



VIETNAM FOREST CERTIFICATION SCHEME

An Internationally Recognized Brand

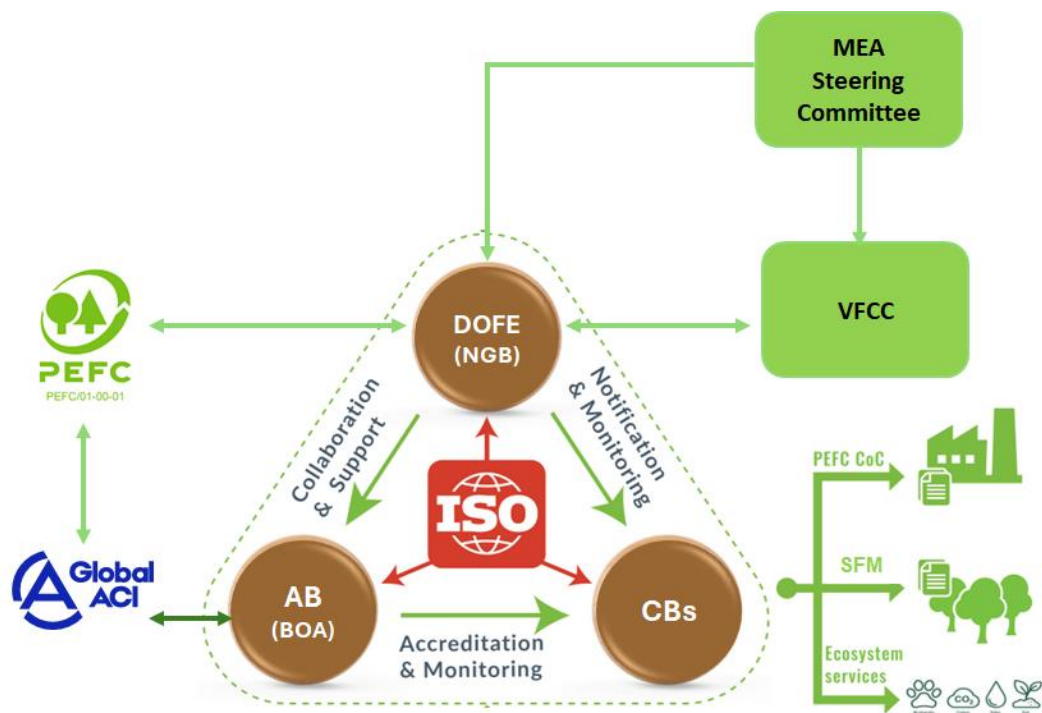




“VFCS aims to improve the forest productivity and quality ensuring the legality and transparency of wood-based materials sourcing, enhancing ecosystem services and contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as creating the foundation for sustainable development”

VIETNAM FOREST CERTIFICATION SCHEME VFCS

Established under Decision No 1288/QĐ-TTg issued on 8 January, 2018 by the Prime Minister to promote the implementation of sustainable forest management and forest certification. VFCS officially became a national member of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) in August 2019, and the VFCS was fully endorsed by PEFC in October 2020.



VFCS operates through three independent organizations to ensure that certifications for sustainable forest management, the chain of custody for wood and forest-based products and other certification types meet VFCS/PEFC standards, legal regulations and market requirements.

VIETNAM

FOREST CERTIFICATION CENTER

VFCC

VFCC is a public organization under Vietnam Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) having a legal entity and takes full responsibility for operating the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme (VFCS). The mandate of VFCC is to promote sustainable forest management and forest certification in Vietnam to ensure the balance of economic, social and environmental benefits. The main responsibilities of VFCC are:



Develop standards and guidelines for the implementation of sustainable forest management and forest certification;



Develop capacity for the implementation of sustainable forest management and forest certification including assessors, auditors, forest owners, enterprises and other related stakeholders;



Manage, promote and license the usage of VFCS and PEFC trademarks in Vietnam;



Monitor, evaluate and continuously improve the operation and quality of VFCS's forest certification.



SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

SFM



- Comply requirements for sustainable forest management (SFM) described in VFCS/PEFC ST 1003/TCVN 14956.
- Group forest management meets requirements of standards VFCS/PEFC ST 1004 and VFCS/PEFC ST 1003/TCVN 14956.
- Provide specific requirements applicable to the forest management system of forest owners, especially groups of small forest owners in accordance with Vietnamese national conditions and international regulations.
- Supply VFCS/PEFC certified wood-based materials and forest products.

