEFC ST 1003:2010 applied during the conformity assessment that took place in 2017. Because the national standard only refers to plantations, some requirements are not clearly addressed in the standard and are described in the present document of the PEFC Uruguay system as an addendum to the Standard.

## 3. Scope and application

PEFC Uruguay

All the certification organisms recognized by PEFC Uruguay.

All entities certified or in process of being certified by a certification body recognized by PEFC Uruguay.

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#### 4. Procedure

Addendums and clarification for the compliance with the following requirements of **PEFC ST 1003:2010**:

#### **Requirement 5.1.8 - Responsibilities for sustainable forest management shall be clearly defined and assigned**

For the implementation and compliance of the criteria and indicators established, in the unit of forest management, a cohesive planification must take place with the concept of Sustainable Forest Management, seeking an balance between the conservation of the natural resources, historic-cultural and socio-economic aspects, productivity (technical, economic and financial) and the general society's wellbeing. Responsibilities for the management plan shall be clearly defined and assigned.

#### **Requirement 5.1.11 - Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances**

Standard UNIT 1152:2014 only refers to plantations. Plantations are regulated under national **Law 15939 of 1987**. The law **does not allow for forest conversions** and that is the reason it is not considered in the standard. Any certification requires by default the compliance with the legislation.

Exceptional native forest conversions do not include conversions to plantations. With the proper environmental assessment these could include for example large

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national projects such as the construction of dams or similar projects of general interest. Again, not in the scope of the standard.

**Requirement 5.2.7 - Appropriate forest management practices such as reforestation and afforestation with tree species and provenances that are suited to the site conditions or the use of tending, harvesting and transport techniques that minimise tree and/or soil damages shall be applied.**

Non-organic waste and litter shall be avoided during all forest management practices. and procedures for waste disposal shall be in place.

**Requirement 5.3.5 – Regeneration, tending and harvesting operations shall be carried out in time. The spillage of oil during forest management operations or the indiscriminate disposal of waste on forest land shall be strictly avoided. Non-organic waste and litter shall be avoided, collected, stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally-responsible manner.**

Standard refers to plantations. Productivity is intrinsic in the planning as well as the timing of the operations to ensure the productivity.

**Requirement 5.4.5 – For reforestation and afforestation, origins of native species and local provenances that are well-adapted to site conditions shall be preferred, where appropriate. Only those introduced species, provenances or varieties shall be used whose impacts on the ecosystem and on the genetic integrity of native species and local provenances have been evaluated, and if negative impacts can be avoided or minimized.**

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The standard considers that the plan of forest management must evaluate all aspects described, including the species to be planted.

In the planification for the management unit the species or varieties introduced must be determined as well as the impact on the ecosystems and genetic integrity of the native species and local origins (6.2.1.1). Furthermore, in compliance with Criterion 7, legislation states that among other activities, plantations over 100 has require an environmental authorization. National Decree **394/2005** establishes that the environmental impact assessment and previous authorization is required for a series of 34 activities that would imply changes of the uses of the land and must have an approved project by the Ministry of Agriculture (Dirección General Forestal, DGF).

Previous environmental authorization is required for the activities, constructions and works, public or private. (list in pages 3-6 in the Decree) **Number 30** in the list are forestation plans of over 100 has

The procedure for obtaining the environmental authorization includes: a) communication of the project, b) classification of the project; c) application for the environmental authorization; d) publication; e) public audience and f) resolution.

**Requirement 5.4.6 – Afforestation and reforestation activities that contribute to the improvement and restoration of ecological connectivity shall be promoted.**

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Item 6.1.2 in the standard states that the management of the different ecosystems of the unit must be identified, evaluated and the planning must be according to this evaluation. If degraded areas are identified, **plans of conservation, control, and re-population** must be carried out.

In Uruguay, vast majority of forests are forest plantations established on non-forest land so it is considered that plans of conservation, control and re populations required in the standard met the requirements.

**Requirement 5.5.1 – Forest management planning shall aim to maintain and enhance protective functions of forests for society, such as protection of infrastructure, protection from soil erosion, protection of water resources and from adverse impacts of water such as floods or avalanches.**

Standard refers to plantations. Native forests are included as part of the management units and conserved as biodiversity reservoirs, but all other aspects of the standard refer to commercial plantations in a mostly grassland country, therefore, there is no reference in the standard aiming to maintain and enhance protective functions of forest for society in the terms referred by the requirement (infrastructure, adverse effects of water...) since they do not apply to the scope of the standard. There are specific references aiming to ensure the contribution of the plantations to the conservation of soil, water and biodiversity resources.

**Requirement 5.6.3 – Property rights and land tenure arrangements shall be clearly defined, documented and established for the relevant forest area.**

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**Likewise, legal, customary and traditional rights related to the forest land shall be clarified, recognised and respected.**

Land property as well as other properties must be clearly defined and registered in the corresponding offices of the Government. There are no land property conflicts in Uruguay. Criterion 7 and in particular item 6.7.1 make reference to the compliance to the legal framework for the management unit.

6.7.1.1 Establishes that those responsible for the management unit, public or private must enforce the compliance with the current legal frame applicable to the unit and the activities associated with it. Item 6.7.1.1 is followed by a note that establishes that legal requirements apply to ALL activities in the management unit. (*NOTE: the compliance with the legal frame refers not only to forest management, but ALL the requirements applicable to a unit of forest management.*)

Land property must be certified through a legal notary.