Environment

- Maintain sustainable development through effective management and forest resources usage.
- Manage and use forest resources sustainably, preserve biodiversity, protect environment and enhance environmental service values.

Economy

- Save time and cost in Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification.
- Create a source of wood materials from planted forests to meet the need for producing wooden products for export; increase the value of forestry sector and wood processing industry.
- Increase the prestige and expand the accessibility of Vietnam's forest products to the international market.

Society

- Build a national brand, and enterprise brand in implementing sustainable forest management.
- Ensure and balance the interests of the stakeholders involving in reforestation, forest harvest, processing and trading forest-based products.
- Increase the value of planted forest timbers, reduce poverty and enhance added value for the forestry sector.



CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION **PEFC COC**

The certification is applied to forest-based products supplying, processing and trading entities. PEFC Chain of Custody Certification (PEFC CoC) secures the traceability of the certified materials from the forests to the finished products. It also ensures the independent verification of certified wood-based materials for the products sourced from sustainably managed forests.

Minimize risks of unclear and controversial wood-based materials sourcing or the sources contributing to deforestation and forest degradation

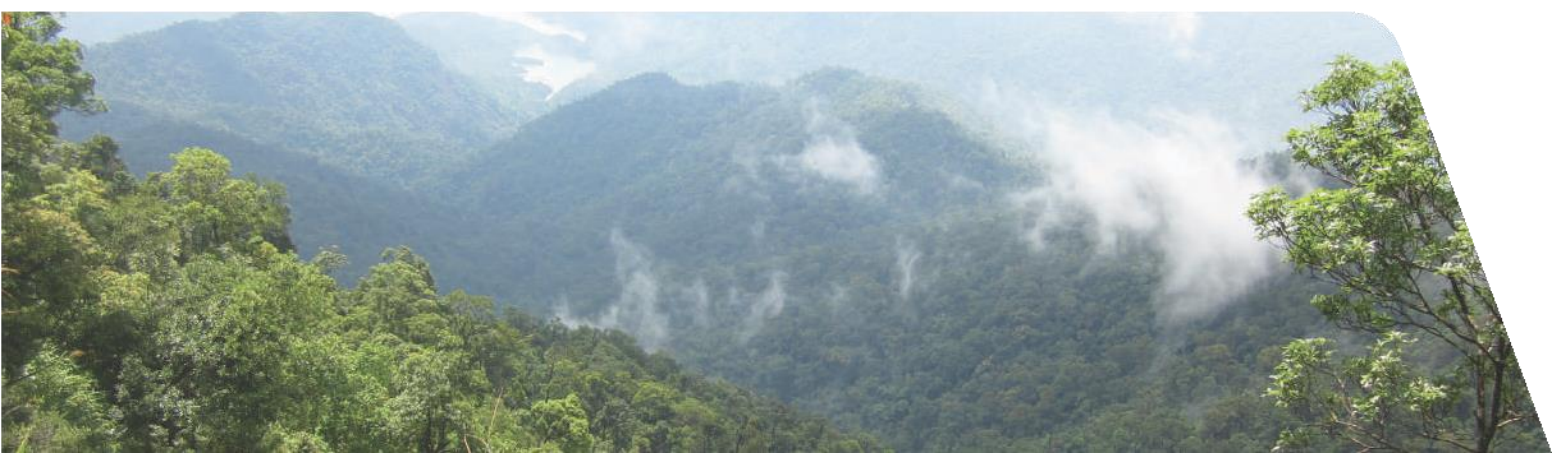
Meet EUDR and public and private procurement policies

Support local communities, forest management and economic development

Access to global market

Support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Implement an internal management system that can be integrated with existing ISO system



■ FOREST OWNERS AND ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN FOREST CERTIFICATION

- Comply with sustainable forest management standard in all forest management activities
- Comply with the chain of custody standards
- Comply with the VFCS logo usage and PEFC trademark rules
- Group forest management certification can be applied in sustainable forest management certification
- Chain of custody certification can be applied to multi sites PEFC CoC certification.

Key steps in certification assessment implementation

1

Develop dossiers and documents according to the requirements of Sustainable Forest management or chain of custody standards

2

Select and contract with an accredited Certification Body notified by VFCS/PEFC.

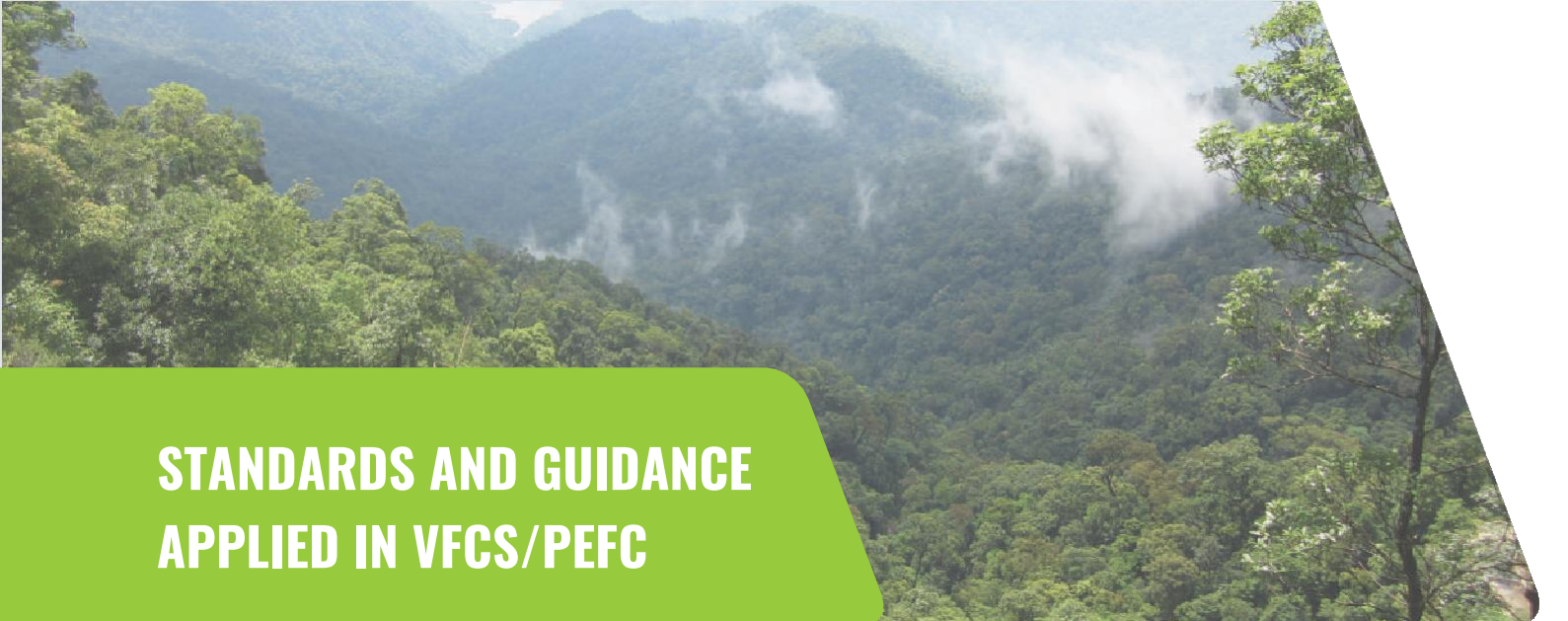
3

The certification body evaluates and issues a certificate if it meets the requirements.

4

The certification body conducts annual surveillance audits to maintain the certificate.