6.7.1.3 establishes the parameters for the legal framework to be applied and the registers must give evidence of the parameters: Up to date register of the current legislation, regulations, permits, declarations and applicable resolutions to the activities that take place in the management unit.

The standard requires the compliance of plantations with the national legal framework:

- a) <http://www.mgap.gub.uy/unidad-organizativa/direccion-general-forestal/normativa/leyes>. List of laws associated to afforestation that must be complied with according to Criterio 7.

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- b) <http://www.mgap.gub.uy/sites/default/files/multimedia/decreto452-88.pdf>. Decree 458 (1988) specifies all the requirements for the declaration of the plantations in Uruguay:

“Article 8 (Presentation and requirements). The report or forestry project must be presented according the instructions elaborated by the Dirección Forestal (Government division that deals with forestry within the Agriculture Ministry)\*, and must comply with the requirements. The interested parties must present, among other documentation: property maps, aerial photos, soil analysis, fire prevention plans, certificates that demonstrates legal relation (ownership or tenant contract) to the land.”

Among the legal requirements is the presentation for approval of the plantation project which has specific requirements:

- c) <http://www.mgap.gub.uy/unidad-organizativa/direccion-general-forestal/tramites-y-servicios/instructivos> (Proyectos Forestales)

\*Instructive for forestry projects.

Requirements:

1. Nombre del Titular o Empresa que efectúa la inversión, dirección, teléfono y fax ([Personal information](#))
2. Profesional firmante, dirección y teléfono. ([Professional responsible](#))
3. Departamento. ([Location](#))
4. Sección Judicial ([Location](#))
5. Sección policial ([Location](#))
6. Paraje o zona ([Location](#))

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7. Forma de acceso con croquis de ubicación del establecimiento ([Location](#))
8. Número y superficie de cada padrón del establecimiento señalando en cuales se realizará la forestación y superficie total del establecimiento. ([Number and area of each parcel where afforestation will take place and total area of the property](#))
9. Fotocopia del Plano Mensura. ([Legally registered area map](#))
10. Foto aérea a escala 1:20.000 (actual) ([Aerial photo](#))
11. Certificado Notarial de Titularidad, relacionado con el Plano Mensura. ([Certificate of property related to the legally registered area map](#))

**Requirement 5.6.3 – Forest management activities shall be conducted in recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall not be infringed upon without the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of the rights, including the provision of compensation where applicable. Where the extent of rights is not yet resolved or is in dispute there are processes for just and fair resolution. In such cases forest managers shall, in the interim, provide meaningful opportunities for parties to be engaged in forest management decisions whilst respecting the processes and roles and responsibilities laid out in the policies and laws where the certification takes place.**

The situation of original populations in Uruguay is different to those of other countries in Latin America. Uruguay is a country with a population conformed mainly of descendants of European immigrants and in a smaller proportion,

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descendants of Afro-American and indigenous populations. The current population is the result of a mixture of races.

The indigenous population that occupied the territory before and during the colonial period belonged mainly to the macro-etnia charrúa, that included guenoas, bohanes, yaros and the charrúas themselves.

The anthropologist Daniel Vidart (2001) states that: “ the nomadic Indian was combated and practically exterminated in South America”. From the point of view of the indigenous communities, and differently than in other countries of Latin America, in Uruguay there are **no indigenous communities since mid XIX century**”...

During the first half of the XIX century, the scarce Indians that had survived the arrival of the conqueror and posterior internal wars were eradicated in the massacre at the shores of the Arroyo Salsipuedes in the year 1831, (Vidart 2011). Currently there are no indigenous populations living in any part of the national territory

National Government has recognized the indigenous input in the identity of our country. In 2009, Law 18.589 was approved that declares April 11th the day of the Charrúa Nation and the indigenous identity (Annex 3). In article 2, it is requested that the Executive and the National Administration of Education (ANEP) promote the information and sensibilization of citizens on the participation of the indigenous population in the national identity and the historical events related to the Charrúa Nation in Salsipuedes in 1831 (REFERENCES: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. 2014 200 resultados de la política exterior (2010 – 2014), Vidart, Daniel. 2012. Anuario de Antropología Social y Cultural en Uruguay, Vol. 10.)

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**In consideration to the fact that there are not indigenous communities nor communities with land right conflicts in the country the standard does not address the issue. The standard refers to plantations that have been legally and environmentally authorized on legally owned properties. Social interactions of the forest management and the communities in the vicinity of the plantations are considered in the standard.**

**Requirement 5.6.14 - Forest management shall be based inter-alia on the results of scientific research. Forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant research activities carried out by other organizations, as appropriate.**

**“UNIT 1152:2014**

**4.1 Planification**

In the planification of the different uses and functions of the management unit the role of the forest production in the rural development must be taken into consideration. The instruments of the established policies to support the production of goods and commercial and non-commercial forest services must be used.

In the planification of the forest management, the socio-cultural context must be considered, having as reference the experience and traditional knowledge associated to the forest of the local communities and other interested parties.”

Furthermore, the forest management shall contribute to research activities and data collection needed for sustainable forest management or support relevant

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research activities carried out by other organizations, as appropriate.

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