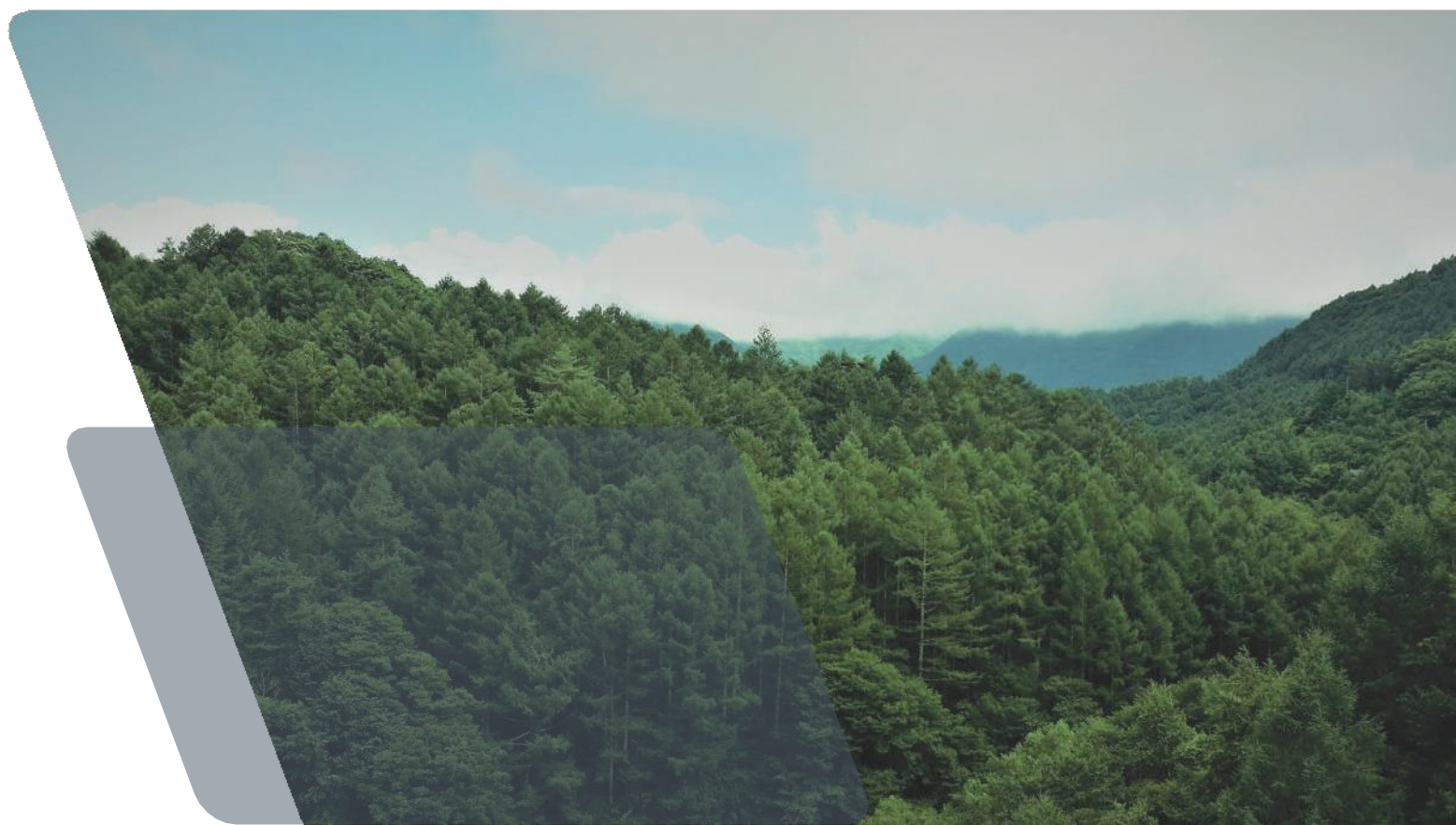
STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE APPLIED IN VFCS/PEFC

- VFCS/PEFC ST 1003:2026/TCVN 14596: Sustainable Forest Management - Requirements
- VFCS/PEFC ST 1004:2026: Group Forest Management – Requirements
- PEFC ST 2002:2020: Chain of Custody of Forest and Tree Based Products – Requirements
- VFCS/PEFC ST 1006:2026: Requirements for certification bodies operating certification against sustainable forest management and chain of custody
- VFCS/PEFC ST 1007:2026: Procedures for notification of certification bodies operating under VFCS
- VFCS/PEFC GD 1009:2022: Issuance of VFCS and PEFC trademarks Use License
- VFCS/PEFC ST 1008:2022: VFCS and PEFC Trademarks Usage Rules - Requirements
- PEFC ST 2001:2020: PEFC Trademarks Rules – Requirements
- PEFC ST 2003:2020: Requirements for Certification Bodies Operating Certification Against the PEFC International Chain of Custody Standard
- VFCS/PEFC GD 1001:2022: Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme – Description of the Scheme and Operation
- VFCS/PEFC ST 1002:2024: Procedures for standard setting for the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme
- VFCS/PEFC GD 1010:2026: Procedure for the Resolution of Complaints and Appeals



REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BODIES OPERATING CERTIFICATION AGAINST THE VFCS/PEFC

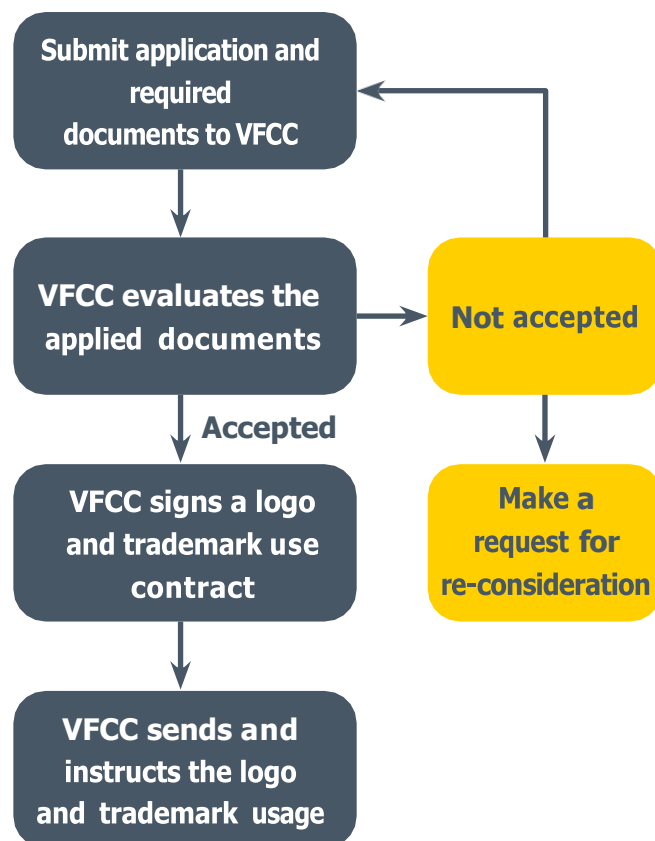
- Established in accordance with Vietnamese laws and regulation
- Having a management system and operating capacity meeting international standards ISO/IEC 17021-1-2015, national standards TCVN ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015
- Having certification and guidance procedures on internal certification activities meeting the requirements of the VFCS
- Accredited by Bureau of Accreditation (BoA) under Commission for the Standards, Metrology and Quality of Viet Nam (STAMEQ), Ministry of Science and Technology, Viet Nam
- Having human resources in charge of technical, administration and accounting aspects
- Meeting requirements of standard VFCS/PEFC 1006:2026
- Appointed by the Vietnam Forest Certification Office (VFCO) under the Notification Contract
- Meet technical requirements in carrying out certification activities following VFCS/PEFC standards.





VFCS/PEFC LOGO USAGE AND TRADEMARK RULES

- **The VFCS logo** is copyrighted and owned by the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme. It is managed and licensed by the Vietnam Forest Certification Office.
- **The PEFC trademark** is owned by PEFC, registered and copyright worldwide. PEFC authorizes the Vietnam Forest Certification Office to manage and license its use in the territory of Vietnam.
- The use of VFCS logo and PEFC trademark is required to comply with VFCS and PEFC rules and standards.



WHY CHOOSE VFCS/PEFC

PEFC is the world's largest Forest Certification Scheme, having over 320 million hectares of certified forest, accounting for more than 75% of the total certified forest area globally. PEFC currently has 55 country members. More than 20,000 companies in 83 countries have trusted PEFC to demonstrate their timber and timber products come from legally and sustainably managed forests.



1. The "bottom-up" approach

Standards are developed considering carefully the national laws and conditions as well as PEFC's standard benchmark and are globally recognized.



2. The world's largest source of certified raw materials



3. Comply with international laws



4. Conforms to ISO and Global ACI



5. Multi-member participation, based on the 21st United Nations Agenda



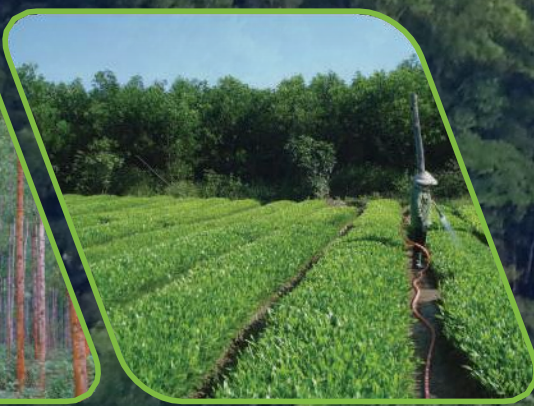
6. The most suitable forest certification scheme for small forest owners



7. Comprehensive, practical and cost-effective



8. PEFC has 20+ years of continual improvement and innovation



VIETNAM FOREST CERTIFICATION CENTER

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